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# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Lok Sabha Elections-2024

### Since Article 370 revocation, over 35 former ministers, legislators, senior leaders switch sides

Coming LS polls likely to serve as litmus test for JK's altered political landscape

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 20

The 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir are anticipated to be both significant and intriguing for several reasons. Primarily, following the abrogation of Article 370, it will serve as a litmus test in the altered political landscape for the first time.



prospects across various constituencies, including Jammu, Udhampur, and Anantnag-Rajouri. Additionally, the Apni Party is actively considering alliance possibilities in Kashmir. Advocate Ankush Sharma's Ekam Sanatan Dharma Dal, primarily active in the Jammu division, has also emerged as a noteworthy political entity.

As per news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), over the past five years, there has been a considerable transformation in the political dynamics of the region. During the electioneering process, one can expect to witness the emergence of contenders affiliated with non-traditional political entities challenging the dominance of established family-based parties. Notably, three newly registered parties have surfaced in Jammu and Kashmir, poised to challenge their parent parties. Numerous leaders, former ministers, and ex-MLAs are anticipated to actively engage

in politics within this evolved political milieu. A notable trend has been the significant number of leaders, former ministers, and MLAs switching allegiances in Jammu and Kashmir.

Following the revocation of Article 370, Kashmir experienced initial political upheaval. Several senior leaders distanced themselves from the People's Democratic Party (PDP). Notably, former minister Syed Altaf Bukhari, previously aligned with PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, parted ways with the PDP to establish a new entity, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party. In the inaugural Dis-

trict Development Council (DDC) elections, the party demonstrated commendable performance in various regions, challenging the dominance of its parent party, the PDP. Subsequently, influential leader Ghulam Nabi Azad severed ties with the Congress to form the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP).

The emergence of DPAP stirred significant commotion within the Congress, leading to the defection of several former ministers and MLAs to Azad's camp. However, some leaders who initially joined Azad eventually returned to the Congress fold. DPAP is currently exploring electoral

NC faced a setback in the Jammu division when its divisional president, Devendra Singh Rana, along with his supporters, joined the BJP in 2022. Notably, former minister Surjit Singh Salathia accompanied him, followed by former MLAs Kamal Arora and Prem-sagar Aziz defecting from the NC. Recently, after the hills were granted Scheduled Tribe (ST) reservation status, Dr. Shahnaz Ganai, an MLC from Poonch, formally joined the BJP. Additionally, former MLA Mush-taq Bukhari, Chaudhary Arshad, Dharamveer Singh Jamwal, Somnath

### Elections in J&K will happen before SC deadline of September 30: Amit Shah

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAR 20

Elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be conducted before September 30, Union Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday.

Speaking at CNN-News18 Rising India Summit 2024 in New Delhi, Shah said, "Voting in Jammu and Kashmir will happen before the Supreme Court of India's deadline of September 30."

On December 11, 2023, the apex court directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to conduct elections in Jammu and



Kashmir by September 30, 2024.

"We direct that steps shall be taken to conduct elections for the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir by Septem-

ber 30, 2024, and statehood shall be restored as soon as possible," the bench said.

The last Assembly polls in J&K were held in 2014. The People's Democratic

Party (PDP) formed a coalition government with the BJP. But in 2018, the BJP pulled out of the alliance and the government collapsed. Following that, the Assembly was dissolved and the Governor's Rule came into place.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre abrogated Article 370 and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Slamming the opposition, the Union Home Minister, at the summit, also mentioned that

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### Choudhary Lal Singh joins Congress party at AICC headquarters in New Delhi

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Former Minister and President of Dogra Swabhimani Sangathan Choudhary Lal Singh today joined Congress party at All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters in New Delhi and is all set to contest the Lok Sabha elections from Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary constituency.

He was welcomed in the party by AICC Chief Spokesman Pawan Khara,



AICC General Secretary and J&K Incharge Bhar-atsin Soalnki, PCC Presi-

dent Vikar Rasool Wani, co-incharge J&K Manoj Yadav, NSUI national

president Neeraj Kundan and others.

After joining Congress party, Choudhary Lal Singh asked the party leaders and workers to get united to win these elections. "Whenever I have contested any elections, my party has formed the government. I don't know how but I think it comes straight away from heavens," he said while addressing media after the joining, as per news agency

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### Udhampur constituency gave indian youth new startup option of lavender: Dr Jitendra Singh

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency of Jammu and Kashmir has given the Indian youth a new StartUp option of Lavender and is fast emerging as an Agri StartUp hub, said Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh here today.



Interacting with youth delegations during the campaign trail, Dr Jitendra Singh recalled the Republic Day tableau at Kartavya Path New Delhi on 26 January depicting lavender farms of Bhandarwah which is a testimony of Bhandarwah and J&K being nationally hailed as the birthplace of "Purple Revolution", now emulated in other Himalayan States like Uttarakhand

and Himachal Pradesh as well as Nagaland.

He said, the foundation of this Agri StartUp hub has been laid in the picturesque Bhandarwah town of district Doda in Jammu and Kashmir, where cultivation of lavender has been taken up on a large scale.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, same lavender farming has now picked up in other parts of the consti-

tuency as well including upper reaches of Billawar, Rannagar areas.

He recalled that PM Narendra Modi had in detail explained this success story in farming from district Doda of J&K in his "Mann Ki Baat" broadcast and told the listeners about the small town of Bhandarwah where this experiment had been carried out as part of

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### Govt constitutes committees for implementation of NUDM

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 20

Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted the Union Territory High Powered Steering Committee and Union Territory Level Implementation Committee for implementation of the National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) in J&K.

As per the order, a copy of which lies with the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Chief Secretary J&K will be the Chairman of High Powered Steering Committee while Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) will be Chairperson of implementing committee.

The other members of the committee include Principal Secretary to

the Government, Finance Department, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Information Technology Department, Commissioner, JMC/SMC, Vice Chairman, JDA/SDA, Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu/Kashmir, Special Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (or their representative) and Informatics Officer, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Nodal Officer (NUDM) J&K will be member secretary of the committee.

The Committee can co-opt any other member(s), as may be deemed necessary and

terms of reference of the committee will be to meet once every six months to provide overall guidance, to provide decisions on inter-departmental coordination issues, to provide/review availability of funds and to review the progress, provide feedback and guidance for implementation of the National Urban Digital Mission.

The members of UT level implementation committee will be Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Information Technology Department, Commissioner, JMC/SMC, vice Chairman, JDA/SDA, Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu/Kashmir, Special Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department, Director

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### PM, J&K LG, DGP, others greet people on Navroz

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Director General of Police (DGP) and political leaders greeted people on the auspicious occasion of Navroz.

"Navroz Mubarak! On this blessed day, I wish for everyone's joy and wellbeing. May the coming year be filled with success, growth and enhance the bond of unity in our society," Narendra Modi wrote on X.

"Warm greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Navroz. May this festival bring joy, happiness and prosperity to everyone. Navroz Mubarak!," Office of J&K LG.

Director General of

Police R.R. Swain has extended greetings to the people of Jammu Kashmir, particularly members of Shia community, families of Police Parivar and other security forces on the auspicious occasion of Navroz.

In his message, the DGP has hoped that Navroz will bring happiness, prosperity and progress to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, families of martyrs and police personnel. The DGP said that the beginning of a new year brings with it a sense of fresh possibilities. It gives us a chance to renew our resolution of commitment to peace.

He has prayed for peace and prosperity for Jammu and Kashmir.

National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice

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### Gun license to ineligible persons: CBI file 2 chargesheets against 15 accused

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 20

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday said to have filed two chargesheets against 15 accused in the Court of Special Judge, CBI Cases, Srinagar in an ongoing investigation of a case related to issuance of large number of FireArms licenses in J&K to ineligible persons in violation

of Rules during the period 2012-16.

As per a statement issued to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the spokesman said that the case was registered by CBI in 2018 on the request of the then State Government of Jammu & Kashmir and further notification of DoPT, Govt of India, transferring to CBI investigation of FIR No.18 of 2018 dated

17.05.2018 registered in Vigilance Organisation Kashmir (VOK). The matter pertains to issuance of large number of arms license to ineligible persons without due process during the period 2012 to 2016, it said.

"One of the charge sheets was filed under various sections of RPC, PC Act & Arms Act against 10 accused including the then District Magistrate,

Kupwara, 4 gun house dealers and middleman while another charge sheet was filed under similar sections against the then ADM, Kupwara and 4 others including gun house dealer and middlemen for issuance of large number of such licenses to ineligible persons," the statement said.

Investigation disclosed the nexus of then

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### JKBOSE Shocker...: 11th standard question paper distributed to 12th class students

Govt constitutes committee to probe the matter, JKBOSE postpone the exams

**JINNEWSERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 20

In a bizarre twist, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) Wednesday distributed Physical Education question papers of 11th standard to 12th standard candidates.

Hundreds of 12th stan-

dard candidates were left to lurch who had sleepless nights to prepare for the annual regular exams of physical education paper.

The news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) spoke to some of exam in-charges and candidates appearing in the annual regular exams of 12th standard who expressed con-

cern about the lackadaisical approach of board.

One of the students said that the examination pattern of the physical education was entirely different as was shown and notified by the board.

"Ironically, only two marks were taken from the 12th standard syllabus. Rest the question paper of

12th standard was set from 11th standard syllabus," she said.

One of the exam in-charge said that students in the center were crying 'even a couple of students fainted'.

Officials of JKBOSE said, "We have postponed the exams and will issue

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## District SVEEP Cell organises awareness programme for Dalhori citizens



JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MARCH 20

Under the supervision of District Election Officer, Om Parkash Bhagat, the District SVEEP Cell Rajouri organized an awareness programme for the residents of Dalhori at HSS Dalhori, here today.

Nearly, one hundred prominent citizens actively participated in the programme. Mohammad Ayaz Raina, lecturer and member of the District SVEEP Cell, extensively discussed the aims and

objectives of the initiative, aimed at providing comprehensive awareness to the public about their right to vote and the importance of casting their votes in the forthcoming elections. He emphasized the significance of achieving a target voting percentage of 75% and urged upon all participants to spread the message issued by the District Election Officer to maximize voter turnout.

On the occasion, pamphlets with slogans on vote were also distributed among the attendees.

## CEO Doda inspects schools, polling stations of Assar zone to ensure AMF for voters



JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MARCH 20

Chief Education Officer (CEO), Doda, Parkash Lal Thapa today inspected schools and polling stations of Assar Zone to ensure Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) are at place for voters at polling stations for Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

On the occasion, he asked the officials that no

posters/writing or hoardings of any kind of political parties or any other organisations are on the walls of premises of government school buildings.

The CEO Doda also conducted a comprehensive inspection of examination centers of 12th class at HSS Khellani, HSS Assar and HSS Chill and LHS Jathi today to maintain the integrity and fairness of the examination process.

## Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 20

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Bantalab, Radio Station, CRPF, Lakshmirpur, AYUSH Hospital, Keran, Nardni Station, Bhalwal, Kangarmorh, IRP, Hospital Bhalwal, Kote, Thather, Pooja Colony and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 22 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Birpur, Data Talab, Anasal and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 22 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Seora, Kunjwani, Apna Vihar, Bakshi Colony, Dental College, Bandu Rakh and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 22 from 2 pm to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Industrial Centre Udhampur, Battal Ballian, Airforce Station Udhampur and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 22 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Nanak Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 23 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Babliana and adjoining areas will remain

affected on March 23 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Palli, Barwal, PHE, Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 23 from 11 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Industries under 33/11KV Sub-Station, SICOP, Birpur Complex, Bari-Brahmana, Palli, KothiMorh, Sevada and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 24 from 1 pm to 5 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Bhaddu, Billawar, Mandli, Lahri-Bathri, Dewal, Chanera, PHE and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 24 from 9 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Gandhi Nagar, Aquaf Market, Bahu Plaza, Shastri Nagar, Div. Com. Office and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 24 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Gandhi Nagar Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Police Line, Jammu University, Bahu Plaza, Power Grid, Chenab Valley, Green Belt, Div. Com Office, Apsara Road, Part of Trikuta Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 24 from 8 am to 10 am.

## Lok Sabha Elections -2024

## Training programme for Polling Personnel held in Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 20

In a proactive move to ensure efficient conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha Election 2024, District Election Officer, Udhampur, Saloni Rai, engaged with polling personnel at the Government Degree College for Women, Udhampur during an election training session held here today.

She emphasized the importance of earnest participation in the training program to enable smooth functioning at the polling stations.

The training initiative, held across various venues including Government Degree College for



Women Udhampur, Government Degree College (Boys) Udhampur, Government HSS Chenani, and Town Hall Ramnagar, witnessed a significant turnout of approximately 2150 employees.

The participants received comprehensive instruction on the duties and obligations of Presiding Officers and polling officers, alongside

practical demonstrations on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

The training sessions, conducted by designated DLMTs and ALMTs, operated under the supervision of District Election Officer, Deputy DEO, Dr Anirudh Rai, DSEO, Darshan Kumar (Nodal Officer Trainings), and relevant Assistant Returning Officers (AROs).

## GDC Budhal, DSC Rajouri organize awareness programme on the theme 'No Voter to be left behind'

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MARCH 20

NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC), Budhal, in collaboration with District SVEEP Cell (DSC), Rajouri, today organized awareness programme on the theme 'No voter to be left behind'.

The event aimed to educate students on the importance of their participation in the democratic process.

The event saw an overwhelming participation from students and staff.

During the programme, Dr. Adil Hussain Khandey, Lecturer Political Science delivered an informative lecture on 'the role of a vote in the development of a nation'. His insightful lecture highlighted the crucial role each voter plays in shaping the future of the country.

Prof. Manzoor Ahmed



Dar, HOD Botany and member of DSC Rajouri, shared his perspective on topic, further enriching the audiences understanding of the subject.

Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Mazam Hussain lauded the efforts of NSS unit of Col-

lege and DSC, Rajouri for organizing such an event to spread awareness about elections and their importance. He highlighted that such events are need of the day to instil a sense of civic responsibility among the student community.

## CUJ launches Short Term Multipurpose Associate (Tourism) Upskilling Programme for Women

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 20

Central University of Jammu launches Short Term Multipurpose Associate (Tourism) Upskilling Programmes for Women Jammu, March 20: School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu launched Short Term Upskilling Training Programme for Women candidates in collaboration with Government Degree College Vijaypur, Samba under the guidance and mentorship of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and Mission Director, Department of Skill Development, UT of J&K. The programme was inaugurated in presence of Prof. Vandana Gupta, Principal, GDC Vijaypur, Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dr. Neelika Arora and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq from School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu and faculty members of college. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Vandana Sharma, Chief Guest of the inaugural session appreciated the efforts of Central University of Jammu under the dynamic and visionary leadership of its Vice Chancellor for organizing an upskilling outreach Programme in the College for the benefit of female candidates. She talked about Nari Shakti as India Jumps significantly



on Gender Inequality Index as an outcome of the decisive agenda set by the Government for ensuring women's empowerment through policy initiatives

spanned across women's lifecycle including large scale initiatives for girls' education, skill development, entrepreneurship facilitation and safety in the workplace aimed at their long-term socio-economic and development. Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dean, School of Business Studies in her address said that for realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2027 there is a need to focus on gender equality along with gender equity for overall economic independence and participation of women in decision making. She stated that the women-led development should make the women logical, expressive, rational and the progress of a society is dependent on the progress of women. She pointed out that in the fast-changing technological world there is a need to learn, unlearn and relearn skills to become job creators rather than job seek-

ers.

Dr. Neelika Arora, Associate Professor while speaking in the inaugural function highlighted the need for women to have more financial dependence along with a change in the mindset to become an entrepreneur. She further spoke about the primary role of women towards parents, society and nation besides giving tips to participants to choose the courses carefully depending on the available opportunities. She stressed on knowledge, skills and attitude as key to become successful in life and also elaborated the concept of Kaushal Bharat - Kushal Bharat.

Earlier Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, Assistant Professor in her welcome address briefed the participants about the Short-Term upskilling initiative being launched by the University to empower the youth of UT of Jammu and Kashmir to learn employable skills. He further pointed out that the University is hand-holding youth to promote self-entrepreneurship for income and

## PM inaugurates Start-up Mahakumbh at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

JI NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAR 20

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Start-up Mahakumbh at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi today. He also took a walkthrough of the exhibition showcased on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of Start-up Mahakumbh and emphasized the country's roadmap of working to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047. The Prime Minister highlighted India's making a mark in the IT and software sector in the last few decades and underlined the emerging trends of innovation and start-up culture. Therefore, the Prime Minister said, the presence of people from the world of start-ups underlines the importance of today's occasion. Dwelling on the success of start-ups in the country, the Prime Minister drew attention to the genius element that makes them successful. He acknowledged the presence of investors, incubators, academicians, researchers, industry members, and present and future entrepreneurs and said, "This is indeed a Mahakumbh in its truest form creating an unprecedented energy and vibe." The Prime Minister mentioned experiencing the same vibe when he was visiting the sports and exhibition stalls where people showcased their innovations with great pride. "Any Indian visiting the Start-up Mahakumbh will witness the unicorns and decacorns of the future", PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the growth of the startup ecosystem in the country due to the right policies. He recalled the initial reluctance and indifference towards the concept of startup in society. Innovative ideas found a platform

over a period of time under Startup India, he said. He commented on the development of an ecosystem through connecting ideas with funding sources, and incubators in academic institutions which gave facilities to the youth of tier 2 and tier 3 cities. "Startup has become a social culture and no one can stop a social culture", said.

The Prime Minister said that the startup revolution is being led by small cities and that too in a wide range of sectors including agriculture, textiles, medicine, transport, space, yoga and ayurveda. Elaborating on space startups, the Prime Minister said that Indian startups are working in more than 50 areas in the space sector, including the launch of the space shuttle.

The Prime Minister commented on the changing mindset about startups. He said that startups have changed the psyche that a lot of money is needed to start a business. He commended the youth of the country for choosing the path of becoming a job creator rather than a job seeker.

"India is the third largest startup ecosystem with 1.25 lakh startups involving 12 lakh youth who are directly linked with them", he said. The Prime Minister asked the entrepreneurs to be vigilant about filing their patents quickly. GeM portal has provided more than 20,000 crore rupees to businesses and startups. He praised the youth for getting into new areas. The Prime Minister stated that the start-ups launched on the policy platforms are reaching new heights today.

Underlining the impetus provided by Digital India to start-ups, the Prime Minister said that it is a huge inspiration and suggested colleges take it up as a case study. He mentioned UPI becoming a pillar of support for the fin-tech start-ups which lead the

development of innovative products and services for the expansion of digital services in the country. He recalled the huge queues of industry and world leaders at a booth that was set up in Bharat Mandapam during the G20 Summit explaining the working of UPI and offering a trial run. This, the Prime Minister said, has strengthened financial inclusion and reduced the rural and urban divide, while also democratizing technology. The Prime Minister expressed delight that more than 45 percent of start-ups in the country are women-led, be it education, agriculture or health.

The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of the culture of innovation for humanity, not just for Viksit Bharat. He mentioned India's initiative to provide a platform for the global startup under Start-up-20 which treats startups as the growth engine. He also talked of India's upper hand in AI. The Prime Minister underlined the numerous opportunities being created for both young innovators and global investors with the advent of the AI industry and mentioned the National Quantum Mission, India AI Mission and Semiconductor Mission. Shri Modi recalled discussing AI during his address at the US Senate a while ago and assured that India will continue to be a leader in this sector. "I believe that Indian solutions for global applications will become a helping hand for many nations in the world", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister acknowledged the global desire to learn from Indian youth through hackathons etc. Solutions tested in Indian conditions have global acceptance, he said. He mentioned the National Research Foundation and 1 lakh crore fund for research and planning for the needs of the future in the sunrise sector areas.

## Visit of Prime Minister to Bhutan on March 21-22, 2024

AGENCEIS  
NEW DELHI, MAR 20

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will pay a State visit to Bhutan from 21-22 March 2024. The visit is in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between India and Bhutan and the Government's emphasis on its Neighbourhood First Policy.

During the visit, Prime Minister will receive audience with His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan and His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the Fourth King of Bhutan. Prime Minister will also hold talks with the Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E. Mr. Tshering Tobgay.

India and Bhutan share a unique and enduring partnership which is rooted in mutual trust, understanding and goodwill. Our shared spiritual heritage and warm people to people ties add depth and vibrancy to our exceptional relations. The visit will provide an opportunity for both sides to exchange views on bilateral and regional matters of interest and deliberate on ways to expand and intensify our exemplary partnership for the benefit of our peoples.

## Police organises awareness programme on New Criminal Laws in Handwara

JI NEWS SERVICE  
HANDWARA, MAR 20

Police in Handwara organized a mass awareness programme on three New Criminal Laws at Boys Higher Secondary School Handwara, chaired by SDPO Handwara.

The programme aimed to educate and inform the students about the recent amendments and additions to the criminal laws, ensuring that they are well-aware and compliant with the legal framework.

During the session, SDPO Handwara along with SHO PS Handwara elucidated the nuances of the new laws, providing clarity on their implications and emphasizing the importance of adherence to legal statutes for the maintenance of law and order in society.

The initiative witnessed active participation from the students, who engaged in interactive sessions, seeking clarifications and expressing their queries regarding the legal provisions discussed.

## Election Training for Zonal, Sector Magistrates held at Bandipora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, MARCH 20

In preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, a training programme was today conducted for Zonal and Sector Magistrates of 15-Bandipora Assembly Constituency at Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The training programme was presided over by District Election Officer Shakeel ul Rehman and was attended by ARO/ACR Shabir Ahmad Wani, GM DIC, Zonal and Sector Magistrates of 15-Bandipora assembly constituency and other concerned.

The training was aimed to equip zonal and sector magistrates with the necessary knowledge and skills to ensure the smooth conduct of electoral processes and uphold the integrity of elections.

The zonal/sectoral Magistrates were briefed on their roles and responsibilities, emphasizing the importance of maintain-



ing impartiality in carrying out duties for conducting peaceful and smooth elections.

On the occasion, DEO emphasized proper training of zonal and sector Magistrates and asked ARO 15-Bandipora to take review from zonal and sector magistrates weekly

besides directing the Zonal and Sector Magistrates to ensure assured minimum facility and all other necessary facilities at polling stations.

ARO 15-Bandipora Shabir Ahmad Wani on the occasion highlighted the role and responsibilities of zonal and sector mag-

istrates. He said magistrates are responsible for election management from the day of appointment till the completion of poll process and asked them to ensure effective implementation of communication plan and assured minimum facilities at each polling station including provision of ramp, drinking water, signages etc.

He also deliberated on pre-poll and poll day responsibilities of Zonal and sector magistrates.

The ARO also emphasized the importance of ethical conduct and adherence to code of conduct for electoral officials.

## Khaur Camp emerges victorious in Abhimanyu Memorial Cricket Tournament

NS Bhau presents Trophies to Winners

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 20

In a much-anticipated conclusion to the Late Abhimanyu Memorial Cricket Tournament, Khour Camp took home the championship trophy after an intense final match against Samwan. The tournament, held in memory of the Late Abhimanyu, not only celebrated the spirit of cricket but also paid homage.

Chief guest Narinder Singh Bhau presided over the closing ceremony, extending heartfelt congratulations to the victorious Khour Camp team. He also expressed deep gratitude towards the family of Late Abhimanyu for their enduring support and sacrifice. The presence of esteemed guests such as Ex-Sarpanch Geeta Bhau and Anu Radha added a



touch of grace and honor to the event, underscoring the importance of community solidarity and remembrance.

Among the dignitaries present, Ex-BDC Chairman Sham Sharma graced the occasion as the guest of honor, emphasizing the significance of sporting events in fostering camaraderie and unity within the community. The Late Abhimanyu Memorial Cricket Tournament show-

cased sporting excellence.

As the sun set on the cricket field, echoing cheers and applause resonated in tribute to Late Abhimanyu and the spirit of sportsmanship that defined the tournament. Khour Camp's victory was not just a triumph on the field but a symbolic gesture of honor and remembrance for Late Abhimanyu who himself was one of the renowned sportsman of the area.

## 2-Day Orientation program on School Safety & Security concludes at B'la

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, MARCH 20

In a significant step towards improving school safety and security, a two-day orientation program organized by the School Education Department, Baramulla concluded today.

During the programme, 40 teachers from different government schools across 18 zones in Baramulla District underwent training as master trainers, who will subsequently train about 1800 teachers as Safety Councilors and First Responders in their zones.

The programme was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, and was attended by the Chief Education Officer Baramulla, Balbir Singh Raina, along with teachers from various schools across the district.

The training featured a specialized team from State Disaster Response Fund, Health, and Red Cross, who demonstrated safety preparedness strategies during emergencies to the participating teachers.

The training also encompassed informative sessions led by experts on a range of topics concerning school safety and security. These included discussions on child safety measures, cybercrimes, insights into the POCSO Act and other key aspects to ensure school safety and security. Speaking during the program, the DC emphasized the need to raise awareness among students and all stakeholders about the importance of school safety and to create school-wide safety plans.

While distributing the certificates among the teachers who completed the training, the DC underscored the important role they will play in ensuring a conducive learning environment for students by identifying and addressing any safety and security issues that may arise.

## Illegal extraction & transportation of minerals Police seizes 6 vehicles, arrests 5 drivers in Baramulla

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, MAR 20

Cracking a whip on illegal mining of minerals, police have seized 6 vehicles and arrested 5 drivers in Baramulla.

A police party under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Baramulla & SDPO Pattan assisted by SHO PS Baramulla & IC PP Palhallan seized 6 vehicles (3 tippers, 3 tractors) and arrested 5 drivers, involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Khanpora and Dargam Baramulla. The accused drivers have been identified as Tariq Ahmad Wani son of Sanaullah & Shabir Ahmad Bhat son of Gh Nabi both residents of Shilwat Sumbal, Parvaiz Ahmad Mir son of Gh Mohiuddin resident of Hurchak, Mashooq Ahmad Mir son of Gh Mohd resident of Nillah Pattan & Mushtaq Ahmad Wani son of Ab Khaliq resident of Tapper Payeen. The driver of one



tipper managed to flee away from the spot and efforts are on to nab him.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered in Police Station Baramulla & Police Station Pattan and investigation have been taken up.

People are requested not to indulge in any kind of illegal mining activities from any Nallah as it is the violation of Government rules. Persons found indulging in illegal mining activities shall be dealt as per law.

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024

## DEO Srinagar conducts comprehensive inspection of Election Strong rooms cum Distribution/ Collection Centres

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 20

The District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Wednesday conducted comprehensive inspection of proposed election Strong Rooms cum Collection/ Distribution Centres being established for all 08 Assembly constituencies of Srinagar District.

The inspection was undertaken to assess the preparedness for smooth conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha Election-2024 in the District.

During the visit, the DEO/DC took onsite review of the arrangements and facilities at Strong Room cum Collection/ Distribution Centres for all 08 Assembly Constituencies viz 19-Hazratbal, 20-Khan- yar, 21-Habbakadal, 22-Lal-Chowk, 23-Chanapora, 24-Zadibal, 25-Eidgah and 26-Central Shalteng.

During the inspection, the DEO stressed upon the concerned Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) to take up necessary mea-



asures to ensure that all required arrangements are put in place well in advance to facilitate smooth and efficient election process.

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

He also laid emphasis on placing adequate spaces for counters to be

placed at Collection/Distribution Centres in order to avoid any cluttering during distribution/collection of election materials.

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

He stressed on proper

handling/ management of election material besides ensuring efficient and secure mechanisms for its storage.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ARO/ERO- Zadibal), Dr Khalid Hussain Malik, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ARO/ERO- Hazratbal), Syed Ahmad Kataria, Deputy District Election Officer, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Other AROs, and other concerned officers accompanied the DEO during the visit.

## DEO Pulwama chairs meeting with representatives of Political Parties



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA, MARCH 20

The District Election Officer (DEO) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom chaired a meeting with representatives of various political parties at the District Election Office premises, here.

The meeting was aimed to foster dialogue and adherence to MCC guidelines and cooperation among political stakeholders in the lead-up to the upcoming elections.

The DEO emphasized the importance of ensuring a fair, transparent and inclusive electoral process that upholds the democratic principles.

Code of Conduct, Role of Political Parties in different stages of electoral process and adherence to Guidelines and Directives of ECI were discussed. The political parties were encouraged to actively engage through presentations by State Level Master Trainer.

Dr. Basharat reiterated the Election Commission's commitment to conducting free and fair elections and urged all political parties to abide by the electoral code of conduct. He emphasized the need for mutual respect, cooperation and adherence to democratic norms throughout the electoral process.

The representatives

from the political parties expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue and pledged their commitment for ensuring smooth electoral process in Pulwama district.

The DEO concluded the meeting by reaffirming the Election Commission's dedication to facilitating a transparent and credible electoral process. He urged all political parties to work collaboratively towards achieving the common goal of upholding the integrity of the democratic process.

The meeting was attended by Nodal Officer MCC (ADC), AROs and Dy DEO.

## Meeting of Election Expenditure Monitoring Teams held at Ganderbal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, MARCH 20

In a concerted effort to ensure transparency and fairness in the electoral process, the Deputy District Election Officer (Dy. DEO) Ganderbal, Abid Iqbal Malik along with the Election Expenditure Monitoring Teams, convened a pivotal meeting at the District Treasury Officer's office, here today.

The meeting brought together a dedicated group of officials tasked with overseeing and monitoring election expenditure.

With the upcoming elections looming on the horizon, the discussions were centered on enhancing the efficacy of monitoring mechanisms and fostering collaboration among the teams to uphold the integrity of the electoral process.

During the meeting, the Dy.DEO underscored the paramount importance of adhering to stringent guidelines and protocols to curb any potential mal-



practices related to election expenditure.

Emphasizing the significance of their role in maintaining a level playing field for all candidates, the Dy.DEO urged the teams to exercise diligence and impartiality in their duties.

Furthermore, strategies for leveraging technology and data analytics to streamline monitoring efforts were deliberated upon, with a focus on leveraging innovative tools

to identify and address discrepancies promptly.

In adherence to the Election Commission's directives, the meeting concluded with a renewed resolve to uphold the democratic values and principles enshrined in the electoral process, thereby ensuring a level playing field for all stakeholders involved. The Meeting was attended by Assistant Expenditure Observers for both the

ACs of District Ganderbal, Teams, and Expenditure Monitoring Cell.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM**

75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

Tender Notice No. 15/2023-24 Dated: 19.03.2024  
Sr. Divisional Material Manager, N. Rly. Store Branch DRM Office, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items :-

S. Tender N. No.	Description	Quantity	Due Date
1	94245258 SITC of Transformer	01 nos	16.04.2024

Note:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

883/24

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

## 47th Meeting of National Committee of Archivists concludes in Srinagar

JNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAR 20

The two-days' 47th Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists (NCA) was concluded on 19 March 2024 at the Sher-e Kashmir Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar. Delegates from Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh participated in person, while those from Haryana and West Bengal attended in virtual mode.

During the two-days meeting, the delegates deliberated on various aspects that are required for revitalizing the archives administration and records management system in their respective State/ UTs, and



underscored the need for leveraging full potential of the digital and AI technologies for this purpose. They agreed on adopting a focused and concerted approach for preserving and sharing the rich documentary heritage of the nation, and for making their archival resources easily accessible through Web-Portal.

The delegates also

sought the guidance of the National Archives of India in formulating the guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), with regard to digitization of records.

It was also agreed that the NCA should also explore into new areas such as integration of Oral Archives and non-traditional archival sources into public archives in

NAI, State and UTs.

In his address, Shri Arun Singal, Director General of Archives and Chairman and Convener of NCA emphasised on the need for democratization of the valuable information contained in public and private records held in various State and Union Territory archives across India by making it easily accessible to the users through the Internet. He added that collaboration amongst the archival institutions in India is vital to provide unified search results on any given topic, on which archival material might be available in different repositories.

## Under PM Modi, J&K will march to greater heights: Ashok Koul

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Prominent political and social personalities including many Sarpanches, Naib-Sarpanches, Panches having affiliations to various political parties and ex-servicemen from Reasi and Jammu, joined Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP welcomed the new entrants into the party fold.

Kuldeep Raj Dubey senior leader BJP, former MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia, Arvind Gupta, District Reasi Prabhari, Sarf Singh Nag, DDC Chairperson, Abdul Rashid, DDC Member, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa President BJP Minority Morcha, Choud-

hary Roshan Hussain, President ST Morcha and others were also present on the occasion.

Ashok Koul, welcoming the new entrants, said that anyone who believes in the ideology of BJP is welcome in the Bharatiya Janata Party. He said that the public welfare schemes launched for poor and needy by the Modi government testifies its commitment for the overall development of its citizens on the lines of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Vishwas".

"Hundreds of people are joining BJP everyday, trusting the policies of Modi Government. Today, also prominent political and social personalities from far-flung areas like Reasi, Mahore, Arnas have joined BJP, having witnessed the develop-

ment taking place in their areas. They have a strong belief that under the leadership of PM Modi, Jammu & Kashmir will march to the greater heights", said Ashok Koul.

Balwant Singh Mankotia said that the numerous prominent persons representing various communities and having previous affiliations to different political parties are contacting the party leaders to join the ranks of BJP to serve the nation.

Kuldeep Raj Dubey said that under the Modi government, the development has reached the far-flung areas of Reasi, which lacked even the basic facilities earlier, due to the apathy of governments led by NC, Congress and PDP.

Arvind Gupta urged the new entrants to work with full zeal and commitment for the upliftment of

weaker sections so that the benefits of schemes can be reached to the people standing last in the line.

Dr. Bhawana Kaushal (educationist) from Jammu joined on the occasion.

Mohd. Shafi (Sarpanch), Shamsher Singh (Sarpanch), Antif Hussain (Sarpanch), Haji. Mohd. Mustaq (Sarpanch), Madam Shamema Akter (Sarpanch), Mohd. Latif (Sarpanch), Madam Lakhwinder Kour (Sarpanch), Tara Mani (Naib Sarpanch), Seva Singh (Panch), Mohd. Mansha (Panch), Rattan Singh (Naib Sarpanch), Chanday Ram (Panch), Kartar Singh (Panch), Zail Singh (Panch), Basharat Ali (Panch), Captain Mohd. Aslam (Ex Service), Captain Vikrant Singh and other Ex-Servicemen from Reasi joined BJP on the occasion.

## Modi Govt gave new dimensions to sports: Kavinder

### Witnesses final Open Hockey Tournament

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, highlighted the remarkable efforts of the Modi government in revolutionizing sports infrastructure during its ten years of rule. He emphasized the government's commitment in enhancing sports facilities and creating a conducive environment for athletes to flourish.

The senior BJP leader was speaking at the finals of the Open Hockey Tournament held at the presti-

gious K K Hakku Stadium in Jammu.

Kavinder Gupta, who was the Chief Guest during the final match, asserted that the Modi government has brought a new dimension to sports infrastructure across the nation. He commended the government's unwavering dedication towards uplifting sports and fostering a culture of excellence in the field. He expressed his admiration for the significant investments made in upgrading sports facilities, empowering athletes, and encouraging sports at all levels.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government's relentless focus on sports development has yielded remarkable



results in the national and international level games where in our athletes have won record number of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, brining laurels to the country," Kavinder said and lauded the establishment of world-class stadiums, training centers, and sports academies that have provided aspir-

ing athletes with state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities. He mentioned that these initiatives have not only improved the quality of training but have also inspired countless youngsters to pursue their sporting ambitions.

The senior BJP leader encouraged all stakeholders, including the

government, sports organizations, and communities, to continue working together to further elevate the sports infrastructure in the Union Territory. He reiterated the importance of investing in sports, not only for physical well-being but also for fostering national pride, unity, and happiness.

Earlier, Kavinder Gupta witnessed the nail-biting final match of the Open Hockey Tournament at KK Hakku Hockey Stadium, Jammu. The intense clash was between the MBS Hockey Club from Simbal and the BSB Hockey Club from Poonch. Both teams displayed exemplary performances, showcasing their exceptional stick work and skills, captivating the audience with their

enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Among those who graced the momentous occasion included Rajinder Singh (Former President Hockey India), G.S Bakshi, Rajinder Koul (Sr. Vice President Hockey J&K), Daljeet Singh (Member Hockey J&K), Gurpreet Singh (Vice President Hockey J&K), Adv. Ishan Sharma (Treasurer Hockey J&K), Manjeet Singh (Sr. Member Hockey J&K), Supinder Deep Singh Bakshi (General Secretary Hockey J&K), RP Sarna, Ashok Sharma, as well as enthusiastic spectators and players.

The match was officiated by a proficient technical panel, including Balmeet Singh, Ranjeet Singh, Iqbal Singh (NIS

Hockey Coach J&K Police), Gurjit Singh (Former International Hockey player & Hockey coach J&K Police), and Ishtyak. Their expertise ensured a fair and exciting competition. Kavinder Gupta also expressed his admiration for the remarkable talent and dedication displayed by the participating teams. He conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to all the organizers, players, and spectators for making the tournament a resounding success. He encouraged the continued growth and promotion of hockey and other sports in the Union Territory, underlining the potential of sports to bring communities together and create opportunities for individuals to excel.

### JKBS commends Vicky Kaith for promoting Dogri language through songs

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 20:

The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha members who joined R.L.Kaith in Surya Vihar today, hailed Music Director Vicky Kaith's latest Dogri song 'Dillan De Pyare' sung by R.K.Manhas and Reya Katerwal prepared with an object to promote the regional language Dogri.

Vicky mentioned to them that 'Dillan De Pyare' is a song about the struggle to keep love alive during the hard seasons and also gently reminds the listener that things that are meant to be will be. This track is dosed with beautiful nature scenery with the sound of warm emotions and feelings. It's perfect to listen to on any fall afternoon or evening.

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

#### Since Article 370 revocation...

Khajuria, among others, have joined the party. In addition to Syed Alaf Bukhari, several other notable figures have severed ties with the PDP, including former minister Imran Raza Ansari, Basharat Bukhari, Abdul Rahim Rather, former Deputy Chief Minister Mustafa Baig, former minister Haseeb Drabu, Javed Mustafa Mir, and Ashraf Mir. Moreover, some relatives of Mehbooba Mufti have also disassociated themselves from the party. Consequently, NC, aligned with the INDIA alliance, has unequivocally stated its reluctance to engage in any seat-sharing agreement with the PDP. Furthermore, former MLA Sheikh Jabbar and former Deputy CM Parvez Qadri have also parted ways with the NC. KNO

#### Elections in J&K will...

those who have denied democracy and welfare to Kashmir for 75 years should be punished. Talking about BJP's performance in the upcoming Lok Sabha 2024 elections, Shah said he believes the party will give its best performance to date in Uttar Pradesh and will get more seats than in the 2014 polls. The minister also stated that India will defeat the 'parivaar-waad' parties.

#### Choudhary Lal Singh...

"In 2002, our party formed the government in Jammu and Kashmir when I had won the Assembly elections. After that, when BJP had given the slogan of shining India in 2004, I won Lok Sabha elections and the Congress party formed the government at the centre. Everybody should keep this in mind and in advance we all should be united," Singh said, in his own style.

Lal Singh said that fighting elections in Jammu and Kashmir is a tough job and he knows it very well. "I have faced three deadly attacks but escaped unhurt. I know how tough it is to fight elections in J&K and you all should respect us," he added.

He expressed his displeasure on changing his candidature during 2014 Lok Sabha elections when party had given the mandate to Ghulam Nabi Azad (who lost to Dr. Jitendra Singh of BJP). "You all were witness to that and even cried," he added.

Preferring Azad over Singh during 2014 elections became the reason for him to leave the grand-old party and he jumped the ship and joined BJP. He successfully contested the 2014 Assembly elections in J&K and became the minister in PDP-BJP coalition government.

Thanking Congress party, Lal Singh said that the future belongs to young people and the all the old people will die. "Rahul Gandhi is young and he will

surely become the Prime Minister of the country. Whenever I see these young people around (pointing towards Neeraj Kundan and Shanawaz Choudhary), I tell them you are the future," he added.

Welcoming him into the party fold, PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani said that Choudhary Lal Singh has always worked for the downtrodden and poor people and has emerged a strong leader. "His joining is a welcome step and we welcome him," he added.

The two-time Member Parliament (MP) from Udhampur-Doda Lok Sabha seat, Singh's joining Congress party will give a huge boost to the grand-old party from this seat where Minister of State (MoS) in Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr. Jitendra Singh is contesting on BJP's ticket.

Choudhary Lal Singh's candidate will make this contest on Udhampur-Doda seat interesting as Singh has his own base in his home district Kathua and Congress party enjoys good reputation in Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts of this constituency. With his entry, there will be a direct contest between Choudhary Lal Singh and Jitendra Singh whereas Democratic Progress Azad Party's (DPAP) candidate and former MLA from Inderwal Ghulam Muhammad Saroori will play a major role as being a native of Kishtwar district, he is expected to get votes from Chenab valley.

Jitendra Singh is also a two-time MP from this seat and is considered a close aide of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He will be facing a strong heat as the contest will be tough.

This seat is all set to go for polls in first phase on April 19 and the counting of votes will be on June 4. KNO

#### Udhampur constituency...

Aroma Mission by Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India.

This endeavour provides India an alternate source to propel its economy, Dr Jitendra Singh stated.

Over 3000 flourishing lavender entrepreneurs from Bhandarwah have shown the youth of India a new and lucrative avenue of StartUp through agriculture which is an exclusive domain of this country and will contribute value addition to India's future economic growth and realisation of PM Narendra Modi's vision of "Vikriti Bharat" by 2047, he said.

The Minister informed that more than three thousand youth of J&K are engaged in this mission which has emerged as an avenue of self-employment as these youngsters are earning in lakhs.

Dr Jitendra Singh underscored that this has been achieved due to the personal efforts of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, and the government's measures to provide all possible support, be it imparting training

to the youth or ensuring industry linkages for lavender products or provision of other necessary logistical aid, to spur this revolution. Lavender-made products are sold in thousands in States like Maharashtra, fetching rich revenue for the producers, he informed.

The Minister recalled that it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who gave a clarion call of Start up India, Stand Up India from the ramparts of historic Red Fort. Following the Prime Minister's call, people joined the movement. As a result, the number of start-ups has now gone past 1.25 lakh from a mere 350 existing at that time, thereby placing India at number three spot in this field in the world, Dr Jitendra Singh informed.

The Union Minister urged the youth to join the agri start-up ecosystem so that they can contribute to making value addition to the economy, and help in realising the national goal of making India a number one economy in the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal.

Calling for action, Dr Jitendra Singh said the areas which are either unexplored or under-explored hold the potential of making value addition to the economy, adding that the role of Jammu and Kashmir- pioneered purple revolution will be of critical importance to make India a developed nation by 2047.

#### Govt constitutes committees...

Finance, Housing & Urban Development Department, Representative of Finance Department (not below the rank of the Additional Secretary), Joint Director (Planning), Housing & Urban Development Department, Director, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (or their representative), additional secretary (law), housing and urban development department and Team leader/Technical Head, SPMU(KPMG) while Informatics Officer, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Nodal Officer (NUDM), J&K will be member secretary of the committee.

The Committee can co-opt any other member(s), as may be deemed and terms of reference will be to meet once every two months to review progress under National Urban Digital Mission, to align various stakeholders with the mission requirements, to review and recommend reforms, provide guidance on legal and other requirements and to assist in removing bottlenecks and finally approve the system development. KNO

#### PM, J&K LG, DGP, others...

President Omar Abdullah has extended warm greetings to people on the auspicious eve of Navroz e Aalam. In their greetings message, Dr Farooq and Omar Abdullah highlighted the region's rich legacy and inheri-

ance of brotherhood and amity. They expressed hope that the day will herald peace, prosperity and progress in J&K.

Meanwhile, NC General Secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar, Additional General Secretary Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Treasurer Shammi Oberoi, PP Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, party leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi have also extended warm greetings go people on Navroz e Aalam. KNO

#### Gun license to ineligible...

Licensing Authority/District Magistrate with middlemen and other gun house dealers. In furtherance of the criminal conspiracy, the gun house dealers lured the defence personnel posted at far away places in the country and got their arms license issued from district Kupwara in an illegal manner, despite those personnel neither being resident of the State nor posted in the district, without police verification. Alleged illegal gratification per license were sought and collected by the gun house dealers and middlemen, the statement said.

Issuance of large number of arms licenses in a bordering district like Kupwara in illegal manner to ineligible persons is a matter of grave concern and poses serious threat to law & order and public safety, it said, adding that further investigation is going on. KNO

#### JKBOSE Shocker...: 11th...

the notification in while. "We got the information of the issue and we have decided to reschedule the exams. New dates will be issued soon," the official said.

Meanwhile school education department has constituted a committee to enquire about the distribution of wrong question paper.

Administrative Secretary, School Education Department Piyush Singla accordingly accorded the constitution of committee, comprising of Directors of School Education of both Jammu and Kashmir regions.

Singla said that the shall enquire into the incident of wrong distribution of 11th class question paper to 12th class students appeared in the Board examination on March-20-2024 by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education.

It also said that the committee shall look into circumstances of the cancellation of the examination and the responsibility shall be fixed on supervisory and administrative level for the negligence.

"The committee shall co-opt any Chief Education Officer and other officer and submit its findings report to the administrative within seven days," it reads. KNO

## Lok Sabha Elections -2024 Expenditure Observer reviews election preparedness in Udhampur



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 20

In an effort to ensure smooth conduct of Parliamentary Elections 2024, Satyanarayana Raju Bhupathi, the Expenditure Observer for 04-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, chaired a meeting here today.

The meeting facilitated extensive interaction among the Nodal Officers tasked with overseeing Election Expenditure monitoring across all five districts of the 4-Udhampur

parliamentary constituency.

District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai, presented a comprehensive briefing to the Expenditure Observer regarding the preparations made and the teams assembled to monitor Model Code of Conduct (MCC) compliance and candidate expenditures.

The Expenditure Observer reviewed the preparations and the status of teams on an assembly constituency-wise basis. He emphasized

the importance of maintaining proper records and adhering to ECI guidelines for expenditure booking.

Stressing sincerity towards duty, he underscored the necessity of coordination among various teams for effective expenditure oversight. He urged upon the nodal officers to document any MCC violation and promptly inform the election observer. The Expenditure Observer expressed satisfaction with the election preparations in Udhampur district.

## DEO Budgam sensitises recognised political parties regarding Model Code of Conduct Guidelines

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BUDGAM, MARCH 20

The District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting with representatives of the recognised political parties.

At the outset, the representatives of political parties were sensitized regarding the strict adherence to Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during the upcoming Lok-Sabha 2024 elections in the district. The DEO emphasized that all guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI), shall be implemented and followed in letter and spirit in the district.

He urged political parties to ensure that ECI's guidelines on Model Code of Conduct for Political Parties are complied with.

He also urged political parties to give their cooperation to the district administration for conduct of free, fair and



smooth elections in the district. The DEO said that the district administration is committed to implementing the ECI's guidelines in letter and spirit and to ensure strict implementation of MCC. He also informed that a dedicated Media Centre and the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee facility has also been established at District Information Centre Budgam.

Meanwhile, Additional District Development Commissioner Budgam, Nodal Officer, MCC also

briefed the political parties regarding the MCC and urged them to follow all guidelines in letter and spirit.

Later, the DEO also chaired meeting of Bank Heads and instructed them to facilitate candidates smooth opening of bank accounts and issuance of cheque books as per the ECI guidelines.

The bank heads were also sensitized about the guidelines of ECI on reporting of suspicious bank transactions and reporting same to the concerned agencies.

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024 VAFs under SVEEP held in different educational Zones of Kupwara



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, MARCH 20

In its endeavour to extend electoral literacy to adult populations, District Nodal Officer SVEEP Kupwara today organized awareness programs in different educational Zones across the district.

Community members,

general public and students participated in the events held at different Zones of the district including Khumryal, Langate, Mawar, Vilgam, Bahadurkote, Rajwar and Sogam.

Awareness Forums (VAFs) are informal forums for generating discussions and awareness around the electoral process.

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024 Training Session for Micro observers, Video viewing teams, Magistrates held in Doda



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, MARCH 20

A training session was organized in Doda for Micro observers, Video viewing teams, and Magistrates for upcoming Lok Sabha Election's 2024.

The training session was held with an aim to equip these key personnel with necessary skills and knowledge to effectively carry out their duties during the election process.

The training session covered various aspects of election monitoring and management. During the training session, Prof. Dr Akhtar Hussain, District Level Master Trainer (DLMT) briefed the participants about roles and responsibilities of Micro observers, Video viewing teams as well as the legal framework governing elections.

The participants also received training on how to handle sensitive infor-

mation and maintain the integrity of electoral process.

The session included practical exercises and simulations to help participants familiarize themselves with the tools and technologies they will be using during the elections. Additionally, experts in the field shared their insights and best practices to enhance the effectiveness of participants in their respective roles.

## Orientation Session for female pilgrims/ 'Lady without Mehram Category' on March, 26 at Haj House, Bemina

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 20

The J&K Haj Committee is organising a separate Orientation / Training Session for selected female pilgrims especially females belonging to 'Lady Without Mehram Category' on 26th March, 2024 at Haj House, Bemina, Srinagar. The Training programme shall commence at 11.00 am. As such, all the interested female pilgrims especially 'Lady without Mehram Category' pilgrims shall attend the said Training programme as per schedule.

## SVEEP Campaign organised at Padder Kishtwar



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 20

A SVEEP Campaign was today organised at Gulabgarh, Padder, with special focus on women voters, youth voters, voters with disability and senior citizen voters under the supervision of BDO HQ, Chahat Bharti, deputed as Women Nodal officer in Padder Nagsemi-AC.

During the campaign, an exhaustive interaction session was conducted

with Key stakeholders , women voters, AWWs, ASHA workers, BLOs, NRLM SHGs, etc. where in detailed sensitization regarding poll processes, gender disparity in voter turnout and electors facilitation was held order to ensure free and fair elections.

A massive rally was also organised through market area to create awareness among masses regarding participation in upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

## Lok Sabha Election 2024: SVEEP awareness programme held for Women field functionaries in Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 20

District Election Office Kishtwar, led by District Election Officer, Dr. Devansh Yadav orchestrated a significant awareness and sensitization workshop today under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative for Anganwari Workers, ICDS helpers, ASHAs, and Women Self Help Group Members.

The event took place under the diligent supervision of Women Nodal Officer for Kishtwar Assembly Constituency 49, Chandan Manhas.

The primary objective of the program was to engage women field functionaries and workers in amplifying awareness regarding equitable participation of women in the electoral process, with a special emphasis on upholding ethical voting rights.



The workshop witnessed the presence of District Information Officer, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, CDPO Kishtwar, Ifat Ara along with Master Trainer, Riyaz Ahmed Butt, among other relevant stakeholders.

In her opening remarks, Nodal Officer, Chandan Manhas underscored the pivotal role of women citizens in the democratic process, particularly in the upcoming General Lok Sabha Elections of 2024. She emphasized the indispensable contribution of

women frontline workers in galvanizing awareness among women voters to exercise their voting rights, thereby fostering maximum participation in democratic exercise.

She reiterated the commitment towards inclusion of every eligible woman of voting age in the Electoral Roll/Register, leaving no one behind. She articulated that the active participation of women in the democratic fabric is indispensable for nurturing an inclusive society that genuinely reflects the diverse

needs and perspectives of all constituents.

During the workshop, participants were tasked with identifying women who are yet to be enrolled in the Voters List/Electoral Roll and urged to liaise with respective BLOs to facilitate the registration of eligible women voters and first-time voters alike.

During the programme, Master Trainer, Riyaz Ahmed Butt provided comprehensive guidance on ethical voting practices while elucidating various amenities available at polling stations to facilitate women voters' seamless participation.

Anganwari Workers, Helpers, ASHAs, and Women SHG members were urged to fervently motivate women voters to exercise their franchise and ensure maximum participation on the polling day of the General Lok Sabha Election 2024, slated for 19th April 2024 in the district.

## SVEEP: Voters Awareness program organised at Kaman Post, Uri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, MARCH 20

The Sub Division Administration in Uri orchestrated a dynamic Voters Awareness program at Kaman Post Uri, as part of the ongoing Systematic Voter Education Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.

The event, aimed at fostering electoral literacy and encouraging robust participation in the democratic process, witnessed a commendable turnout and active engagement from various stakeholders.

Program was presided over by the Sub Divisional Magistrate Uri, Javid Ahmad Rather. The program saw the enthusiastic participation of Additional Nodal Officer SVEEP, Vice Principal GDC Uri, SDPO Uri, AEROs, Principals, Zonal Education Officers, BDO Uri, Supervisors, BLOs, school principals and teachers, local residents, and students from diverse educational backgrounds.

The event featured a diverse array of interactive activities, including skits, cultural performances,



debates, speeches, painting competitions, and slogan writing contests. These engaging sessions captivated the audience, fostering a spirit of civic responsibility and democratic participation.

During his address, SDM Uri underscored the pivotal role of electoral literacy in shaping informed citizenry and emphasized the significance of active participation in the electoral process, particularly with the Lok Sabha 2024 elections on the horizon. He urged all eligible voters, especially first-time

## Lok Sabha Elections -2024 First phase of randomization of EVM-VVPATs held at Ramban

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, MARCH 20

The first phase of randomization of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) for Lok Sabha polls, 2024 was conducted here today under the supervision of District Election Officer (DEO), Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, in presence of representatives of political parties and senior officials.

This exercise has been done for allocation of Ballot Units, Control Units and VVPATs to two assembly segments of the district. About 205 EVMs along with CU and BU and 218 VVPATs were allocated to AC-54 (Ramban) besides allocation of 236 EVMs along with BU and CU and 251 VVPATs to AC-55 (Banihal) for smooth conduct of the polling process.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO said that the aim of randomization is to ensure free and fair elections with no human intervention as the process is being done by a dedicated software.

speakers, and attendees with knowledge about their voting rights and responsibilities.

In recognition of the participants' dedication and enthusiasm, participation certificates were distributed by SDM Uri, in presence of Additional Nodal Officer SVEEP.

## EDITORIAL

## Navigating political alliances in J&amp;K

The political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a complex interplay of alliances and strategic maneuvers as the upcoming Lok Sabha elections draw near. Among these developments, the dynamics within the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc, particularly involving the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference (NC), have garnered significant attention. Differences have emerged within the INDIA bloc, with the PDP awaiting the National Conference to unilaterally announce candidates for three Lok Sabha seats in the Kashmir Valley. This waiting game underscores a calculated strategy by the PDP to present a united front against the BJP while signaling that it's the National Conference responsible for any division of anti-BJP votes. The PDP's decision to delay its candidate announcements until after the National Conference's move is strategic. It allows the PDP to scrutinize the NC's decisions, especially regarding perceived alignments with the BJP, and challenges the narrative of anti-BJP votes being split due to the NC's actions. Meanwhile, the National Conference has declared its intent to independently contest all three seats in Kashmir, signaling a reluctance to engage in seat-sharing agreements within the INDIA alliance. This stance has prompted informal discussions between the PDP and Congress to address the disagreement, particularly regarding the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat. Omar Abdullah's recent statements reiterate the NC's position, emphasizing the party's unwillingness to concede seats to the PDP based on electoral strengths and past election results. This underscores the complexities of seat-sharing negotiations within the alliance. The emergence of a potential 'grand alliance' in Kashmir, involving key players like the NC, Congress, and PDP, has raised concerns within traditional parties. The proposal for alliances by parties like the J&K Apni Party and the Democratic Progressive Azad Party reflects a broader desire for political change in the region. The potential formation of a 'Third Front' in Kashmir, fueled by growing disillusionment with existing political options post-Article 370 abrogation, signifies a shift in the region's political dynamics. Parties like the J&K People's Conference are actively considering alliances, indicating a readiness for alternative political avenues. As these alliances and strategies evolve, they will shape the narrative and outcomes of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The intricate dance of alliances, negotiations, and strategic positioning underscores the complexities of regional politics and the quest for political relevance and influence in the region. In navigating this evolving political terrain, stakeholders must prioritize dialogue, consensus-building, and inclusive representation. The 'Third Front' represents not just a political entity but a symbol of Kashmir's evolving democratic ethos, where diverse voices converge to chart a path towards inclusive and responsive governance. As Kashmiri society engages with these transformative dynamics, it is essential for political actors and citizens alike to uphold the principles of democratic values, pluralism, and inclusive representation. The forthcoming elections will serve as a litmus test for the resilience and adaptability of Kashmir's political landscape, as it navigates through a phase of profound transformation and redefinition.

## A democracy demolition job, carried out silently

NITIN SETHI

An unsigned note found its way into a government file. No one can tell who had written it. Or who had put it in the file within the secure confines of Union Finance Ministry. That anonymous letter set off a series of events to hollow electoral democracy. The note proposed an Electoral Bonds Scheme. Within months, India would have one. A legalised route for political parties to secretly funnel unaccounted money from India and abroad into their coffers. Mostly, as we now know, to the party that held command, the BJP.

An already rickety edifice of electoral funding in India would be further hollowed out. This time around, without even the pretension of shame. Almost with joy.

Sardar Patel had once called them the 'steel frame' of India - the ones who are meant to hold the structure of democracy in place - when others attempted to drill a hole in it. The officials, our public servants. They melted. Like plastic to fire.

Dozens of them signed on to serve the anony-

mous note. Very few, it was evident in government files, made effete attempts to seed doubts. They gave up easy and soon enough. Everyone began to dress the note up with hundreds of pages of approvals. Elegies for democracy were being penned. With everyone pretending it was sonnets extolling the virtues of malevolence.

Businesses and the rich would, under cover of darkness, now shovel money into Indian governance. Invest in parties and politicians without fear. Particularly those in power. And reap their returns in due time. All legitimate. All legal. All so beautiful.

It cannot be said if anyone who fed the beast felt remorse. Files rarely disclose emotions. It can be said with certainty that they knew what the beast would devour in time.

This was how it was done. No loud bang. No large metal clangs. No gongs. Silent ball pens and correspondence in small print.

The checks and balances the founding fathers of the Constitution had put in place were dismantled. Nobody would hear of it being done. It was done

within the confines of closed, sound-proof rooms. With hundreds of quick signatures on files. Each working like a nick to the body. Bleeding a weak democracy.

And when the body polity had been well-mutilated, it was presented to the people as fait accompli. Darkness was celebrated as a clean bright new day in Indian democracy. Not that Indian democracy had been doing wonderfully well on this count to begin with. Crony capitalism, large swaths of unaccounted for cash and regulatory capture of governance had been the norm. But, now, what was done with shame would be done unabashedly. What was illegal earlier was the law now.

If there were a thousand local and regional corrupt deities that Indian politics had created, the new religion would goad everyone to pay obeisance to one lord wanting to be above all others. An unplanned formalisation of economy had been set off by a mismanaged GST. A very well-planned formalisation of corruption would now be the norm in electoral funding. It promised efficiency. Single

window clearances.

A few were prescient. They went to the judiciary. Where else would they go. There the petition sat for over five years. There was silence again. The petitioners pleaded for urgency. For the checks and balances of the Indian Constitution to kick in. They hoped.

Meanwhile, thousands of crores began pouring into the coffers of political parties.

It all sounds rather exaggerated, does it? If I watched the television news channels and read the newspapers over these years, I would think so, too. Delusional and conspiratorial. If it had so happened, you would have heard of it, read of it. You would have watched it with shrill sounds and colours.

Were you to believe one retired adamant self-driven man in his seventies? A commodore he was called. Or a band of a few others who constantly crib while sitting in the capital? Or were you to instead believe the pin-drop silence of the media by and large?

After all, life had not been great to start with. Democracy had sputtered some growth,

the powers-that-be had doled out more benefits. Given doles and taken the sand, the rock, the forest, the water from under and sold it to friends as capital to build an empire on. We had been trained to imagine this was the most one should expect.

Small pockets of the relatively privileged may have imagined and written about it, but large swathes of citizens had not got to dream of freedom from slavery under the public servant. The Constitution says it cannot be so. But Gods are not to be held accountable. Neither a hundred local deities, certainly not an omnipotent single one.

The economy chugged along. Rs 16,000-odd crores of bonds were not too big in quantum to get noticed in the fifth largest economy of the world. In volume, it was growing but yet not there. In effect, it had put the knife in the heart of Indian electoral democracy.

Electoral funding at large would continue to be oiled with mostly unaccounted cash. MLAs and MPs bought with currency, or quietened with raids and suspensions. Elections

celebrated with a little more distribution of cash and kind. This money could be used to buy Facebook advertisements, YouTube spots. Payments that had to be made through banks, say to charter airplanes.

It's halted now. The anonymous note, the intent of its promoters and their actions held unconstitutional. Held to be an attempt to murder democracy. But, no one punished. No one expected they would be. We have been trained by experience to expect so little of democracy and its institutions.

The powers that be express indignation. Not remorse. After all, the episode has taught us all what we knew to begin with. One, that almost no one comes out clean from the business end of Indian politics. Some just a little dirtier than others.

Two, it does not necessarily need a big loud shotgun. A ruthless cut from a noiseless knife can make democracy bleed just as much.

(The writer is the founding editor of The Reporters' Collective ([www.reporters-collective.in](http://www.reporters-collective.in)))

## The transformative power of education in fostering global unity

VIVIAN WANG

In today's intricate global tapestry, education emerges as a pivotal force, transcending cultural boundaries and fostering mutual understanding among diverse populations. Delving into the realm of academic achievement, this study explores the profound impact of education, particularly focusing on the experiences of Indian students.

Within the contemporary global educational milieu, institutions offering rigorous research-oriented programmes attract a kaleidoscope of students from various backgrounds. This commitment is exemplified by programs spanning disciplines such as petroleum engineering and the energy sector. Such institutions serve as melting pots for students from around the globe, facilitating a dynamic international community. This dynamic illustrates how educational settings can serve as conduits for

intercultural exchange, fostering innovation and academic excellence.

Indian students are renowned for their academic prowess, particularly in STEM disciplines. Beyond their intellectual contributions, they enrich their academic environments by sharing their cultural heritage through various events and celebrations. This exchange cultivates mutual respect and understanding among peers, broadening perspectives and equipping students for an increasingly interconnected global workforce. Initiatives promoting cross-cultural exchanges and collaboration underscore the mutual benefits of cultural integration in fostering educational and economic growth.

Transitioning from academia to the professional realm marks a pivotal stage for students. Certain institutions distinguish themselves by seamlessly integrating career preparation into the educational journey. For instance,

programmes like the Job Placement Guarantee Programme guide students in career planning from the outset, offering support in enhancing interview skills, gaining practical experience through internships, and facilitating on-campus employment opportunities. For Indian students aspiring to pursue careers abroad, such initiatives offer a pathway to success amid the challenges of securing work visas, underscoring the institution's commitment to their holistic development.

On-campus job opportunities serve as stepping stones for students to apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings, irrespective of their nationality. Indian students benefit from roles in data processing and IT help desks, gaining invaluable real-world insights and honing essential soft skills such as problem-solving and time management.

Education catalyses excellence and cross-cultural understanding. Educational institutions

worldwide are laying the groundwork for a more interconnected and empathetic global community through a multifaceted approach that integrates rigorous academic programmes, opportunities for cultural exchange, and practical professional development. The transformative educational journey experienced by Indian students abroad epitomizes this ethos, emphasizing the importance of diversity and readiness for a globalised workforce.

These institutions not only nurture future leaders but also pave the way for a future where cultural diversity is celebrated as a strength rather than a barrier. By fostering environments where students from diverse backgrounds can share experiences, learn from one another, and prepare for the challenges of a globalised economy, education emerges as a unifying force, transcending cultural differences in the pursuit of collective achievement.

In conclusion, the exchange of students among countries is not merely a matter of academic enrichment; it is a cornerstone for fostering a more united and harmonious world. By facilitating cross-cultural understanding and empathy, student exchanges lay the foundation for mutual respect and cooperation on a global scale. When students from diverse backgrounds come together in educational settings, they bring with them unique perspectives, traditions, and experiences, creating a rich tapestry of diversity that enriches the learning environment for all.

Moreover, these exchanges cultivate lifelong friendships and professional networks that transcend borders, fostering a sense of global citizenship and interconnectedness. As students return to their home countries with newfound knowledge and cultural insights, they become ambassadors for understanding and collaboration, breaking down

stereotypes and misconceptions that often divide societies.

Furthermore, the skills and attitudes cultivated through international education—such as adaptability, tolerance, and intercultural communication—are essential for addressing the complex challenges of our interconnected world, from climate change to global health crises. By investing in student exchanges and promoting educational opportunities across borders, we not only invest in the future of individuals but also the collective well-being of humanity. Ultimately, the exchange of students among countries serves as a powerful catalyst for building a better, more united world based on shared values of respect, cooperation, and mutual understanding.

(The writer is Vice provost for global engagement at the University of Tulsa, USA; views are personal)

## The divine justice system

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Shouldn't we wonder how this Creation goes on eternally? How is order maintained with so much diversity? We are all human beings alright, but there are so many races, cultures, religions, etc. How are eight billion persons coexisting? Then, there are other species, notably cows, dogs, birds, etc. There is some kind of equilibrium and the world goes on. There is so much connectivity between different areas of the world. Things grown, produced, manufactured, etc. are made available in different parts of the world. So much exchange of goods and services is there. How does order prevail in such a big world?

The answer is the Divine Justice System. It is what keeps us all going year after year for billions of years. What is this System? Who implements it? It is

God mainly. He is assisted by gods and goddesses, material nature, who work under God's superintendence. They follow rules made by God. Lord Krishna states, "Under My superintendence, the material nature gives birth to the world along with moving and stationary things. And on account of this, the world goes on." God keeps us all going. He is, "Having limbs on all sides; having eyes, head and mouth on all sides; having ears on all sides, He is situated in this world pervading all." (13.13) Those may be His manifestations, but, "This world is spread by Me by My unmanifest form." (9.4) God is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. As stated earlier, gods and goddesses assist God in this mammoth task. Of all, Shani devata requires special mention in the subject connection, because he is



the god of justice, which is a crucial position. It is said that Shanideva is the god of karma, justice and retribution. He delivers results depending upon one's thoughts, speech and deeds. He is very strict because he has to ensure that only deserving persons get rewarded and shirkers of duties get punished. This is exactly what is the 'Karmaphala Principle' is.

All our acts done by mind, words and bodies are duly recorded for

future rewards and punishments. This is where the divine system differs from the human legal system. In the latter system, we look for instant justice; we have no patience. In our hurry, we ignore so many relevant factors. For example, a poor child steals some food. In our legal system, he is guilty of theft and fit for punishment. But in the divine system, the child may be forgiven, especially because society is not shouldering its responsibility of looking

after its weaker section of children.

But no guilt goes unpunished, which is not true in the case of the human legal system. That is the reason criminals are not as afraid as they should be because they hope to escape punishment. It takes time in the case of the divine justice system because the totality of the crime has to be considered. A crime affects many. Consequences have to be taken into consideration. But, ultimately justice is delivered. Then, there is no reward to anyone at the expense of another. For example, a person applying for a prime job but not so deserving will not be favoured depriving someone deserving. For God, "I am similarly inclined towards all beings, no one is hateful for Me; and no one is dear, that is I have no preconceived and prejudiced notion towards anyone." (9.29) Justice

must prevail in all cases. Otherwise, how would confidence be there in the divine justice system, which is crucial for the Creation to exist?

God does favour His devotees but not at the cost of others. This is also important, otherwise, why would anyone approach God? For example, I turn to God for peace of mind. God has no difficulty in obliging me, if I become deserving in His estimation. Rather God bails out His devotees, who have developed God's consciousness every time all time. (18.58) God finds a way not to go against 'dharma'. There is nothing God cannot do; He is unlimited. So what did we learn? That there is a foolproof divine justice system, and we should stick to dharma at all times; we will be well served.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views are personal)

## Lok Sabha Elections -2024

### First Phase randomization of EVMs held in Kathua

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, MARCH 20

The first phase of randomization of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for the upcoming Parliamentary Elections 2024 was conducted under the supervision of Returning Officer for Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, Dr. Rakesh Minhas (DC Kathua).

The event took place in the presence of senior officials and representatives from various political parties.

The randomization process focused on allo-



ating a total of 1123 Ballot Units, 997 Control Units, and 1029 Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) units for all six assembly segments of the Kathua district like 63-Bani, 64-Billawar, 65-Basohli, 66-Jasrota, 67-Kathua (SC) and 68-Hiranagar.

Dr. Rakesh Minhas, on the occasion highlighted

that the primary objective of the randomization process is to ensure transparent, free and fair elections, devoid of any human intervention. The randomization was carried out using dedicated software designed for this purpose.

Before the randomization took place, the

Returning Officer briefed political representatives about the process, reassuring them of comprehensive arrangements in place to guarantee fair polls.

Subsequent randomization phases will determine the specific allocation of EVMs to polling stations in the upcoming phases.

The list of all EVM's post randomization were handed over to all political parties present in the randomization.

Among others, Nodal Officer EVM Nagesh Singh and DIO NIC Sideswar Bhagat were also present.

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024

### First phase of EVM randomisation kick starts at Kishtwar

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 20

The inaugural phase of randomisation for Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) for the forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024 took place here today under the chairmanship and close supervision of District Election Officer (DEO) Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav.

ADC Kishtwar/ARO Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal; ACR Kishtwar/ARO Inderal, Idrees Lone; SDM Paddar/ ARO Paddar-Nag-seni, Amit Kumar as well as other officials from the

District Elections office and representatives from political parties were also present on the occasion.

This initial randomisation phase focused on the allocation of ballot units, control units, and VVPATs for three assembly segments within the district.

During the event, DEO Kishtwar emphasized the objective of ensuring impartial and transparent elections devoid of human intervention, facilitated by dedicated software for randomisation. DEO, Dr. Devansh Yadav elaborated that

following randomisation, the EVMs will be securely transferred to dedicated strong rooms in respective constituencies, ensuring rigorous security protocols. Subsequent randomisation phases will be conducted to allocate EVMs to polling stations.

DEO Kishtwar along with AROs and senior officers and representatives of political parties conducted personal visit to the strong rooms established for EVM and took personal appraisal of the arrangements on spot.

Prior to the randomisation process, political representatives received a detailed briefing on the procedure by resource person, Vikrant Thakur, ensuring their confidence in the integrity of the process and affirming that all requisite measures have been enacted to uphold the sanctity of the polls.

Among others, Nodal officer for EVM Management Nirbhay Sharma; DIO NIC Pankaj Kashap; Election NT, Angrez Singh Jasrota, and other officers were also present.

## NIT Srinagar to host 2 day National Conference on RASE-2024 in June

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 20

The National Conference on Role of Academic-driven Startups in Developing Economy of J&K (RASE-2024) will be hosted by NIT Srinagar from 29-30th June this year.

The conference will be held in association with prestigious institutions including the Department of Holistic Education, Vidya Bharti, Punjab.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A Ravinder Nath released a brochure of the (RASE-2024). It was attended by Dr. Thakur SKR, Prof. Engr-SF and Director, DHE & VBTR, eminent educationists Vijay Nadda and Deshray Sharma, Dr. Saad Parvez, Head, IIEDC, Dr. Vijay Kumar, Dr. H S Pali, Dr. Ranjeet Kumar Rout and Shahid Abbas Mir, CEO- iTBI Greenovator, Incubation Foundation, NIT Srinagar.

In his keynote address, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath said this innovative conference is expected to bridge between academia and industry.

"The conference will serve as a dynamic platform for students, researchers, and entrepreneurs, facilitating discussions on various aspects of startup culture, spanning from ideation to execution. It will offer valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities present within the startup ecosystem," he said.

Prof. Nath said the primary goal of this confer-



ence is to nurture a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among the institute's community, including students, faculty, and local educational institutions.

"It will also act as a bridge between academia and industries, with eminent innovators from across the country sharing their experiences to inspire and guide attendees," Director NIT Srinagar added.

Dr. Saad Parvez, Organizing Secretary of RASE-2024 and Head of IIEDC, expressed that this conference aims to bring together expertise from various institutions to offer a thorough workshop covering different aspects of innovation and startup development.

He mentioned that the summit will feature local innovators and entrepreneurs alongside renowned speakers and industry experts from academia and the corporate sector.

"We will conduct talks and interactive sessions covering topics like generating ideas, researching markets, creating business models, exploring funding options, understanding legal aspects, and more," Dr. Saad said.

He said participants will actively engage in hands-on activities, group discus-

sions, and workshops to enhance practical learning and skills. Budding entrepreneurs will have the chance to pitch their startup ideas to a panel of judges comprising industry experts and investors. They will receive constructive feedback and guidance to refine their ideas and strategies.

Dr. Saad said that this conference will offer plenty of networking opportunities, allowing participants to connect with peers, mentors, and industry professionals. "This environment will foster collaboration and open doors for potential partnerships," he said.

Dr. Thakur SKR, who is a Scientist/Engineer at SF and also serves as the Director of DHE & VBTR, said that this event will offer valuable insights and learning opportunities.

"This conference will be bringing together key stakeholders to discuss and shape the future of academic-driven startups and economic development in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that NIT Srinagar is going to host the 3rd conference of RASE Conferences Series after NIT Jalandhar and NIT Kurukshetra.

## Hands-on training workshop for media students by Department of Journalism, JU

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU MARCH 20

Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Jammu University organized a one-day workshop on fact-checking, in collaboration with the Google News Initiative (GNI) India Training Network, here today. The workshop aimed to support budding journalists and media educators to counter the spread of misinformation.

Dr. Aditya Kumar Shukla, GNI India Training Network Training Professor of Media Studies at Amity University, Madhya Pradesh, was the resource person of the workshop. Dr. Vinit Utpal, Assistant Professor, IIMC Jammu was the guest of honour during the workshop. The event highlighted the importance of fact-checking in today's digital age, where misinformation can significantly impact public opinion and decision-making.

Dr Garima Gupta, Head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, emphasized the need of such a workshop to better equip the media students to deal with the present crisis of misinformation, disinformation in the age of fake news. She appreciated the resource person for sharing "red



flags" to spot misinformation and combat deep fakes with the use of apt tools and techniques to verify misinformation.

Earlier, Dr. Ravia Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication presented the welcome address on behalf of the department.

During the workshop, participants were informed regarding different types of misinformation and various strategies as well as tools to identify and counter online misinformation, particularly in the context of electoral processes. They were also given hands-on training to verify the authenticity of photos, videos, and content by using tools such as Google Lens, Yandex, TinEye, and InVid. The resource person cautioned the participants to step back from obvious messaging and posts that trigger extreme emotions. Also, they were told to be careful of the social media handles that do not always provide credible informa-

tion. Further, the attendees engaged in discussion on how to effectively handle memes that can often be used to spread propaganda or misinformation. They also learned about monitoring Telegram profiles and groups using third-party tools like Google CSEs, TGStat, and Telegram DB search Bot (@tdb bot).

Participants were urged to "think of intent" of the posts or messages circulated through social media and especially WhatsApp and beware of forwarded messages. They were encouraged to search for the original source, check the language and verify statistics and data.

Faculty members, students of Journalism and Mass Communication and scholars from Department of English participated in the workshop.

Students from the first and final semester of Journalism Department, Vishali Devi and Komal Devi conducted the program successfully.

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024: Training imparted to Sector Officers at Kupwara



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, MARCH 20

The District Election Office Kupwara organized a training session for the Sectoral Officers in the conference Hall of DC Office Complex, here.

The training was imparted by Nodal Officer Elections/ National Level Master Trainer (NLMT), Sameer Jan.

NLMT briefed the Sector Officers thoroughly about the responsibilities during the forthcoming election and urged them to put forth every effort to

make Lok Sabha elections smooth and successful.

The Sector Officers were acquainted with essential skills and knowledge to ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process. Participants actively engaged in interactive sessions and practical demonstrations to enhance their understanding and proficiency in handling diverse scenarios. Training session was attended by the Deputy District Election Officer (Dy. DEO), Hamidullah Mir, NT Election, Sector Officers (Election).

## Lok Sabha Elections -2024: First Phase EVM randomization conducted in Doda



elections, devoid of human interference, facilitated by dedicated software.

Prior to the randomization, political representatives were briefed on the process, with assurances from the DEO regarding the implementation of necessary measures to uphold the integrity of electoral process.

Following randomization, EVMs will be transferred to secure strong rooms within their respective constituencies, where they will be under rigorous security and surveillance. Subsequent phases will entail further randomization for the allocation of EVMs to individual polling stations. This meticulous approach underscores the commitment to conducting free and fair elections in the region.

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, MARCH 20

The inaugural phase of randomization for Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024 took place in Doda today.

The process was overseen by District Election Officer (DEO), Harvinder Singh in presence of senior officials and political party representatives.

The randomization aims to allocate Ballot Units, Control Units, and VVPATs for AC-51, AC-52, and AC-53, comprising a total of 529 polling centers. The total 739 number of EVMs were allotted for three assembly constituencies in the district.

DEO, Harvinder Singh, on the occasion, emphasized that the objective of randomization is to ensure transparent and impartial

## DoP IGGDC Jammu organizes IEC Campaign - 'Say No to Bleeding Gums'

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 20

In the pursuit towards good Oral hygiene, Indian Society of Periodontology has initiated a drive weaving theme "say no to bleeding gums- A pink health initiative 45 days drive" from 1st feb- 20th march, 2024 in the capital city of Jammu. This workshop and programme involves different stakeholders and ropes them in through Information, Education and Communication mode (IEC) to create awareness about the preventive oral health hygiene.

Since the 20th march, 2024 will be celebrated as world oral health day at IGGDC, Jammu, in this regard, many awareness camps at Schools, Vriddh Ashrams, Bal Niketans and SMGS Hospital (specifically gynaecology ward) are being conducted to create more awareness, education and motivation among people to maintain the oral hygiene.

This is an initiative to make youth understand and create awareness about correlation between oral health and



systemic diseases and this camp is an endeavour towards the same. This event was initiated by the guidance of worthy principal, IGGDC Jammu, Dr Rakesh K Gupta.

The organising team from IGGDC Jammu included Dr Manik Sharma, Professor and HOD besides the senior doctors Dr Vineet Kotwal, Dr Abhima Kumar, Dr Shipra Sepolia and the Registrars, Dr Jyoti Gupta & Dr Kousain Sehara. Post graduate students, house surgeons, dental hygienists and the enthusiastic interns currently enrolled in the college also participate in the events.

As a part of this program, International Women's day was celebrated on March 08th, 2024 to

recognise the significance of women in our society & to inspire them for greater further advancements. The emphasis was laid on the relevance as the Women have an increased sensitivity to the oral health problems due to hormonal changes and it was deemed necessary to make women aware about the symptoms and disorders of Oral health malfunctioning as the women are more prone to high risk of dental and gum.

The event was concluded in the auditorium, Iggdc and prize distribution for different events were distributed among various students for poster-slogan writing, Nukad natak, reels and rangoli competition.

## NSS Winter Camp inaugurated at GDC Dharmari

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
DHARMARI, MAR 20

Principal of Government Degree College, Dharmari, Dr. Preetpal Kour inaugurated seven days NSS Winter Camp 2023-24 in the presence of staff members, students and the NSS volunteers and urged the students to value the importance of their vote during elections as they are the makers of Indian Democracy. The Camp will be organized from 20th March to 30th March, 2024 except holidays. On day first of the Camp, the volunteers participated in an Awareness Program organized by the NSS Unit of the College in collaboration with district administration where the volunteers and students were informed about the extended timelines for registering their names in the Electoral Rolls through their respective Booth Level Officers (BLOs). Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed, BLO of Polling station 127-HSS Dharmari briefed the students about the importance of vote and detailed procedure for getting registered in the

Electoral Roll. The NSS Program Officer of the college, Prof. Ajay Kumar also made the volunteers aware about the role of new voters in the greatest festival of Indian democracy i.e. Elections. After the Awareness Program, the NSS Volunteers visited the adjoining water bodies and cleaned their premises to spread awareness about the importance of natural water resources in our life and the need for their conservation. Various other activities like Plantation, Cleanliness Drives, Medical Camp, Awareness and Cultural Programs will be organized in the coming days of the Camp. The Camp is being organized under the guidelines of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India and the Department of Higher Education, Jammu and Kashmir with the guidance of College Principal, Dr. Preetpal Kour and the supervision of NSS Program Officer, Prof. Ajay Kumar. Others present during the function includes Prof. Balbir Kumar, Prof. Mohinder Singh, Prof. Vinod Kumar and Prof. Balwinder.

## Ravinder Raina addresses party workers in Siot

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NOWSHERA, MAR 20

BJP will sweep Jammu and Udhampur Parliamentary seats in upcoming Parliamentary elections, stated Ravinder Raina, President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, while he was addressing party workers in Nowshera.

Former Minister Abdul Ghani Kohli, District President Neena Sharma, Thakur Randhir Singh, Capt. Ramesh Chander, DDC Sanjita Sharma, DDC Rajinder Sharma, BDC Balkrishan, Sukhdev Choudhary, Pritam Sharma, and Rakesh Raina, also accompanied Ravinder Raina on the occasion.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the party workers, said that Bharat is strengthening with every passing day and is getting its identity in the international arena because of the strong leadership



and will of taking bold decisions by the Modi government. He said that India has become the 5th largest economy in the world by leaving behind Germany and Britain. He asked the party workers to reach every nook and corner to tell the people of all the achievements of the Modi government and that the Modi government is absolutely necessary to take the Bharat to number

1 spot in the world. "After the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards its long-sought goal of progress and prosperity. No other political party has ever cared to empower the people in the erstwhile J&K state, but now the BJP under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and with our dedicated force of party cadre

has ensured the welfare of every neglected and every deprived individual and section. Due to this unprecedented public-oriented work at the ground level, BJP will sweep both the seats of Jammu as well as Udhampur Parliamentary Constituencies", said Ravinder Raina.

"The parties like NC, Congress and PDP have sensed their big defeats and the public has seen

their struggle to find even the suitable candidates. The BJP will defeat the opposition with a never before margin in the upcoming parliamentary elections", said Raina and asked the party workers to work to make this victory margin even greater with their sheer hard work. Abdul Ghani Kohli attacked the opposition parties and said that these parties are fighting for their political survival by misleading the people. He said that people have understood nefarious design of these parties, who tried to misguide the innocent public in the name of religion and region.

Neena Sharma said that the BJP workers are going to every nook and corner to approach people, tell them of the development and progress by the Modi government in J&K, and seek their vote in Parliamentary election.

## NYK Rajouri organised sports & voter awareness programme



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SUNDERBANI, MAR 20

Nehru Yuva Kendra Rajouri Organised Block Level Sports Events and Intensive Voter Awareness Registration Drive Campaign at New Model High School Marchola At Block Siot. Capt. Ranjeet Singh as a Chief Guest and Krishan Lal Sharma Retired Social welfare Teh Officer Present as a Special guest

in the programme. About 200 Youth were Participated in this programme

Many Sports Games were Played by youth Like Volleyball, Tug of war, Badminton, and Kabaddi. The winner of These games were Present by Trophees Mohd. Alyas BLO and Dedar Singh BLO gave the awareness about Voting right. They also Said that if anyone who did Not have Their

voter ID made if as soon as possible and gave Their 100% vote as a citizen of Our Country

Amarjeet Sharma President of NGO. Akshay Sharma. NYC Samriti Sharma NYC Of Block Sunderbani Kamal Kishor Sharma MD NM High School Marchola, Social activist Devi Raj Sharma were also President in the Occasion.

## Sandhya Gupta honours Rohit Shastri, Pawan Verma

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Sandhya Gupta along with Sohail Kazmi, Pardeep Dutta, Parvinder Singh, Narinder Bahu, Vikram Handa and Sunny Singh honoured Sanskrit scholar, social reformer and president of Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri and Pawan Verma theater artist for their achievements in the field of Sanskrit language & theatre. On this occasion, women club meri pachaan along with other dignitaries presented a memento to inspire both state awardees to continue their activities in the field of Sanskrit and theatre activities. Sohail kazmi, Pardeep dutta & Parvinder singh said Mahant Rohit Shastri is promoting Devvani Sanskrit in the state, he has written many books and many of his articles have been published in magazines.

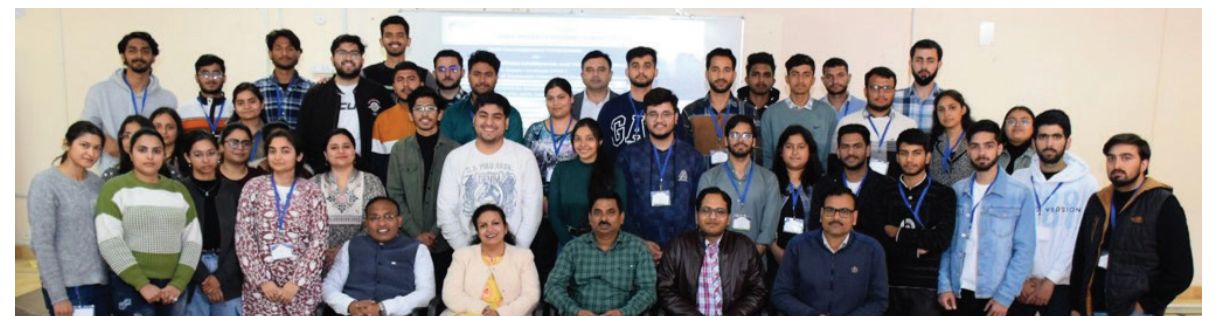


Rohit Shastri publishes and edits 'Kaliakh Sandesh Panchang Calendar' every year and distributes it free of cost. Mahant Rohit Shastri has played his special role in the upliftment of the society by doing the important work of taking Sanskrit language and Indian culture to people. He has been honored by his Excellency Lt Governor, Hon'ble Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha members and eminent public representatives for his unprecedented contribution in various social and cultural works. Shastri ji is known

for specific contribution in the field of Sanskrit and never get distracted in their work in Vedic worship, rituals etc. Sandhya gupta said if we talk about the contribution of youth in the efforts being made for Devvani Sanskrit in Jammu and Kashmir, then one name comes in front of us in the most powerful form. And that name is young Sanskritist of Jammu, dedicated to the promotion of Devvani Sanskrit, Jyotishacharya Mahant Rohit Shastri. The discussion of Sanskrit or culture is incomplete

without mentioning Rohit Shastri, who was devoted to Sanskrit language and Indian culture in the twenty-first century. J&K, the only state in the whole world where Devvani Sanskrit has been used for the longest time in the past, not only as a language of reading but also as a contact language. The land of Jammu and Kashmir has been the eternal center of Shaivism. Acharya Abhinavagupta, Mahakavi Kalhana, Mahakavi Bilhan etc. All the Acharyas who have paved the way for uniting not only India, but the whole world with the tenacity of their deeds. But from the second half of the twentieth century, the conditions for Sanskrit in this Jammu and Kashmir became worse. However, in such odd conditions and unfavorable environment for the Sanskrit and for the preservation of culture, Mahant Rohit Shastri played pivotal role.

## 5-Day Skill Development Programme on Applications of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning concluded at SMVDU



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 20

The valedictory session and closing ceremony of the Five-Day Skill Development Programme on Applications of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning concluded successfully at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra (J&K). The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Chief Guest, Dr. Govind Prasad Gupta from NIT Raipur and Guest of Honor, Dr. Abhishek Gupta. Dr. Manoj Kumar Gupta, Co-coordinator of

the programme, summarized the insightful and enriching five-day journey. Distinguished speakers from various renowned institutions shared their expertise, and enriching experience during the event, including Dr. Shitala Prasad from IIT Goa, Dr. Vipin Pal from NSUT, Dr. Yogita from NIT Kurukshetra, Dr. Karan Singh from JNU, Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav from NIT Srinagar, Mr. Shakti Shandilya, Vice President SIMPLY ASK Canada, Dr. Yamuna Prasad from IIT Jammu, Dr. Abhishek Gupta from

CSIR, and Dr. Govind from NIT Raipur. The organizing committee including Dr. Pooja Sharma and Mr. Manoj Kumar along with guest speakers distributed certificates to the participants and the organizing committee members, acknowledging their dedication and hard work and expressed sincere thanks to the Vice Chancellor, Prof.(Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Registrar, Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma and Deptt. Of Higher Education, Govt. of UT J&K for giving such opportunities at such platforms which

would certainly help to imbibe our young minds with startup and entrepreneurship skills development. The success of the event was also attributed to the diligent efforts of the student coordinators: Subhag Sharma, Tushar Taggar, Rajat Godara, Achyut, Hridayanshu, Vanshika, Rudraksh, and Mihika. The vote of thanks was delivered by Subhag Sharma, expressing gratitude to all participants, guests, and volunteers who contributed to making the programme a resounding success.

## Deptt of Journalism, JU organizes one-day workshop on 'Fact-Checking'

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Jammu University organized a one-day workshop on fact-checking, in collaboration with the Google News Initiative (GNI) India Training Network, here today. The workshop aimed to support budding journalists and media educators to counter the spread of misinformation.

Dr. Aditya Kumar Shukla, GNI India Training Network Training Assistance and Professor of Media Studies at Amity University, Madhya Pradesh, was the resource person of the workshop. Dr. Vinit Utpal, Assistant Professor, IIMC Jammu was the guest of honour during the workshop. The event highlighted the importance of fact-checking in today's digital age, where misinformation can significantly impact public opinion and decision-making.

Dr. Garima Gupta, Head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, emphasized the need of such a workshop to better equip the media students to deal with the present crisis of misinfor-



mation, disinformation in the age of fake news. She appreciated the resource person for sharing "red flags" to spot misinformation and combat deep fakes with the use of apt tools and techniques to verify misinformation.

Earlier, Dr. Ravia Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication presented the welcome address on behalf of the department.

During the workshop, participants were informed regarding different types of misinformation and various strategies as well as tools to identify and counter online misinformation, particularly in the context of electoral processes. They were also

given hands-on training to verify the authenticity of photos, videos, and content by using tools such as Google Lens, Yandex, TinEye, and InVid. The resource person cautioned the participants to step back from obvious messaging and posts that trigger extreme emotions. Also, they were told to be careful of the social media handles that do not always provide credible information. Further, the attendees engaged in discussion on how to effectively handle memes that can often be used to spread propaganda or misinformation. They also learned about monitoring Telegram profiles and groups using third-party tools like Google

CSEs, TGStat, and Telegram DB search Bot (@tdb bot).

Participants were urged to "think of intent" of the posts or messages circulated through social media and especially WhatsApp and beware of forwarded messages. They were encouraged to search for the original source, check the language and verify statistics and data. Faculty members, students of Journalism and Mass Communication and scholars from Department of English participated in the workshop. Students from the first and final semester of Journalism Department, Vishali Devi and Komal Devi conducted the program successfully.

## Sculptors' Camp by JKAACL at Kala Kendra culminates

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 20

An eight days' Sculptors' Camp organized by Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) under the guidance of Sh. Bharat Singh Manhas JKAS, Secretary, JKAACL, on 12th March, 2024, at Kala Kendra, culminated today.

Well known painter artist Richa Mahajan was the chief guest of the valedictory ceremony whereas renowned artist, columnist on art & culture and a writer presided over the programme. S. Popinder Singh Paras, Exhibition Officer, JKAACL & Editor Sheeraza Punjabi shared the dias. The ceremony was attended by sculptors, artists, students of IMFA and art lovers.

While welcoming the sculptors and guests, S. Popinder Singh paras said that the Cultural Academy aims to provide opportunities to the literary, visual and performing artists to contribute in the field of art & culture in all genres of creative fields. He appreciated the participant sculptors for creating excellent art pieces in a short span of eight days. He elaborated that Acad-



emy plans to hold such camps from time to time in all the regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior and young artists participating in the camp included Bodh Raj Balgotra, Brijpal Anand, Jasleen Singh, Vikas Dogra, Vikas Khajuria, Arjinder Kumar, Sukhjit Singh Kukkal, Swantantar Bharat, Darshan Singh, Pankaj Kumar, Jagdish Singh Babli, and Ganesh Kumar Sharma.

In his presidential address Jang S. Verma said that it's appreciable that the Academy has organized sculptors camp after a long gap. He also appreciated the efforts made by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages for promoting and preserving the art & culture of the artists working in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. He further said

that it was a challenge for the participating sculptors to come up with their creations in view of the short duration of the camp days. He added that the contemporary tempo of creating sculpture in terms of non-representational and spatial sculpture during the contemporary times has been achieved by the artists during the camp.

Speaking on this occasion, Smt. Richa Mahajan welcomed the restarting of sculptor's camp by the Cultural Academy. She appreciated the art works created by the artists during the camp. She appealed the authorities of the Cultural Academy to hold art exhibitions of the Academy and give awards in the student's category, as it had been a tradition in the past. She also suggested to give scholarships to the students of various

art forms to get the students inspired to participate in the art & cultural pursuits.

Senior participating sculptors Ganesh Kumar Sharma, J S Babli, Sukhjit Singh, Vikas Khajuria expressed their views on the conduct of sculptors' camp. The also put down their suggestions for consideration for the implementation in the future sculptor camps.

Earlier, the guests had a round of the art works created by the artists during the eight days' sculpture camp and appreciated the work done by the artists and the Academy.

Senior artists Bishamber Mehta, Dr. Madan Rangila, and others also attended the valedictory ceremony of the camp. Sh. Irshad Tantray, Exhibition Officer, JKAACL extended vote of thanks.





# Congress vows vigorous fight against BJP in upcoming Lok Sabha elections: Bhalla

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 20

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla Wednesday reiterated Party's commitment to continue its fight against wrong and oppressive policies of BJP. Addressing prominent persons at Hakal in RS Pura Jammu South constituency he said that Congress Party is fully prepared to overcome the divisive and misleading politics of BJP, which is responsible for the chaos and confusion in the country, although many tall claims are being made to build the fake narrative with regard to inclusive development, employment generation and many other things pertaining to public, but the reality is contrary to the ground situation, which reflects that the Nation has been pushed towards darkness, especially economic distress, unemployment coupled with lack of development and false promises that are being made to divert the attention of the people from the real issues.



Prominent among those present on the occasion include General Secretary JKPCC Amrit Bali, JKPCC Secretary Pawan Bhagat, Punjab Singh, Jaisidh Bhalla, Margash Bhalla, Panch Sunil, Vicky Sharma, Rangil Singh, Nirmal Singh, Kapoor Lal, Mangat Ram, Joginder Singh, Charanjeet Singh, Naresh Kumar, Ravi Bhagat, Shashi Verma, Hans Raj, Shami Kumar, Kuldeep Singh, Teja Singh, Raj Kumar and others.

Bhalla said there is restlessness among the public in Jammu and Kashmir given the denial of democratic rights aiming to disempower them politically and economically. What the people of J&K achieved after the reorganization of the full-fledged State, he questioned, adding that downgrading of J&K into two UTs was an unfortunate move done by the BJP in order to rule J&K directly from the Centre which tantamount to dismantling the very foundation of the democracy. He said Congress Party

will ensure respite to the people of J&K by defeating the designs and wrong policies of the BJP, urging the Party workers to feel strong and work harder to defeat the fake narratives which are being built by the BJP to mislead the public and hide failures on all fronts.

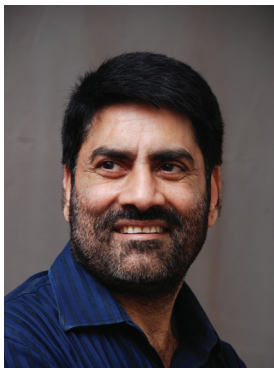
Bhalla termed the Congress a hope for all Indians, which had ensured a tremendous development of the country in all respects and is struggling to ensure equitable justice to every section of the people living in the country. He said Congress has given sacrifices for the Nation, which could not be replaced by anything, at the same time, he took a jibe on the BJP for disempowering people economically and benefitting its corporate friends at the cost of the Country's economy, which has suffered severe setbacks since the it (BJP) assumed power at Centre. The uncompromising fight of Congress Party against BJP's open loot, misleading, and vendetta politics shall continue, till it (BJP) is wiped out. People want change,

which is set to happen in the country for the betterment of the public, besides inclusive development of India. Congress is playing the role of strong and constructive opposition and there will be no compromise on people's urges, aspirations, and their rights which are under assault under the ruling dispensation at Centre, Bhalla added. Referring to Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Nyay Yatra, he said the Yatra had the potential to change the political direction in the country, which was harmed by the hate and divisive agenda of the BJP, the Yatra brought the derailed political process at track, which doesn't suit BJP for the fact, it (BJP) is spreading hate for the lust of power. It has changed the political direction in the country, Bhalla added. He termed the divisive policies of BJP unacceptable and said the Congress Party is capable enough to defeat the designs of BJP, which is hell-bent upon dividing people on religious lines for electoral gains.

## Balwant Thakur honoured on World Theatre Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 20

Eminent playwright and Theatre Director Padamshree Balwant Thakur is being honoured on the occasion of 'World Theatre Day' in two different places in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. In Himachal Pradesh, The Beginners, in association with Language and Culture Department, Government of HP and Gaiety Theatre Society has invited Balwant Thakur as Chief Guest on the occasion of the celebrations of world theatre day featuring a Theatre seminar, play performances and felicitations at the iconic Gaiety Theatre, Shimla. The 2nd event is being held at the prestigious Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak (Haryana) where Balwant Thakur is being conferred with the best theatre promoter award entitled 'Devender Trikha Best Theatre



Promotor Award-2024' on the occasion of world theatre day. On 27th of March, 2024 World Theatre Day is being celebrated globally under the aegis of International Theatre Institute, UNESCO Paris. The theme of the world theatre day celebrations is 'Theatre and a culture of peace'. World Theatre Day is celebrated world over to enable theatre communities to promote their work on a broad scale so that the governments and the opinion leaders are made

aware of the value and importance of theatre. In Jammu & Kashmir Balwant Thakur is credited for creating a new renaissance for theatre and through his sheer hard work and foresightedness, he outstandingly brought the theatre of this lesser known region to the international limelight. Dogri Theatre in particular got global recognition through his highly innovative plays which were creditably featured in Frankfurt International Theatre Festival, Year of India in Russia, Theatre Olympics and Commonwealth Games. Conferred with the highest Indian honour in performing arts in addition to Padmashree, Balwant Thakur holds a distinctive position in the country with his remarkable over 350 National/International theatre participations as director and holding of over 6500 shows/events, which is a record in India.

## Congress manifesto a document of deceit full of lies: Rekha Mahajan



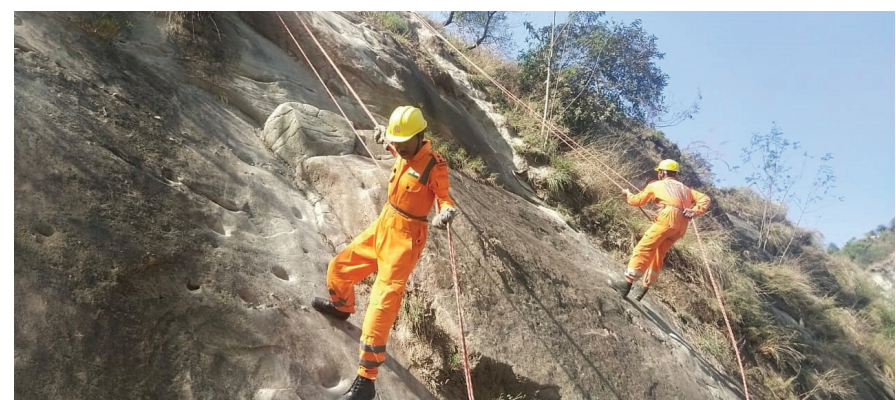
JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 20

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan today took a jibe at the Congress party over their election manifesto for Lok Sabha, saying that it was not a manifesto of the Congress, but the letter of lies and always misguided the innocent public of all segments. During the meeting with BJP workers here at party headquarters, Jammu. Rekha Mahajan said, it is not a manifesto of the Congress, it is a letter of lies and tore into the Congress, terming its manifesto as a "hypocrisy document" which was "full of lies". Rekha, indirectly aimed at Congress, asserted that if the previous governments had worked honestly, the guarantees they gave would have been fulfilled 50 years ago. She said that today people are yearning. Not just one but many promises were given, all of them turned out to be false and today again presented a letter of lies," Rekha Mahajan said. Rekha asserted that

the public is not going to trust these lies because the public knows that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) does whatever it says and in the last successful ten years of good governance "Modi ki guarantee" fulfilled all promises, especially in the union territory of J&K. She further said that the public knew the truth of Congress and would not be confused. Rekha emphasized that Congress always did the politics of appeasement play with the emotion of the innocent people and always cheated and misguided them. She added that some political parties cannot understand the simple point that they can achieve nothing by making false announcements. She remarks that the public knows everything and will give a befitting reply to the Congress party in the upcoming polls. Rekha highlights in her address that it has been the tradition of Congress that it has been misleading the people of the country for the last 70 years and has been playing with their emotions, but today the

public has understood everything and believes in Modi's guarantees and countless schemes and wants to come forward. In future, only because of Modi's guarantee the mission will cross 400 plus and the BJP government will be formed with the majority. Rekha said I express my gratitude to the people of the country for electing Prime Minister Modi ji has done what no one had even imagined during his successful tenure of 10 years. Rekha recounted, PM Modi is a tall example of a strong and decisive leader who can deliver what he promises. She stated that "Modi ki Guarantee" covers a wide range of promises across sectors, citizens, and schemes. Modi ki Guarantee means a steadfast commitment to the welfare of the people. Modi ki Guarantee means a Viksit Bharat, Shrestha Bharat. It is a guarantee for the development of the youth, empowerment of the women, welfare of the farmers, and all those marginalized and vulnerable who have been ignored for decades Rekha added.

## J&K Police Mountain Rescue Team Imparts Training to NDRF personnel



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Jammu & Kashmir Police which has always played a pivotal role not only in containing insurgency and maintenance of Law & Order all across the UT of J&K but has also been busy in other areas whether it is fighting crime, traffic management, providing security to VIP's, protection of vital installations, etc besides disaster management, (earthquake of 2005 or the dev-

astating floods of 2014). J&K Police is ever ready to report to the call of duty. The J&K Police Mountain Rescue Team has proved its mettle during various rescue operations notably during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) by saving the lives of a number of Yatries. Presently J&K Police Mountain Rescue team is imparting training to Personnel of NDRF of 13th Bn. at Nud Samba under the supervision of Inspector Ram Singh, Incharge MRT in which

40 NDRF personnel are being trained in the 15 days specialized training course w.e.f. 15th March 2024 whereunder various aspects of trainings including mountain climbing, rescue & search operations alongwith live demonstrations are being demonstrated/ trained. The personnel are being trained under Basic Life Support System (BLS) protection, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and other first aid techniques.

## Police arrests 2 drug peddlers in Anantnag

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, MAR 20

Continuing its unwavering efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police have arrested two drug peddlers in Anantnag and recovered contraband substances from their possession. A Police party from Police Station Pahalgam laid down a naka

near Higher Secondary School Kullar and intercepted two vehicles bearing registration numbers JK02AR-9633 and JK02CJ-3995. During search of these vehicles, police party recovered about 90 Kgs of Poppy Straw. Moreover, during their personal search police party also recovered Rs. 39,000 cash from their possession. Drivers of

these vehicles identified as Ubaid Gulzar Lone son of Gulzar Ahmad Lone and Aijaz Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Jabbar Bhat both residents of Taki Maqsood Shah Bijbehara were arrested on spot. They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody. vehicles used in the commission of crime have also been seized.

## International Sparrow Day celebrated at GCW Gandhi Nagar



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Department of Zoology of GCW, Gandhi Nagar organized an avian talk on world sparrow day that aimed at spreading awareness about various avian species emphasizing mainly on the species found in Jammu and Kashmir (UT). The event was organized under the support and guidance of Worthy Principal of GCW, Gandhi Nagar Prof. S.P Saraswat. The talk was delivered by Dr O.P Sharma Vidyarthi (Retd. Principal Chief Conservator of forests J&K Government, India). He discussed biodiversity with special reference to birds. He also emphasized on their pivotal role in social and religious pur-

poses. The students benefitted from the interactive session and were acquainted with many species that are vulnerable to extinction. He also appraised the students about the effects of anti-environmental activities on these species. The talk highlighted various key points related to our environment, biodiversity and their threats. The formal welcome address was given by Dr. Samriti Aggarwal, HOD, Dept. of Zoology. The organizing committee comprised of Dr. Anupama Pandotra, Dr. Meenakshi Bandal, Prof. Nargis Nelofar, Prof. Raheela Mushtaq, Prof. Shaista Ajaz and Dr. Raj Kumar Santhal. The formal vote of thanks was given by Ms Aarushi of Semester 2nd.

## Students of SMVD University visited Air Force Station Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Students from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) embarked on an enlightening journey to the Air Force Station, Udhampur, where they were treated to a first-hand glimpse into the operations of the Indian Air Force. Organised by Mr. B. K. Bhatia, Training & Placement Officer, SMVDU and Dr. Varun Dutta, Assistant Professor at SMVDU, the visit provided students with an unparalleled opportunity to interact with Air Force personnel and witness the marvels of aviation up close. Students were also engaged in insightful interactions with Air Force personnel, delving into discussions about the roles and responsibilities of those serving in the Air Force. From learning about the intricacies of flight operations to understanding the rigorous training undergone by Air Force pilots, students gained invaluable insights into the life and work of these dedicated individuals. In addition to this, they had the privilege of interacting

with the Garud Commandos, the specialized force of the Indian Air Force trained for special operations. As they engaged in discussions with these highly skilled personnel, students gained a deeper understanding of the rigorous training and unparalleled dedication required to serve in such a specialized unit. Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the organizing team in orchestrating such a memorable visit. Recognizing the significance of experiential learning opportunities, Prof. Kumar emphasized the importance of initiatives that broaden students' horizons beyond traditional classroom settings. The visit to the Air Force Station, Udhampur served not only as a source of inspiration but also as a testament to SMVDU's commitment to providing holistic education. By fostering interactions between academia and real-world practitioners, SMVDU continues to equip its students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in their future endeavors.

## 30 Bottles of illicit liquor recovered by Police Station Kana Chak Jammu



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 20.03.2024

An information was received at Police Station Kanachak regarding one bootlegger selling illicit liquor in the area under the jurisdiction of Police Station Kanachak. After this special police team of Police Station

Kanachak led by SHO Kanachak Inspector Sham Lal while on patrolling duty at Mishri Wala near Brick Klin rounded up one suspected person. During search, 30 Bottles of JK Special Whisky illicit liquor 180 ml each got recovered from his possession. In this regard, case FIR No. 42/2024 U/S 48(F) Excise Act stands registered at PS Kanachak and accused person got arrested. The accused person was identified as Parshotam Singh S/O Balbir Singh R/O Mishriwala Jammu. Further investigation of the case is going on.



## Skill Development and Entrepreneurship: Need to promote, develop culture for self-reliance, economic prosperity: Experts

J1NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 20

To sensitise youth about agri-startups with a focus on the economic viability, cultivation and commercialisation of medicinal and aromatic plants, ornamentals and mushrooms, the Department of Botany, Kashmir University (KU) Wednesday, inaugurated a weeklong skill development and training programme here.

Titled, 'Empowering Potential, Fostering Future: Building Entrepreneurship for Self-Employment', the programme aims to empower youth with practical skills and encourage a culture of start-ups and entrepreneurship, an official release issued here read.

KU Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal, emphasised the crucial role of start-ups and the urgent promotion and development

of entrepreneurship for self-reliance and economic prosperity.

"The university's collaboration with industry and government bodies will prepare our youth to meet the demands of the job-market and to achieve that goal they need practical skills for their professional growth," he said, adding that such training programmes will orient individuals towards a more developed and holistic mindset with regard to ensuring the ever-increasing demand of food, medicine and livelihood is met.

He also assured the university's support and handholding to promising participants who endeavour to come up with a potential business model, idea or start-up.

Dean, School of Biological Sciences, Prof Abdul Hamid Wani, said that such training programmes will enhance the skills of the



aspiring youth in ensuring a better and prosperous future.

"Our Valley has a huge resource of edible, medicinal, aromatic and ornamental plants and if tapped properly, we can create a separate economy and attract aspiring entrepreneurs," he maintained.

Head, Department of Botany, Prof Zahoor Ahmad Kaloo, said that the response to the workshop was overwhelming as the youth showed keen interest in registering themselves for the training.

"Besides university

scholars and students, local youth and farmers are also attending the workshop," he added.

Workshop Convener, Prof Aijaz Ahmad Wani, said that the government is promoting start-ups in medicinal and aromatic plants, ornamentals, mushrooms, vegetables and other crops on a large scale.

"These agri-startups will certainly provide our youth a new and lucrative avenue of income generation and livelihood earning and will also contribute value addition to future economic

growth," he said.

Director, Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA), KU, Prof Manzoor Ahmad Shah, said that the youth need to make informed decisions for securing their future prospect.

"The youth need to understand that distinction between the pursuit for knowledge and the pursuit for skills as two separate things and make decisions accordingly," he added.

Head, Department of Zoology, Prof Abdul Ahad Buhroo; former faculty, Department of Botany, Prof Zafar Ahmad Reshi, Prof Inayatullah Tahir, Prof Irshad Ahmad Nawchoo attended the inaugural session.

Besides, faculty from the Department of Botany, guests from various departments, scholars and students also attended the function, the release read.

## DEO Kulgam chairs meeting of enforcement agencies

J1NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, MARCH 20



The District Election Officer (DEO) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a meeting of enforcement agencies at the mini-secretariat, here.

During the meeting the DEO called for strict implementation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and urged all for strict adherence to all guidelines of Election Commission of India.

DEO directed that FST and SST teams shall work in coordinated manner as per the guidelines of ECI. It is important to mention here that a dedicated district level control room has been established here to ensure seamless redressal of public complaints and ensure smooth conduct of elections.

The meeting was attended by the AROs, Dy-DEO, Nodal Officers, ETO, Manager Lead Bank, Assistant Controller Drugs, Dy-SP Hq and other concerned officers.

## Voters Education & Participation Programme under SVEEP held at GDC Women Anantnag

J1NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, MARCH 20

A voters' education and participation programme under SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) was today held at Government Degree College (GDC) for Women Anantnag. The theme of the programme was 'Importance of Vote in Democratic Setup' and 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure.'

The programme was organized jointly by the SVEEP Cell Anantnag, Government Degree College for Women, District Information Centre & Cultural Unit (Information Kashmir). It is a part of the SVEEP campaign being organized in Anantnag under the guidance of the District Election Officer SF, Hamid.

The programme was attended by the students and staff from various col-



leges, District Nodal Officer, SVEEP, Coordinator, SVEEP and other officials.

During the programme the Election Song 'Main Bharat Hoon' translated into Kashmiri language was played. Students

from various colleges and ambassadors delivered valuable lectures on the theme, and a quiz contest was also organized. A Nukkad Natak (short play) on the participation of eligible voters in voting was

also enacted.

The District Nodal Officer, SVEEP, Anantnag while speaking to the students emphasized on the role of voting in safeguarding democratic ideals of the country. Other speakers encouraged the students and participants to raise awareness about the value of vote among their families and friends.

Notably, the emphasis of the SVEEP campaign in Anantnag is on motivating and encouraging general masses, the first time voters and inclusive voters such as the ones from various categories as Persons with Disability, female, transgender and tribals to participate & vote in the upcoming General elections.

## Lok Sabha elections 2024: ADDC Ganderbal holds meeting with Flying Squad teams

J1NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, MARCH 20



The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani today held a meeting with the flying squads, designated magistrates, Videographers and other officers in his office chamber, here.

The ADDC impressed upon the officers to ensure the Model Code of Con-

duct (MCC) is strictly followed and violations if any are promptly reported to the concerned quarters.

He said that all designated teams have to properly follow the SOPs issued by Election Commission of India and also ensure public safety and convenience.

ADDC asked all teams to submit their daily activity reports well in time and also be prepared to reach the spot instantly in case

of any complaint received. He also said that magisterial powers delegated to all the heads of the flying squads are aimed to empower them for proper implementation of law and order.

On the occasion, the ADDC briefed the videographers accompanying the FSTs about their role and responsibility and asked them to cover each activity sensibly and with utmost care.

## Manasbal Lake echoes with Voter Awareness Slogans under SVEEP Program



J1NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, MARCH 20

An awareness program under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative reverberated across Manasbal Lake, Ganderbal, as boatmen and locals gathered to participate in the event.

The collaborative effort between the Nodal Officer SVEEP Ganderbal, the Chief Executive Officer of Manasbal Development Authority and the Block Development Officer Safapora aimed to educate the boatmen community

about their voting rights and the importance of active participation in the electoral process.

With a significant turnout of Boatmen with their beautiful Shikaras placed meticulously on the crystal clear waters of the Lake, the program made strides in raising awareness about voter registration, voting procedures, and the significance of exercising their franchise.

District Level Master Trainers played a pivotal role in delivering informative sessions and engaging discussions, ensuring that the message of voter

awareness resonated effectively with the boatmen community.

Despite the logistical challenges inherent in reaching out to a community with specific occupations and schedules, the program succeeded in making a meaningful impact in instilling voter awareness among the boatmen of Manasbal Ganderbal.

This concerted effort underscores the commitment of local authorities to promote democratic participation and civic engagement across diverse segments of society.

## CUJ inspires Youth participation in Viksit Bharat

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 20 MARCH

The Office of Dean Students' Welfare, Central University of Jammu organized a dynamic event titled "Viksit Bharat: Yuvaoun ki Bhumika" today, with the esteemed presence of Sh. Vijay Pratap, Organising Secretary, North Zone ABVP was the chief guest of the program. The event aimed to ignite the spirit of nation-building among the youth and empower them with a sense of responsibility towards shaping the future of India.

Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean Students' Welfare Central University of Jammu welcomed the chief guest and other participants of the program and also explained its significance.

Sh. Vijay Pratap, Organising Secretary, North Zone ABVP in his keynote address, emphasized the significance of preserving and nurturing the cultural heritage of our country for the holistic development and progress of the nation. Drawing from historical anecdotes, he passionately conveyed youth's pivotal role in nation-building endeav-



ours. He said today's youth are the architects of tomorrow's India, and urged the audience to harness their potential and contribute to making India a developed nation by 2047. His motivational address resonated deeply with the participants, instilling a sense of purpose and determination to work towards a brighter future.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu delivered an alluring presidential address. Prof. Jain highlighted the importance of aligning one's skills with the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) while emphasizing the

crucial role of humanities in addressing the challenges posed by AI-driven advancements. He urged students to focus on upskilling themselves and engaging in research initiatives that cater to the emerging needs of society.

Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, Central University of Jammu, delivered a formal vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to all the participants and valuable insights. The presence of Sh. Tilak Thakur, Jammu Kashmir Prant Sangathan Mantri, ABVP added to the grandeur of the occasion, making it a memorable and impactful event.

## General Elections-2024 RO 4-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency issues election notification

J1NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, MARCH 20

Returning Officer 4-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, today issued election notification for the upcoming Parliamentary Elections in the constituency.

The elections in this Parliamentary Constituency (PC) are scheduled to take place during the first phase of the electoral process.

The Election Notification specifies the timeline and procedures for candidates wishing to contest in the parliamentary elections.

As per the notification, nomination papers can be filed by candidates or their proposers at the Returning Officer's office or Assistant Returning Officer 67-Kathua AC (ACR Kathua) at Deputy Commissioner's office, Kathua between 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM on any day (other than public holiday) not later than March 27, 2024.

The nomination forms can be obtained from the office of the Return-

## Jatt Maha Sabha lauds Backward Class Commission for giving OBS status to Jat Community

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 20

The All Jammu and Kashmir Jatt Maha Sabha has put forth a pressing demand for the government to provide a one-time compensation of Rs. 25 lakh per Jat family. This demand arises from the historical struggles and challenges faced by the Jat community, and the Sabha believed that this compensation would greatly contribute to the upliftment of Jat families.

In a joint statement issued today, Manjit Singh, State President of the Sabha and former minister, Taranjit Singh Tony, Senior Vice President and DDC Suchetgarh, Choudhary Sukhmandan Senior Vice President, Vikram Randhawa (Ex-MLC), Vice President, Dwarka Choudhary, District President, and Ex-Corporator, highlighted the historical struggles faced by the Jat community since independence in 1947.

Speaking in the meeting, Manjit Singh expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Backward Class Commission for addressing the long-standing demands of the Jat community by granting them OBC status. He, emphasizing the turbulent journey of the Jat community, stated that Jats had endured immense challenges and hardships, particularly during the years of 1947, 1965, and 1971. He lamented the displacement of Jat families from their homes and lands, with many of them having to rebuild their lives from scratch.

The Jatt Sabha leaders expressed his resentment with regard to the 8 per cent reservation granted to the Jat community, considering the decades-long struggle they have faced. They advocated for a more comprehensive approach, urging the removal of income slab criteria, which would ensure a more inclusive and equitable reservation policy for the Jat community.