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Anti-Terror operation enters day 3, forces deploy unmanned aerial vehicle to track terrorists
JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

In a relentless effort to track down terrorists, who have taken refuge in the Dudu Basangarh forests, the search operation by security forces is underway for the third consecutive day in J-K's Udhampur.

Security forces are using an unmanned aerial vehicle to track down the terrorists, who are hiding, taking cover of thick vegetation.

ADGP Jammu Anand Jain, accompanied by senior officers from the CRPF and Indian Army also arrived at the scene to oversee and monitor the search operation firsthand.

The focus remains on tracing two groups of terrorists, comprising a total of six to seven individuals, as reported by the Jammu & Kashmir Police.

FIR Registered in Kashmir over "Doctored" video of Amit Shah

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, APR 30

Jammu and Kashmir police has registered an FIR in connection with an alleged doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

A police complaint was filed by BJP leader Altaf Thakur against a social media user for uploading the video of Home Minister.

"This is to inform you one mischievous person under the name of Illyas Mir Magami @ Magami-illyas has uploaded a dubbed and fake video of Shri Amit Shah where in it is stated that Centre is going to remove the reservation of SC and ST people in J&K, which is totally baseless and far

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Govt proposes new explosives law, to repeal old act

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 30

The government is planning to replace the existing Explosives Act of 1884 with a new law to further promote ease of doing business in the sector.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has sought views on the proposed draft Explosives Bill 2024.

Explosives include gunpowder, nitroglycerine, nitroglycol, di-nitro-toluene, and picric acid.

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Land sinking in Ramban

In a community hall, homeless families of Pernote village share tales of horror, grief

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, APR 30

A man puts his entire savings of life to build a house which for the person and his family becomes a dream house, even if it consists of only one room, but these dreams have been shattered here in the community hall at Maitra area of Ramban district where dozens of families from Pernote village are living a life in 'exile'.

Though the exile is not man made or forced by any cruel power on the earth but natural as their entire village is diminishing from the earth due to continuous sinking.

From rich to poor, from old to young, women to men, everybody is stay-



ing in this community hall with no hope of returning to their homes, which have got damaged completely or partially due to the unprecedented sink-

ing of land. The administration and locals are still surprised and clueless as to what has happened to the area which was home to 74 families with over

500 souls.

Talking to news agency, Shamasdin Katoch, a victim whose two three-storey houses,

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Ramban land subsidence

CS reviews relief, restoration measures

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday convened a high level meeting to review the measures initiated for relief and rehabilitation in the area affected by the recent land subsidence in Ramban district.

The meeting, among others, was attended by ACS Jal Shakti, Principal Secretary Home, Principal Secretary PDD, ADGP L&O, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Secretary Revenue, Secretary Health, Deputy Com-



missioner Ramban, MD KPDCI, Chief Engineer R&B Jammu (South) and other concerned officers in person and virtually.

The Chief Secretary enquired from the divisional and district administrations about the relief and restoration measures

being carried out by them for the affected population. He asked about the status of transit

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ECI reschedules polls for Anantnag-Rajouri seat, voting now on May 25

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 30

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday rescheduled the parliamentary elections for Anantnag-Rajouri seat and has announced that the constituency will go for polls on May 25, 2024 instead of May 07, 2024.

According to the statement issued by the ECI, a copy of which lies with the news agency, Sanjeev Kumar Prasad, Secretary ECI, has stated that the Election Commission of India had announced the schedule for General Election to the Lok Sabha vide its Press Note dated 16th



March, 2024.

"Accordingly, the notification for 3rd Phase was issued on 12th April, 2024 and the Poll Day was scheduled on 7th May, 2024. Various representations have been received

from different political parties of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir for shifting the date of poll of election from 3-Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency (PC) of Jammu

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Lok Sabha Polls

Phase 1 turnout at 66.14%, phase 2 66.71%: EC

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 30

A voter turnout of 66.14 per cent was recorded in phase one and 66.71 per cent in phase two of the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission said on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, the Congress, CPI-M and TMC questioned the EC over the delay in announcing the final voter turnout figures for the first two phases of the Lok Sabha polls, 11 days after the first round of polling on April 19.

Officially sharing the turnout figure, the poll panel said in phase one of

the elections, 66.22 per cent of male and 66.07 female electors turned up to vote. The turnout for registered third-gender voters stood at 31.32 per cent.

In the 2019 polls, the turnout in the first phase stood at 69.43 per cent.

In the second phase of elections held on April 26, the male voter turnout was recorded at 66.99 per cent, while the female turnout stood at 66.42 per cent. As many as 23.86 per cent of the registered third-gender voters came out to vote.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in phase two, the turnout was 69.64 per

cent.

In phase one, 102 seats went to poll, while in phase two elections were held in 88 constituencies.

According to the poll panel, out of 21 states and union territories which went to polls in the first phase, 11 recorded a higher turnout of women voters. These are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhnd and West Bengal.

In the second phase where 13 states and UTs went to poll, six registered a higher women voter

turnout. These are Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Kerala and West Bengal.

The EC made it clear that the final turnout will only be available post-counting with the counting of postal ballots and its addition to the total vote count.

Postal ballots include postal ballots given to service voters, absentee voters – those above 85 years of age, persons with disabilities, those on essential services and voters on election duty.

Daily accounts of such postal ballots received are given to all candidates, it noted.

I won't allow religion-based reservation as long as I live: PM

AGENCIES
TELANGANA, APR 30

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday assured that 'I won't allow religion-based reservation as long as I am alive'.

Addressing a massive poll rally at Zaheerabad in the district in support of BJP candidates for Zaheerabad BB Patel and Medak Raghunandan Rao . Modi said instead of worrying about SC, ST, and OBC, Congress started robbing them of their reservation. They made a laboratory of appeasement, removing the reservation rights of OBCs and giving them to Muslims.

This unconstitutional act, reservation based on religion, goes against Dr. Baba Saheb's sentiments, he said, the Con-



gress party activated their dirty tricks, spreading fake videos over reservation rows across the country.

Telangana Congress and the Chief Minister (A Revanth Reddy) himself are implicated (fake video) in this. Can we expect people holding constitutional posts to behave like this, Modi question?

"In Telangana, people of the Lingayat and Maratha community have 26 castes who are demanding to be included in the BC, but the Congress does not want to include the Lingayat, Maratha, and 26 castes into the BC list, but they included Muslims in the BC list overnight," said

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Three-day wet spell ends, MeT predicts dry weather till May 05

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 30

The flood threat that was looming across Kashmir following the three-day incessant rainfall has come to an end as the weather conditions improved on Tuesday, bringing respite to the people, who were apprehensive of the deluge again after the gap of ten years in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, the threat that loomed large for the past few days also prompted the divisional administration to order a day-long school closure and suspension of class-work as



precautionary measure in order to prevent any untoward incident.

Though the weather conditions improved in Kashmir today, the Valley

continued to remain cut off as the major roads and highways continued to remain closed for vehicular movement for

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POCSO charges among 20 cases against Independent candidate from Anantnag-Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 30

Imran Sheikh, an Independent candidate from Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency, has 20 cases, including one under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, registered against him over the past nine years.

This is the maximum number of cases against any of the 20 contestants

from the constituency.

According to the affidavit filed by Sheikh along with his nomination papers, the cases are registered in nine different police stations in five districts of the union territory.

The first criminal case against Sheikh, who hails from Anantnag district, was registered in 2015 in Pampore police station of Pulwama district.

One of the criminal cases filed last year against

the 37-year-old candidate include charges under section 11 (enticing a child for pornographic purposes or giving gratification there for) and section 12 (committing sexual harassment upon a child) of the POCSO Act.

Sheikh has also been booked in 2022 under section 309 (attempt to commit suicide and any act towards the commission of such offence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Most of the cases regis-

tered against Sheikh are under section 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the IPC but several of these cases have additional charges, including under section 201 (hiding or destroying evidence of a crime, knowing or believing that the offense has been committed, with the intention of protecting the offender from punishment) and section 380 (theft in dwelling

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In Srinagar, Jhelum crosses danger mark

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 30

Even as rain has stopped in Kashmir, the water level in the Jhelum crossed the "flood declaration" mark in Srinagar on Tuesday morning.

The rains stopped across the valley at around midnight.

According to the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, the water level of the Jhelum touched the 18-foot mark, the designated level for announcing a flood alert, at Ram Munshi Bagh in



Srinagar this morning at around 8 am. The water level of the Jhelum also crossed the flood mark at Pampore in Pulwama district.

"Fortunately the water level at Sangam in south Kashmir's Anantnag has started receding and we are expecting the

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Director JKEDI chairs weekly review meet, assesses progress made under repayments, recovery of loans

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Director Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Rajinder Kumar Sharma today chaired a weekly review meeting at Bari Brahmana campus here to assess the progress made under repayments and recovery of loans under different self-employment schemes.



The Director took a thorough analysis of recovery data, highlighting the progress achieved in all districts of J&K. He stressed on the importance of collaborative spirit among JKEDI employees to meet and exceed the expectations set forth in guiding the youth towards successful entrepreneurial endeavours.

Advisor Bhatnagar reviews progress of major health projects

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of ongoing major health projects across Jammu and Kashmir.



While reviewing the progress of various projects, the Advisor urged the project executing agencies to complete all ongoing works within the specified timelines so that the projects can be fully functional for public use. The Advisor further directed the concerned officers to work in tandem and coordination to ensure that problems and issues are promptly resolved for the timely completion of these prestigious projects.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024 DEO Shopian reviews arrangements for Home Voting & Postal Voting



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, APRIL 30

The District Election Officer, Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today reviewed arrangements with Nodal officers and Magistrates for hassle free and smooth conduct of Home Voting and Postal Voting process in the Zainpora Assembly Constituency of the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency in a meeting held, here.

DEO reviewed security, transport and magisterial arrangements, and instructed concerned citizens to ensure effective coordination for the smooth and successful conduct of postal and home voting. In order to make the ongoing election process more inclusive, home voting and postal voting has been effectively planned in the district for facilitating old aged, specially-abled persons and employees to cast their vote at ease at their homes and facilitation centres respectively.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024 General, Police, Expenditure Observers for Srinagar PC hold interaction with contesting candidates

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 30

In order to ensure free, fair and peaceful conduct of General Lok Sabha Elections in O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC), the General Observer for the Constituency, Mukul Kumar along with Police Observer, Sandeep Singh Chauhan and Expenditure Observer, Sambit Mishra Tuesday held a joint meeting cum interaction with the contesting candidates for Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat and their representatives at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.



which a record is to be maintained during the election process.

The Police Observer also sought cooperation of the contesting candidates in ensuring hassle free election campaigning in the Constituency.

LS Elections-2024 2 more candidates file Nomination Papers for Baramulla PC

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, APRIL 30

To contest the General Lok Sabha Elections-2024 from I-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency (PC), two more candidates filed their nomination papers today at the office of the Returning Officer (RO), Minga Sherpa, here today.

Muzaffar Hussain Dar, an independent candidate from HMT Srinagar and Hilal Ahmad Wagay, an independent candidate from Hajin Sonawari filed their nomination papers before the RO for I-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency. A total of 4 candidates have so far filed their nomination papers till 30th April to contest election from I-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency. The last day for filing of nomination papers in PC is May 03, 2024 up to 03:00 PM.

Returning Officer (RO) O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat was present in the meeting. SSP PCR, Showkat Hussain; SP Security, Kashmir, Sheikh Faisal; Nodal Officer Permissions, Zahoor Ahmad Mir; Nodal Officer MCC, Dr. Ilyas Ahmad; Nodal Officer for MCMC, Ahsan Ul Haq Chishti; Nodal Officer, Expenditure, Javaid Maqbool and other concerned officers were also present in the meeting.

At the outset, the Observers held an extensive interaction with the contesting candidates for Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat and their representatives, and discussed threadbare various vital aspects related to the conduct of Lok Sabha elections in the Constituency. Discussions were also held regarding enforcement of Model Code of Conduct, maintenance of expenses by the candidates during election.

DC Sgr conducts night tour of city

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 30

In order to take first hand assessment of the situation which has arisen due to incessant rainfall, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, on Monday late night undertook a whirlwind tour of various areas of Srinagar City to inspect the measures taken in the prevailing weather situation to prevent flood like situation in the district.



Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner Syed Ahmad Kataria and Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr Khalid Hussain Malik, the DC was accompanied by SDM East, SDM West, Senior Officers from Irrigation & Flood Control, R&B, SMC, PDD, UEED and other departments. The DC, who is also the Chairman District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), visited different areas of the City including Jehangir Chowk, Residency road, TRC, Rambagh, Hyderpora Humhama, Mehjoor Nagar, Jawahar Nagar, Kursoo Rajbagh, Zero bridge and other adjoining areas to take stock of the preventive measures undertaken to ensure effective flood management system.

Kupwara admin refutes fake news uploaded by some news channels, portals

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 30

District Administration Kupwara today refuted the fake news reports uploaded by some news channels and a newspaper portal today.

Sudan, said that the headlines run by both the news channels are fake, fabricated and misleading as there is no flood related deaths in Kupwara district, Issuing a strong rebuttal of the fake news, DC said that no flood related deaths have occurred in Kupwara district.

The online portals of 'The WEEK' news magazine and NDTV.Com, today mentioned in their headlines '5 killed, several injured in landslides and flash floods in Kupwara of J&K', which is totally baseless.

It is expected that before any news is uploaded or published, facts should be verified. Portal of said news magazine and news channel have failed in doing so.

In a statement issued today, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi

WTAT inspects Water Testing Lab at DODA



JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, APRIL 30

Water Testing Assessment Team (WTAT), led by Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Om Kumar visited Water Testing Lab here to evaluate the quality of drinking water and identify potential contaminants or hazards. During their visit, the CMO and his team closely monitored the water testing process and engaged

and maintain a detailed chain of custody to ensure proper record-keeping and compliance with regulatory standards. Comprehensive testing will be conducted to identify any potential health risks. The team conducting the water quality assessment included Jag Mohan (Assistant Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti), Umar Anayat (Epidemiologist), Sanjeev Rana (In-Charge Legal) and Shabir Ahmed (In-Charge Sanitary Inspector).

The Chief Medical Officer explained that the team is responsible for identifying all sources of drinking water within the municipal jurisdictions of Doda, Baderwah and Thathri. This includes public taps, bore wells, reservoirs, and private wells. The team will collect samples from designated sites

NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tenders through E-procurement system. Sr. Divisional Material Manager, N.R.Ly., Store Branch DRM Office, Firuzpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items: Sr. No., Tender No., Description, Quantity, Due Date.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum of Tenders through E-Procurement system. Dy. Chief Materials Manager, N.R.Ly. Store Depot Mech. Workshop, AMRITSAR for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items: S. Tender No., Corrigendum for Tender Description, Qty., Due date.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice. Dy. CEE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Tender No., Name of work, App. Cost. (In Rs.), Earnest Money (In Rs.), Completion period, Opening of tender, Website Particulars.

EDITORIAL

Rooftop solar scheme calls for immediate action

The vision of transforming Jammu into a solar-powered city, as envisaged by the then Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Council, stands at a critical juncture. Despite the ambitious target of installing grid-tied rooftop solar power plants on 50,000 residential buildings, the reality paints a starkly different picture. With less than 2000 buildings covered thus far, it's evident that the Rooftop Solar Scheme for Jammu city is struggling to gain momentum. At the heart of this sluggish progress lies the lack of sustained awareness campaigns. The success of such transformative initiatives hinges not only on policy decisions and infrastructure development but also on comprehensive efforts to educate and engage the community. A significant portion of Jammu's population remains unaware of the tangible benefits that rooftop solar power can offer. The objectives set forth by the Solar City Mission encompass more than just environmental sustainability. They promise economic prosperity through job creation and substantial savings on energy costs. However, the current lack of progress jeopardizes these aspirations. The potential for job creation, especially in skilled and semi-skilled sectors, remains largely untapped due to the sluggish implementation of the scheme. Moreover, the socio-economic benefits extend beyond immediate employment opportunities. The ripple effect of a thriving solar industry could stimulate growth in secondary and tertiary sectors, fostering a more robust and diversified economy for Jammu. It's imperative for all stakeholders, including government agencies, vendors, and the public, to reinvigorate their efforts towards realizing the vision of a solar-powered Jammu. Comprehensive awareness campaigns, leveraging various media channels and community engagement initiatives, are indispensable in driving mass participation and dispelling misconceptions surrounding solar energy. Additionally, streamlined processes for availing subsidies and incentives coupled with transparent communication channels, can enhance accessibility and encourage greater participation from residential building owners. The emphasis should be on simplifying procedures and ensuring that the benefits of the scheme reach those who need them the most. Furthermore, proactive engagement with local communities and stakeholders can address any existing barriers or concerns regarding the installation and maintenance of rooftop solar panels. Building trust and fostering a sense of ownership among residents are crucial steps towards fostering a culture of sustainability and renewable energy adoption in Jammu. As we stand at the crossroads of opportunity and challenge, it's imperative to reignite the momentum behind Jammu's Rooftop Solar Scheme. Beyond meeting energy needs, this initiative holds the key to unlocking a brighter, more sustainable future for the city and its residents. Let's seize this moment to collectively propel Jammu towards its renewable energy goals and pave the way for a greener, more prosperous tomorrow.

Will communal rhetoric help or hurt BJP?

SABA NAQVI

There are two strange turns in the affairs of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – India's pre-eminent party – that have become visible in this election. The first is the induction of politicians tainted by corruption charges – this is not an exception but has become the rule. It's reached an epidemic in a party where one of its architects, L K Advani resigned as an MP in 1996 following allegations of his involvement in the Jain Hawala scam. Entries were found in the diaries of hawala broker S K Jain by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that presented them as evidence against politicians, including Advani. Advani, who put the BJP on India's political map with the Ram temple agitation, then said: "for a politician to command people's trust demands morality and the need to maintain probity in public life." (He would not resign over criminal cases linked to the demolition of the 1991 Babri mosque

as the BJP saw that as an ideological movement). By 1998, when his name was cleared in the Hawala scam, Advani was re-elected. The idea of distancing oneself from corruption charges and being what was then called 'a party with a difference' was big with the BJP's founders. Even if we look at that era as an age of relative innocence, there is something bizarre about the smash-and-grab policies that characterise the BJP's actions during the second term of the Narendra Modi government. The list of corruption-accused leaders currently aligned with the BJP is long, but let's take two from Maharashtra: Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar who split the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to support the BJP in the state, and former chief minister Ashok Chavan, who quit the Congress to join the BJP. Until recently, both Pawar and Chavan were targeted by the BJP's entire ecosystem (from workers to leaders to the IT cell) for being

corrupt. Now that they have switched sides that ecosystem must support and work for them. Many ordinary workers in the BJP and the Sangh parivar are uncomfortable, and some are disgusted. The same is the case with the many other controversial inductees. The decision to induct corrupt politicians from other parties cannot be that of a political organisation that has a long-term vision in politics. These can only be the decisions of individuals with a short-term plan for the party. The BJP has transformed during the Modi era with other power centres in the party destroyed. The subjugation of state leaders is somewhat tragic in a party where everyone could once aspire to be heard and accommodated.

Communal polarisation
Anti-Muslim rhetoric is part of the BJP's journey, but the level of it during the current election campaign has hit a new low. This is the second turn in the affairs of the BJP. Before the campaign

began, Modi was positioning himself as a world statesman particularly posturing over links with West Asia nations such as the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. But once the campaign began, Modi turned to making the most loaded Hindu-Muslim speeches of his prime ministerial career. He has made rather outlandish suggestions about the Muslim community getting (or snatching) resources should the Congress come to power. Other top figures in the BJP, including India's Home Minister Amit Shah who is in charge of law and order, have also chosen to invoke fear of the Muslim by saying that should BJP be defeated, Sharia or Islamic law could come to India. Such rhetoric at a time when there is no major communal conflagration in the country. At the start of his career in mass politics in Gujarat, as chief minister after the 2002 communal riots, Modi had famously used the phrase "hum paach-hamare pachees" while referring

to Muslims. That was still post-riot rhetoric. Twenty-two years have passed, and Modi has never lost an election. One had imagined that after posturing at the G20 summit as a respected world leader and then some months later standing at the Ram mandir consecration ceremony like the head priest of the nation, the prime minister would have left the rabble-rousing to the troops. Instead, we are hearing daily speeches about Muslim appeasement, wild scenarios are being painted about the possible snatching of mangalsutras by some entities (Muslims or Congress, or both?), statements have been made about Muslim reservation that's not legally possible today, and even Mughal emperor Aurangzeb has been brought into the conversation. At a rally in Karnataka's Belagavi, the PM said that Rahul Gandhi insulted Hindu kings but kept quiet about atrocities by Nawabs, Nizams, Sultans, and Badshahs, and Muslim rulers like Aurangzeb.

There has been some offense taken and complaints have gone to the Election Commission of India, but it's also become darkly comical and hysterical. Particularly so when we recognise that there have been occasions when attempts at polarisation have not brought electoral rewards for the BJP. The Delhi assembly election of 2020 that took place in the shadow of the anti-CAA protests and some jarring rhetoric by BJP lawmakers was one occasion when the national party lost badly to the state party, Aam Aadmi Party. In the assembly election last year, Karnataka was the very state where the BJP was defeated by the Congress despite the former raising multiple Hindutva issues. On June 4 we will learn whether the induction of the corrupt and the escalation of a communal rhetoric will help or hurt the BJP. (Saba Naqvi is a journalist and author.)

Celebrating the universal language of dance

RAJDEEP PATHAK

On April 14 last year, history was made in Assam, India, as a Guinness World Record was set for the largest gathering of Bihu dancers. Over 11,000 dancers from different communities and backgrounds came together to perform the traditional dance of Assam, watched live by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was a spectacular display of cultural diversity and unity. This event was a shining example of how cultural diversity can bring people together and foster a sense of emotional bonding and appreciation of one another's culture and traditions. More recently as part of the 'Raag Seva' in a breathtaking display of timeless grace and unwavering passion, the 90-year-old actor-dancer and Padma Vibhushan awardee Vajayanthimala Bali, enchanted spectators with her ethereal Bharatanatyam performance in Ayodhya. In this rich mosaic of human expression, dance emerges as a timeless gem, casting its spell across generations and captivating hearts through the ages. Beyond mere movement, it embodies a symphony

of creativity, infusing the soul with unbridled joy. A graceful interplay of rhythm and emotion, it offers solace from the burdens of modern life, intertwining threads of happiness into the fabric of existence. Welcome to the rhythm of life, as we celebrate the 'International Dance Day' on April 29th every year, since 1982. Dance helps to change lives. The 'Navras', which is used to express joy, sadness, love, anger and many other emotions, is a way of celebrating life and creating a sense of community. This Day serves as a platform aimed at fostering awareness regarding the intrinsic value of dance and facilitating the widespread promotion of the dance community's endeavours. Central to its mission is the aspiration that Governments and influential figures will recognize the significance of dance and extend support towards its cultivation. We are all aware of Yo-Yo Ma's 'Silk Road Ensemble', a musical group founded by the cellist Yo-Yo Ma, where musicians from China, Iran, India and Spain come together and use their music to create a bridge between cultures



to dance training, focusing not only on dance techniques, but also on aspects such as yoga, meditation and Indian mythology. The institute has gained global recognition and has collaborated with many international dance companies to create new works that blend Indian classical dance with contemporary dance forms. We cannot miss Bollywood dance, which has become a global phenomenon and has created a platform for people from different backgrounds to come together and celebrate India's vibrant culture. Using different dance styles from Indian classical forms to ballet; to cabaret; to hip-hop, break dance and so on - each step encompasses a unique rhythm and style involving different generations tap to the beats. As we celebrate the universal language of dance and its ability to unite people, it is also important to acknowledge the Guru-Shishya Parampara and celebrate the beauty of dance and its ability to create a better world for all. (The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

and promote understanding between people from different backgrounds. Through cultural collaboration, this is a forum for the exchange of ideas, tradition and innovation across borders. Also, the 'OneBeat' initiative, which brings together musicians from around the world to collaborate and create new music - was funded by the U.S. Department of State - aims to promote cultural exchange and create a global community of musicians. 'OneBeat' has brought together musicians from countries such as Syria, Russia and Cuba, to name a few, not only providing a platform for musicians to share their music but also creating new collaborations that transcend cultural and linguistic barriers.

Dance also helps in promoting intercultural dialogue. Dance companies worldwide come together to create new works that reflect their cultural traditions and explore common themes. One such example is the 'Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater', which has been promoting diversity and inclusion through dance for over 60 years. The company's performances celebrate the African-American cultural experience and explore universal themes such as love, loss and identity. Not only this, the 'National Ballet of Cuba' is a dance company that promotes intercultural dialogue through its performances. Founded in 1948 by Alicia Alonso, one of the most famous ballerinas of the 20th century, it is known for its unique

style that combines elements of classical ballet with Afro-Cuban and Spanish dance traditions. Back in India, 'The Kalakshetra Foundation', - of the many foundations and institutions that exist to popularize Indian classical dance forms - Chennai-based dance school, founded by Rukmini Devi Arundale in 1936, sought to revive and promote Indian classical dance forms and is today a leading institution that trains students in various forms of Indian classical dance, including Bharatanatyam, Kathakali and Kuchipudi. Similarly, the 'Nrityagram Dance Village', near Bangalore, which was founded in 1990 by Protiima Gauri, a renowned Indian classical dancer, is a unique institution that offers a holistic approach

The Power of the Human Mind

RAVIVALLURI

Ageons ago lived, Sudhodana, chief-tain of the Sakyan republics. He was captivated with the thought of perpetuating the dynasty. However, his battle-fatigued son Siddhartha, was not ensnared by the Mara of trappings of power, carnal pleasures and a family life. Siddhartha eschewed violence, cast away royal clothing and adorned ochre robes in search of the quintessential truth and was to become Buddha after intense tapas. Upon attaining enlightenment, the Compassionate One dissected the bewildering characteristics of the human mind. He was soon to quantify in a plain-sailing manner, "We are what we think and our thoughts shape our lives." The human mind is not resplendent with ennobling thoughts if the prana

levels are low. The prana level increases (through yoga, pranayama, meditation and Sudarshan Kriya) and at that moment an individual realises the magnetic potential of the human mind. Once there was a Good Samaritan, Sudhakar. He happened to read the maiden effort of a civil servant called the Magic of the Mind. This gentleman, with trepidation, became a 'Facebook friend' of the mandarin and persuaded him to be interviewed by a few T.V. channels. However, the thought process of the public functionary - who was a recovered alcoholic - doubted the sincerity of the Facebook friend. In disgust, he 'blocked' and then 'unblocked' the gentleman, perhaps more to quell the pangs of his own conscience. Finally in sheer vexation he gave in to the entreaties of the 'Facebook friend'. Soon an



amazing pattern emerged and the administrator was invited by several media houses and estimable institutions to deliver lectures as to how he combated and conquered the battle against the bottle. Only much later did he realise that Sudhakar had lost some close relatives to the perils of alcoholism.

The autarchic mind of the bureaucrat was ossified and looking at life through the prism of tunnel vision. One day, after a series of interviews, the functionary received a distress call from a lady, who had happened to listen to one of his interviews and was also reading the book penned by the bureaucrat, which

captured his triumph over alcoholism. On receiving the call, he could empathise with the woman's husband who was fighting a grim battle against alcoholism. There was a sudden transmutation in the mind of the public servant and went on to guide the husband on how to attain sobriety. Realisation and awareness are two iconic qualities that shine the light on the amazing power of the human mind. Several centuries ago, Gautama Buddha was travelling with a group of disciples. The Compassionate One felt thirsty and desired some water to quench his thirst. He asked a disciple to fetch some water from a nearby lake. The enthusiastic disciple rushed to the lake but was horrified to find the water turgid as a farmer had just crossed the lake on his bullock cart. He returned back

remorsefully as he could not fulfil the wish of the holy Master. Buddha sent the disciple a couple of times to fetch water to quench his thirst. But to the dismay of the tutee on each occasion the water remained dirty and turgid. While the devotees were fidgety and distraught, Buddha remained patient. Eventually, the devotee animatedly brought fresh water from the lake and offered it. Buddha smiled and drank the water. He was to say, "You did nothing. The mud settled down and the water was purged of the impurities. Let your mind settle all the dust accumulated over a period of time." This is the amazing power of the human mind. Just let it settle down. (The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Only PDP capable of channeling people's voice in and out of Parliament: Mehbooba

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 30

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said that PDP is the only party in Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape that can raise its voice against the current assault being launched on multiple fronts to erode Jammu and Kashmir's core identity.

Addressing road shows in Anantnag-Rajouri constituency's many areas in Anantnag district Mehbooba said that the massive participation of people in her rallies is proof that PDP lives in people's hearts and represents their aspirations.

She reiterated that the ongoing elections in Jammu and Kashmir are not for any post or any chair but to send a strong voice to the Parliament that could represent the voice of the disenfranchised people of

Jammu and Kashmir and tell it on the face of those at the helm that what was done on August 5, 2019, was wrong and whatever was snatched away from us must be returned with interest.

"The ongoing polls are about sending that voice to the parliament that could expose those actions by which Jammu and Kashmir is being plundered of its rich wealth, its resources, its jobs, its lands, and more importantly its unique identity. We will not allow that to happen at all costs. Parliament is the podium where we can make our voices heard and expose the wrongs committed against our people since 2019," Mehbooba said.

The PDP President also highlighted the immense sacrifices rendered by her workers towards her cause, stating that it is a poor party worker who, despite his financial constraints, is

funding her election campaign.

"Those who got the top posts of Ministers in the past due to PDP left me, but my workers remained by my side even amid the most tumultuous times. Even when I was jailed for the longest period compared to other political leaders post Article 370, my workers remained by my side. Even after my release, my family was hounded, my aged mother summoned by ED, our passports were confiscated, and they didn't even spare my father's graveyard - which was also raided, I was made homeless. Mufti (Mohammad Sayeed) Sahib didn't leave an estate for me behind but I can tell this with pride that my worthy and sumptuous possessions are you - my people. You have remained by my side and I promise you I will never let you down," Mehbooba said.

She also appealed to the

workers of the National Conference and Congress to understand the gravity of the situation and support the PDP so that the people's just voice could reach the parliament.

While talking to reporters on the sidelines of the campaign trail, Mehbooba termed the present situation extremely worrisome for the entire country as well as for Jammu and Kashmir in particular.

"The government is snatching possessions of poor people and giving it to a select few capitalists. This is lethal for people, and if we do not wake up now, it is going to be the end of imagination. The way Jammu and Kashmir's core identity is being eroded, it is PDP alone that can provide a bulwark against the current tirade. The massive support is proof that PDP lives in people's hearts and represents their aspirations," Mehbooba said.

DPS Kathua promotes Cultural Unity through introduction to Gujarati Numerals under EBSB Initiative



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Delhi Public School Kathua, as part of its commitment to the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative, organized a special activity aimed at introducing students to the numerical system of the paired state Gujarat. The activity, tailored for Class VI students, served to enhance cultural

understanding and unity in diversity. Led by Ms. Pooja Sharma, TGT Hindi, Ms. Ruchi Sharma, Primary Wing Coordinator and Mr. Vikram Singh Slathia, Coordinator of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat program by CBSE, students were introduced to Gujarati and Dogri numerals in an engaging session. The initiative not only familiarized students with the numerical system of Guja-

rat but also highlighted the linguistic and cultural diversity across different regions of India.

Principal Mr. Vivek Arora, expressed appreciation for the initiative, emphasizing the importance of fostering unity in diversity within the school community and recognizing the significance of such activities in promoting cultural exchange.

Medical camp on 'Swasth Bharat' for Gujjars & Bakarwals at Channi-Prat, Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APR 30

In order to provide basic medical assistance for a healthy life style to the Gujjars & Bakarwals community, Indian Army organized a medical camp at Channi-Prat, Rajouri on 30 April 2024 for migrating populace to the valley as part of their summer migration. The medical camp was organized to meet the quick health care need of the Gujjars & Bakarwals of remote Channi-Prat village. A team of medical doctors and professionals were available to address various health concerns and provided expert guidance like medical check-ups, specialized care, health awareness sessions, as well as essential medicines provided to them. The Indian Army's Medical Camp aimed not only to provide immediate healthcare support but also to raise awareness about the importance of regular health check-ups and a healthy lifestyle.

Shiv Sena demands free registration of Shri Amarnath Yatra, writes memo with blood

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit leaders today wrote a memorandum with their blood to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and requested for time to meet, demanding free registration for the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra 2024, which is scheduled to continue from June 29 to August 19.

In a program organized today at Jammu Press Club, many senior party leaders including state chief Manish Sahni wrote a memorandum with their blood to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (who is also the Chairman of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board) to make the registration system. free for the devotees coming on Shri Amarnath Yatra.

Party state chief



Manish Sahni said that the recovery in the name of registration on religious tours brings back memories of the Jaziya tax of the Mughal rule. He said that the pockets of the devotees coming on Amarnath Yatra become empty even before the formalities set for them. On that, Rs 150/- per passenger is being charged in the name of registration. Sahni said that in a

Hindu-majority country, the recovery of money in the name of registration on the religious pilgrimages of Hindus makes one bow one's head in shame, which cannot be tolerated at all. He said that before the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir, i.e. before 2019, the registration fee was just Rs 50/- per passenger. Which was continuously increased during the BJP

rule and made Rs 220/- in 2023. After a series of protests by Shiv Sena(UBT), a slight reduction has been made in it in 2024, but their demand is to make it completely free.

Sahni said that their fight will continue until Shri Amarnath Yatra registration is made free.

Along with the memorandum, the Shiv Sainiks also wrote a request letter to meet the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir with their blood.

He said that despite making dozens of requests before this, they are not being given time. On this occasion General secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice president Balwant Singh, President Kamghar Singh Raj Singh were present.

CUKashmir's SLS holds prog on cracking judicial service examination

JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, APR 30

Department of Law, School of Legal Studies (SLS), Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir), organised an interactive programme with the successful candidates of J&K Civil Services (J) Examination 2023 on the theme "J&K Civil Services Judicial Examination: Opportunities and Challenges" for the students at Tulmulla campus here Monday.

The event featured recent qualifiers of the J&K judicial service, who delved into the intricate aspects of the examination, aiming to provide practical knowledge about the judicial examination to the students.

In his address, Dean SLS, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, underscored the importance of such pro-



grammes and the significance of judicial service examinations. He emphasized that such initiatives serve as invaluable platforms for students to gain theoretical knowledge and grasp the practical intricacies and challenges inherent in pursuing a career in the judiciary.

Resource persons including Ms Nahida Mufti, Ms Aarizoo Javaid Rather, Mr Mansoor Ahmad Mir,

and Ms Rameen Rashid, who qualified the recently held examination, shared insights into the exam strategies, challenges, and other aspects. They highlighted the importance of reading, emphasizing that a deep understanding of legal statutes is foundational for success in the examination and, more importantly, in the practical application of law.

They also shed light on

the evolving trends in the examination, noting that the landscape of legal assessments is continuously growing. They further emphasised the need for aspirants to stay abreast of these changes, adapting their preparation strategies accordingly to remain competitive in an ever-changing environment.

The event was convened by Mr Bilal Ahmad Ganai, Assistant Prof., the question-answer session was conducted by Ms. Kinjal Bagdi, Assistant Prof and the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Hilal Ahmad Najar, Academic Coordinator and Assistant Prof. Mr. Shahid Ahmad Dar, President of The Law Society, conducted the proceedings.

Cong leaders stooped low by sharing fake videos of Amit Shah: Kavinder

Rahul addressing rallies with vacant chairs, no takers



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday hit out at Congress leadership for stooping to a new low by sharing doctored videos of Home Minister, Amit Shah to consolidate its dwindling position in the places going for the polls in the upcoming phases.

In a statement issued to media persons, BJP stalwart leader from J&K said that after losing the ground, the Congress has started adopting cheap tactics to misguide the people by taking refuge in deep fake world. He said that the morphed video of HM Amit Shah shared by many Congress leaders has showcased the level of desperation and frus-

tration prevailing among the Congress leaders as they have assessed their position on ground and anticipating the worst ever defeat at the hands of BJP. He said that the so-called star campaigner of Congress party Rahul Gandhi has to face embarrassment on various occasions after addressing party's rallies with vacant chairs and with no takers at all.

Kavinder said that Congress being the grand old party should refrain from relying on such cheap tactics by making viral the fake videos because this is not only wrong ethically but is also illegal, having the potential to entangle many of the leaders into litigations and other legal complications.

He said that today the Congress party has turned a frustrated lot and that is

the reason behind its leaders and supporters finding ways by hook or crook to downsize the Bharatiya Janata Party, which in actual is next to impossible because people have become educated and know well the old tactics of the oldest party of the country. He said that countrymen should not get swayed by such mechanizations by the Congress party as their only goal should be to ensure victory of PM Narendra Modi with thumping majority viz 'Abki Baar 400 Par'.

Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta also met several deputations here today and listened to their issues related to basic amenities. He assured to resolve their issues by taking up with the concerned authorities.

One Day Awareness Program on Biotech Entrepreneurship in Collaboration with IIIM-Tech



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

A one-day awareness program on Biotech Entrepreneurship, Startups, and Skill Development training was organized by the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra. The program was attended by the undergraduate, post graduate and Ph.D. scholars of the department along with the staff and faculty members. The occasion was graced by an invited speaker, Er. Ankush Varma from IIIM, Jammu, who is a distinguished figure in the realm of entrepreneurship &

startups and is presently working as Co-ordinator/CEO at IIIM-TBI (BioNEST Incubator). The purpose of the awareness program was to support and create awareness about startups, understand the challenges of being an entrepreneur, and the importance of skill-based training and increasing the culture of startups and self-employment for young entrepreneurs.

The students and faculty had an interactive discussion with the speakers and were provided with valuable insights into how they can start and run their own technology-based enterprise. The

event was conceptualized and managed by Dr. Anil Kumar, SoBT, coordinator of the awareness program, with the encouragement and coordination of Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head of the School of Biotechnology. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the faculty of the School of Biotechnology towards the overall grooming and development of their students as abled professionals. He laid stress on organizing more such programs to enhance knowledge of the students at SMVDU.

Dr. Amit Kumar Sharma receives Honorary Doctorate for Social Advocacy



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Dr. Amit Kumar Sharma's unwavering commitment to social welfare and human rights advocacy has been honored with the prestigious Honorary Doctorate from the World Human Rights Protection Commission (WHRPC). WHRPC LLC, a US-based organization approved by the federal government, actively promotes global human rights in collaboration with the esteemed "World Peace of United Nations University." Its subsidiary, WHRPC India, established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1882, spreads awareness and recommends effective implementation to the government. Dr.

Amit's exceptional contributions include organizing cultural events, free food camps for the underprivileged, and leading protests against corruption and drug abuse. His advocacy efforts extend globally, earning him widespread recognition and admiration. Expressing gratitude for the honor, Dr. Amit reaffirmed his commitment to serving humanity and emphasized the importance of collective action in addressing societal challenges. As Dr. Amit continues his journey, his dedication to creating positive change serves as an inspiration to all. Let us celebrate Dr. Amit Kumar Sharma's extraordinary achievements and honor his remarkable impact on society.

BJP protects projects, campaigns for rapists: Tony

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC Suchetgarh, launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for its blatant hypocrisy and moral bankruptcy in shielding criminals while parading under the guise of governance.

In a statement issued today, Tony highlighted the alleged sex scandal involving the grandson of JD(S) supreme H.D. Deve Gowda, questioning the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the matter. He condemned the BJP's alliance with the JD(S) despite revelations of a pen drive containing "sleaze videos of Prajwal Revanna," as exposed by a BJP leader's letter to the party's Karnataka unit president.

Tony minced no words in exposing the BJP's shameless pursuit of power at the expense of justice and morality. He



castigated the party for shamelessly forging an alliance with the JD(S) despite damning revelations of a pen drive loaded with "sleaze videos of Prajwal Revanna," as laid bare by a courageous BJP leader's exposé to the party's Karnataka unit president.

"The leader with whom the PM gets photographed by placing his hand on his shoulder. The leader for whom the PM himself campaigned 10 days ago. Praised him on stage. Today, that leader of Karnataka is absconding from the country," he added.

In a resounding condemnation of BJP's abhor-

rent conduct, Tony also spotlighted the sordid case of BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, accused of despicable acts of sexual harassment against women wrestlers. He condemned the BJP's hollow rhetoric of women's empowerment while turning a blind eye to the harrowing experiences of victims, forcing them to seek refuge in the courts for justice.

With a fervent plea for accountability and transparency in governance, Tony called attention to the alarming escape of Mehul Choksi, a key player in the Rs 13,000 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam, under the BJP's watch. He denounced the BJP's abject failure to safeguard the nation's financial interests, exposing its betrayal of public trust in favor of shielding the corrupt elite.

In a damning indictment, Tony lambasted the Modi regime for granting the longest parole to Baba

Ram Raheem, a convicted rapist, highlighting the brazen hypocrisy of a government that claims to champion the cause of justice while granting leniency to perpetrators of heinous crimes.

Tony left no room for ambiguity, demanding accountability from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He posed a piercing question that resonated with the nation's conscience: "Why does PM Modi maintain a deafening silence in the face of such grave injustices?" As the custodian of the nation's moral compass, Prime Minister Modi owes the country answers, not evasion.

"The deafening silence from the highest echelons of power only serves to embolden wrongdoers and erode the very fabric of justice. It is imperative that the Prime Minister breaks his silence and unequivocally condemns such abhorrent actions. Anything less would be a betrayal of the trust reposed in him by the people of India," he added.

Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal celebrates 55th Foundation Day

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Prant in collaboration with Central University of Jammu and Government College for Women, Parade, Jammu celebrated the 55th foundation day of Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal in the auditorium of GCW Parade on 29th April, 2024.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, and president Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal, Jammu Kashmir Ladakh Prant released the poster for Research Paper Writing Competition.

Prof. Minu Mahajan, BOPEE Chairman was the chief guest of the event whereas Brig. Rohit Kaur, Akhil Bhartiya YuvaAyam, SehPrumukh of BSM; Mr. Islam Khan, Assistant Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalyaya Sangathan; Swami YagyadhraNandji, Sachiv, Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu were Guests of Honour.

Prof. Sandhya Tiwari, Dean, School of Languages, Central Univer-



sity of Kashmir delivered the special talk on Research for Resurgence. The program began with the recitation of Mission statement of Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal and Saraswati Pujan followed by the formal welcome address by the Vice President of Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Prant, Prof. Vandana Sharma who gave an overview of the five fold framework of the activities of BSM pertaining research, awareness, orientation, training and team building. Moreover, Prof. Sharma introduced the research paper writing

competition on Vision for Viksit Bharat for students and scholars at National Level.

The Chief Guest Prof. Minu Mahajan lauded the efforts of BSM JKLP in organising events to raise awareness about the Indianisation of Teaching and Research. The Key-note speaker Prof. Sandhya Tiwari dwelt at the significance for research for resurgence in India. She shared her experience of identifying lacunae of existing corpus of research especially in IKS and highlighted the importance of having research acumen among

the scholars. The Guest of Honour Dr. Jaspal Kaur gave a detailed overview of the idea objectives and rules and regulations underscoring the methodology of research paper writing competition. Swami YagyadhraNandji made an enlightening address about vision for Viksit Bharat vis a vis teachings of Swami Vivekananda.

Sh. Islam Khan underscored the relevance of value education to be imparted to the youth of India for Viksit Bharat. Brig. Rohit made an exhaustive presentation about what vision for Viksit Bharat entails. The convener of the event Prof. Sharma thanked the illustrious speakers for their gracious presence particularly Prof. Ravinder Tickoo, Principal, GCW for his support. Dr. Neelika Arora, Associate Professor, Central University of Jammu presented the formal vote of thanks and Dr Vandana Sharma Dept. of Hindi conducted the proceedings. Dr Sham Singh Kotwal, Pramukh Yuva Ayam, JKLP, Mr Anirudh PrantVistarak, Prof. Bharat Bhushan and various other members attended the celebrations.

Unidentified deceased person found at Jammu Railway Station



JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

On 16.04.2024, one unidentified & unbound male person aged about 70/75 years was found in unattended condition at Platform No. 1 of Railway Station Jammu whose health condition was not looking good. On the directions of SSP Railways Jammu, the said person was shifted to GMC Jammu for treatment.

On 28.04.2024 at about 1530 hours, the said person died during medical treatment. The dead body of the said deceased

has been shifted to Mortuary room of GMC Jammu for postmortem/identification.

Description:
Age: About 70/75 years.
Height: 5 feet 5.5 inch.
Wearing: White checkered Shirt, black pant
(On wheelchair with infected wounds on the Right leg)

Anybody having any clue about the identity/residential particulars of the said deceased may contact GRP Jammu on Telephone Nos.0191-2474946 and/or Mobile No. 7006690851/9622592848 and PCR GRP Jammu Helpline No. 1512.

SKLPAASAN condemns attack on Khajuria Mall, Miranda Sahib

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Saraswat Shree Krishan Lal Pandit Aadhyaatmik Smriti Nyas (SKLPAASAN) working for the promotion of education, Sanskrit, culture, scientific moral values, ethics, rituals, Karamkand and necessary steps leading to eternal salvation on the basis of Dharm, Arth, Kaam, Moksh and Ghyan, Dhyana, Yog, Bhakti to the people for all round development and welfare of the society under the kind guidance of Dr Ved Parkash Shastri Ji- Chairman and Ex ZEPH Hem Raj Ranyal- President condemned the recently firing attack on Khajuria Food Mall, Miran Sahib. Thanks God that no loss to life and property occurred in the incident. Police personnel team led by SHO Miran Sahib under the

guidance of concerned SDPO and SP tried their best, worked hard to put the culprits behind the bars. However, it is a case to investigate the matter in detail to find out the conspiracy and gang behind the attack as it seems the attack on the whole society and brotherhood. Culprits should hesitate to perform such attacks in future.

Pt Chaman Lal Sharma reiterated that all the people of different faiths and beliefs of the society live together, dependent on each other and correlated with respect to their work, culture and heritage from the time. There would be no need to attack or harm anybody, institution in any way. Also appealed all the citizens to work for national building, communal harmony and development of the country.

NC, PDP lacks legitimacy to seek votes from people in LS elections: Bukhari

JINews SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 30

Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday said that the National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) lacked the legitimacy to seek votes from the people in the Lok Sabha polls as their MPs failed to protect Article 370.

"The performance of the NC and PDP sitting MPs has been shamefully poor over the past five years, especially regarding the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A", Bukhari said while addressing a public rally at Gouripora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday.

He urged people to relegate these parties to their rightful status by rejecting them through the power of their votes.

"In the last parliamentary elections in 2019, parties like NC and PDP sought votes from the people, promising that they would protect Article 370 and 35A in the parliament. People trusted their commitment and elected NC's candidates in all three seats in the Valley", Bukhari said and added, "the PDP also had its two members in the Rajya Sabha".

However, he said when the testing time came on August 5, 2019, "these so-called public representa-

tives" chose to remain silent on the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A instead at least, they should have resigned in protest against the abrogation of these articles".

He said these MPs have neither spoken a word in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir nor have they done anything to bring economic dividends to the people.

"Even after these failures, these parties shamelessly come to the people yet again to seek votes. They no longer have the legitimacy to seek votes from the people", Bukhari asked.

He urged people to reject these parties through the power of their votes. "You must show these deceptive parties their right place by denying your vote to them", he said. Bukhari said, "I want to assure you that, unlike traditional political parties, our politics is rooted in truthfulness and integrity. We need your support so that we can challenge these political families and deceptive parties that have been harming the interests of the people for years and decades".

He said this is a battle between truth and falsehood, and I humbly request your unwavering support in our mission to defeat the politicians who rely on falsehoods and deceptions.

SSP Jammu conducted security review meeting at DPL Jammu

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

SSP Jammu, Dr.Vinod Kumar-IPS held a security review meeting at DPL Jammu. Zonal SsP,SP PC Jammu,SDPO's,DySP PC Jammu,DySP DAR & DySP DSB Jammu attended the meeting.

During the meeting the SSP Jammu briefed officers regarding the latest security scenario within Jammu City and neighbouring districts & advised the officers to continue their efforts, to work with dedication for the best possible security scenario & urged the officers to be vigilant in addressing any concerns that may arise.

He instructed officers to enhance vigil on OGW'S, released and surrendered militants, history sheeters and other anti-social and anti-national elements. He stressed upon the officers to focus on human and tech intelligence gathering to prevent any untoward incident and be proactive against trouble shooters & increase area domination in sensitive pockets especially boundaries with neighbouring Districts and near international borders and areas falling near LOC.

Officers assured SSP Jammu that they will work with full commitment & dedication to ensure peaceful atmosphere in the District.

64% increase in family traveling bookings as per MakeMyTrip India Travel Trends Report

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

After the Corona wave of 2019 subsided, the traveling habits of Indians have changed. Today the situation is such that people of India have started taking spiritual and religious trips as family travels. This is the reason why the travel graph has been continuously increasing in the last 5 years. The graph of visits to religious places like Ayodhya, Varanasi, Ujjain, Kedarnath is continuously increasing. Rajesh Mago, Co-Founder and Group CEO, MakeMyTrip, said, "To help chart the future of tourism on the domestic and international horizons, we first need to understand the changing travel behaviour of Indian travellers. MakeMyTrip's India the Travel Trends Report highlights some of the latest and most important



trends. India is emerging as a strong force in the field of tourism day by day. Among weekend travel destinations, Jim Corbett National Park received 131 percent more information in 2023 compared to 2022. Hill stations like Ooty and Munnar are also popular choices, especially in the southern part of the country. Dubai, Bangkok and Singapore top international travel searches. London, Toronto and New York were most searched for long distance trips. Searches for emerging international travel destinations increased multifold in 2023, including Hong Kong, Almaty, Paro,

Baku, Da Nang and Tbilisi. Family travel bookings are on the rise, with bookings expected to increase by 64% in 2023 compared to 2022. This was followed by a 23% increase in single passenger bookings for the same comparative period."

This has come to light in the Make My Trip India Travel Trends Report after considering the information and other queries received from more than 10 crore customers through its platform. It revealed that the number of people making more than three trips in a year has increased by 25 percent since 2019. According

to the report, increasing interest in spiritual journeys has been found to be the main reason for this.

According to Make My Trip India Travel Trends Report, people of India are now adopting spiritual trips to Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. There has been a 97% increase in visits to and around religious places in the last 2 years. According to Make My Trip, the number of people taking more than 3 trips per year is expected to increase by 25% in 2023 compared to 2019. This time period has also seen an increase in spiritual tourism. There has been a huge increase of 585 percent in Ayodhya in 2023 compared to 2022. Similarly, searches for Ujjain and Badrinath saw an increase of 359 percent and 343 percent respectively.

CU Jammu organizes SPIC MACAY Cultural Evening

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Jammu, 30th April 2024: To mark the World Dance Day, the Central University of Jammu organized a cultural evening featuring Kathak Dance in collaboration with SPIC MACAY society, New Delhi. The performance was delivered by Ms. Monisa Nayak of Jaipur Gharana, an artist of international fame who has been bestowed with Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar by Sangeet Natak Akademi, Govt. of India. By her performance, she not only mesmerised the students but her interactive delivery of dance passed the message that Kathak is the amalgamation of devotion and art.

The event was envisioned by Prof. Sanjeev Jain Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University as the most effective mechanism of connecting students to



their cultural roots. Prof Yashwant Singh, Registrar of the University, appreciated Prof Ritu Bakshi, Dean Student's welfare and Dr Vinay Kumar, Associate Dean for organizing first ever SPIC MACAY event in the university. He highlighted the importance of such performances as an integral part of academic and co-curricular activities

of students for their holistic growth and development.

The event was coordinated and executed by Dr. Nancy Mengi and Dr. Bhawana Arora, the convener and co-convener of the CU Jammu SPIC MACAY CLUB. Other artists who performed were Mohd. Akram, Priyanka Kumari, Pankaj Rawat.

Missing lady traced out and reunited with her family by JKP in Jammu district

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 1

An information was received at Police Post Sidhra falling under the JD of Police station Nagrota about the missing of a lady (name Withheld) R/o.Jammu whose missing report was entered at PP Sidhra vide DD No.04, Dtd.24-04-2024.

Acting upon this, A Police team of PP Sidhra led by IC PP Sidhra put strenuous efforts and with the help of technical assistance as well as human intervention traced out the missing lady and after completing all legal formalities the said lady has been handed over to legal heirs. Accordingly missing report has been closed.

Ashok Koul, Sat Sharma, Phunchok Stanzin, Tashi Gyalson address crucial election meeting in Leh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
LADAKH, APR 30

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), BJP J&K and Ladakh, addressed a crucial meeting of senior party office bearers from Ladakh to discuss and formulate the election strategy for the Parliament election 2024 at party headquarters, Leh.

Sat Sharma, former Minister, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, former MLC accompanied Ashok Koul on the occasion.

Tashi Gyalson, MP candidate for the Parliamentary constituency of Ladakh alongwith, Phunchok Stanzin, President Ladakh BJP, Tashi Gyaltsan Kachu, District President and Gorjay Angchuk, election committee Incharge were also present in the meeting.

Dozens of prominent political and social activists also joined the BJP on the occasion. Ashok Koul, while addressing the party workers, asked the party cadre to reach out to all voters especially women, and youth to disseminate information



about the party's mission and policies so that the misleading campaigns aired by the opposition should be warded off successfully.

Ashok Koul laid importance on the maximum voting on the poll day by all the eligible voters and said that it is important to bring the voter to the polling booth and efforts should be made by the party workers to meet this challenge through strong resolve and conviction. He said that the ground level workers are the real ambassadors of the party as they are the face of the party in the localities and

reflect the commitment of the party to uplift the socio-economic status of the people, who were earlier neglected by the parties like NC, Congress and PDP.

Sat Sharma asked the party cadre to work in unison for the remaining days before the Parliamentary election. The senior BJP leader further underscored the significance of every remaining moment in engaging with voters and rallying support for the BJP's vision for a prosperous Ladakh and a vibrant India.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa asked the party cadre to

leave no stone unturned to reach all the prominent persons from all sects and all areas and ask for their support in favour of BJP's MP candidate.

Phunchok Stanzin asked the party cadre to work for the 24 hours in the approaching days and ensure the resounding victory of the party candidate for the MP election. He said that the Modi government ensured unprecedented development and they need to work more strongly to ensure massive victory for Tashi Gyalson to strengthen the hands of PM Modi for the betterment of Ladakh.

Kashmir flourishing with tourists under Modi Regime: Yudhvir



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 30

Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir, today lauded the flourishing tourism scenario in the Kashmir Valley under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, following the historic abrogation of Article 370.

He was speaking to media persons after paying obeisance at the ancient Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar.

Sethi said since the revocation of Article 370, the Valley has witnessed a remarkable surge in tourist footfall, signaling a new era of development, prosperity, and peace in the region. In 2023 alone, Jammu and Kashmir welcomed over two crore tourists, surpassing previous records. Over the past 10 years, the Amarnath Yatra has witnessed the highest number of pilgrims participating. He said every section of society today is busy in their works in Valley, contributing to the overall development and prosperity of the region, due to the record number of

tourists flocking to Jammu and Kashmir. Highlighting the surge in foreign tourist arrivals and the growing attraction among celebrities and international guests, Sethi said, "Now, even prominent celebrities and foreign guests visit the valleys of Jammu and Kashmir to explore and create videos and reels." Yudhvir Sethi commended the efforts of the Modi government in creating an environment conducive to tourism, thereby boosting the economy and employment opportunities in the Valley. Speaking on the significant transformation, the abrogation of Article 370 has unleashed the true potential of Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for unprecedented growth and development across all sectors, particularly tourism. The Valley, with its breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality, has emerged as a preferred destination for travelers from across the globe."

He further added, "Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, various initiatives have been undertaken to showcase the diverse attractions of Jammu and Kashmir to the world. From promoting adventure tourism to organizing cultural festivals, the government's proactive approach has revitalized the tourism sector, generating employment opportunities for the local populace and enhancing their socio-economic well-being."

Yudhvir Sethi urged the people of Valley particularly the youth to harness the immense potential of tourism in Kashmir and work collectively towards its sustainable growth. He emphasized the need for continued efforts to leverage the natural beauty and cultural richness of the region, ensuring a memorable experience for tourists while preserving the ecological balance. Sethi expressed confidence in the transformative journey of Jammu and Kashmir under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, envisioning a future where the region emerges as a beacon of prosperity, peace, and progress.

Vikramaditya seeks scientific assessment of Parnote catastrophe, rehabilitation of affected people

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Vikramaditya Singh, former MLC, sought thorough scientific assessment of the land sinking incident in Ramban District's Parnote area while demanding rehabilitation of the affected families.

In a statement issued to media persons, the former MLC said that the top priority of the government should be to shift all the inhabitants of the affected area to safer places and compensate them adequately to ensure that these people can restart their lives and thrive once again. He fully supported the demands raised by over 500 victims of Parnote village seeking adequate compensation and relief, and lands at safer places for their permanent rehabilitation. Vikramaditya mentioned that a similar incident took place in Saddal-Panjar village in Udhampur district on September 6, 2014, wherein 40 people died and 65 houses were damaged in the landslide incident. He said that unprecedented cases of similar nature in J&K and in other states as well like Uttarakhand are indicative of a bigger threat. He demanded that the government should rope in top level experts of the country to find the exact reason behind this catastrophe and find out the causes as well as remedy to stop such disasters in near future. The former MLC said that the government should also ponder and probe whether the 'uncontrolled' development being carried out in the mountainous pockets of the UT is behind these cases and if so then the helmsmen should take adequate measures to undo the damage and reinstate sustainable development practices for safety of one and all.

5-Star safe Kushaq and Slavia become even safer with MY24 updates

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

After setting safety benchmarks with the Kushaq SUV in October 2022 and the Slavia sedan in April 2023, Škoda Auto India continues blazing the safety trail with the introduction of six airbags as standard across all variants of the Kushaq and Slavia. The introduction is part of the company's MY24 updates for its landmark made-for-India, ready-for-the-world India 2.0 product portfolio.

Speaking on the upgrades, Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said: "Safety has always been intrinsic to the Škoda DNA. We were the first brand to score a full 5-stars for adults and children under the Global NCAP tests. Our emphasis on safety embodies our Human Touch approach, and underscores our focus on being a family brand. We always offered frontal airbags in our base variants and six in our higher variants, each as safe as the other. As part of our MY24 updates we now offer six airbags across all variants of the Kushaq and Slavia. We are always listening to our customers and shall continue to provide relevant upgrades and significant product actions within our product portfolio and our variant



line-up."

Continuous updates The enhancements to the Kushaq's and Slavia's MY24 range are a further addition to updates already introduced by the company in Q4 2023. It is when the top-of-the-line variants in both cars saw the introduction of all-new features like electric seats for the driver and co-driver, which is a segment-first, and an illuminated footwell area. The centre of the dash saw the familiar 25.4 cm infotainment screen with Škoda Play Apps. The system links wirelessly with Apple Carplay and Android Auto. While this full-fledged infotainment system was available in the Style and above, recent updates have seen the company introduce them even in the mid-level Ambition trims furthering the value proposition for customers. These upgrades further Škoda Auto India's 2024 product actions with the announcement of the all-new compact SUV to make its world debut in India in 2025 and the re-introduction of the Superb in

the Kushaq's and Slavia's MY24 range are a further addition to updates already introduced by the company in Q4 2023. It is when the top-of-the-line variants in both cars saw the introduction of all-new features like electric seats for the driver and co-driver, which is a segment-first, and an illuminated footwell area. The centre of the dash saw the familiar 25.4 cm infotainment screen with Škoda Play Apps. The system links wirelessly with Apple Carplay and Android Auto. While this full-fledged infotainment system was available in the Style and above, recent updates have seen the company introduce them even in the mid-level Ambition trims furthering the value proposition for customers. These upgrades further Škoda Auto India's 2024 product actions with the announcement of the all-new compact SUV to make its world debut in India in 2025 and the re-introduction of the Superb in

limited numbers to meet continued demand for the luxury sedan among fans and customers.

Made in India, for the world

The Kushaq, introduced in July 2021, and the Slavia, introduced in March 2022, are based on the made-for-India, ready-for-the-world MQB-AO-IN platform and are being exported to other right-hand drive and GCC countries. They had both earned a full 5-stars in the Global New Car Assessment Programme (Global NCAP) for adults and children - the Kushaq in October 2022 and the Slavia in April 2023. The MQB-AO-IN was the first made-in-India platform to have achieved dual 5-stars, that too under Global NCAP's newer and more stringent test protocols.

The latest introduction of six airbags as standard across the range further the safety quotient in the proven and tested India 2.0 cars. With the full 5-stars under Global NCAP for the Kushaq and Slavia, and the same score under Euro NCAP for the Kodiaq 4x4, and the recently introduced Superb luxury sedan, Škoda Auto India continues with its tradition of offering a 100% fleet of crash-tested cars rated 5-stars for adults and children in the Indian market.

MP asks officers to initiate relief measures

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Expressing deep shock and grief over the tragedy inflicted by incessant rains and landslides in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana on Tuesday asked the administrative officers to initiate the process of accessing damages caused by the calamity

and provide quick relief to the victims.

In a statement issued to the media, Khatana said that Weather Department should properly forecast heavy rain and snowfall and other vagaries of nature well in time and the other concerned authorities should timely evacuate the people to safer places to prevent the loss of human lives.

The MP expressed condolences with the families who lost their dear ones in the calamity and

prayed to the Almighty God to grant peace to the departed souls and courage to the bereaved families to bear the irreparable loss.

The senior BJP leader said that loss of cattle like buffaloes, cows, horses, goats and sheep in the calamity hit areas of Reasi, Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban and other places should be timely compensated as people of these areas largely depended on these cattle for their livelihood.

He further said that people affected by the land sinking in Ramban should also be rehabilitated to safer places and compensated adequately and all should be done to ensure safety to human lives. Khatana informed that Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, Manoj Sinha is closely monitoring the situation and has asked the top officers in the administration to provide quick relief to the victims of landslides and heavy rains.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu

e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 03 of 2024-25

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in ₹)	Cost of document/tender fee (in ₹)	Earnest money (in ₹)	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Replacement of components of 50,000 GPH x 160 mtrs. Head HC pumpset unit no. 08 at Tawi High lift pumping station.	1,20,900/-	200/-	2500/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Sanctioned

Date of Publishing : 29-04-2024 (04.00 pm).

1. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 29-04-2024 (04.00 pm).

2. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 29-04-2024 (04.00 pm) to 10-05-2024 (04.00 pm).

3. The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

4. The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 11-05-2024 (04.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.

5. The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

J5MDNJ/143-45
Dated: 27-04-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Mech. Division North
Jammu

DIP/J-277/24
Date: 30-4-24

Congress intensifies campaign in favour of Mian Altaf

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APRIL 30

Congress today intensified the election campaign in Rajouri district in support of India Alliance candidate for Anantnag- Rajouri Mian Altaf Ahmad .

JKPCC President Vikar Rasool Wani today reached Rajouri to join the public meeting to be addressed NC leadership & Mian Altaf Ahmad at Thanna Mandi apart from few other places. All senior leaders of Congress in District Rajouri including PCC,DCC functionaries & DDC members are already actively involved in the joint campaign.

JKPCC senior vice president and Chief Spokesperson Mr Ravinder Sharma also held a meeting of party workers of Sunderbani & Nowshera area, part of Anantnag constituency and asked them to gear up their political activities in favour of Coalition candidate Mian Altaf Ahmad.

He claimed that Congress is in winning posi-



tion in both the seats of Jammu & Udhampur as the majority of people have voted for change especially the Youth and employees given several anti-employed and anti-employee policies of the BJP government and UT administration.

He said the agniveer scheme has spoiled the future of young boys closed hundreds of schools and stopped the recruitment of teachers for ten years apart from failure to regularise Daily

wagers, need-based and different categories of contractual employees are all anti-youth policies.

Congress party has promised to abolish the magnifier scheme and hold regular recruitments besides several pro-youth, pro-women, pro-farmers, and pro-laborativemeasures.

The PCC president will also interact with workers of the Nowshera constituency tomorrow in the afternoon and intensify the election campaign.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor introduces new grade of 'Toyota Rumion'

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30, 2024

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), today, officially announced the opening of bookings and the price of New Grade G-AT of the Toyota Rumion along with reopening of E-CNG bookings. The newly launched G-AT variant is expected to further boost the market acceptance of the Rumion with its unmatched space and comfort, excellent fuel efficiency, stylish and premium exterior design.

The latest offering by TKM will be available at an attractive ex-showroom price of Rs. 13,00,000 with deliveries expected to commence from 5th May onwards. Customers can book the vehicle at any of the authorized dealerships or online with a booking fee of Rs 11,000/-.

Toyota Rumion G-AT variant is powered by the 1.5-litre K series petrol engine with 6-speed Automatic Transmission, featuring the Neo Drive (ISG) technology ensuring responsive performance. While the petrol grade has a power output of 75.8 kw @6000 rpm and torque of 136.8 Nm @4400 rpm, for the CNG grade boosts of 64.6 kw output @5500 rpm and torque of 121.5 Nm@4200 rpm. The Toyota Rumion is now available in seven variants of Neo drive MT: S, G and V grade. Neo Drive AT: S, G and V grade. E-CNG: S grade offering a wide range of options for customers.

Crime Branch, Jammu accords warm sendoff to retiring officers



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Crime Branch Jammu today accorded warm sendoff to retiring officers - SI Surinder Mohan and ASI (P) Charanjit Lal at an impressive farewell function held at Crime Branch, EOW Jammu in which a large number of officers and officials of Crime Branch Jammu were present.

On behalf of J&K Police and particularly Crime Branch J&K, SSP Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh wished the retiring officers happy, prosperous & healthy post retirement life and advised them to work for the welfare and betterment of society in days to come so that their varied experiences and knowledge acquired over the decades could be utilised in productive manner. Retiring officers - SI Surinder Mohan & ASI (P) Charanjit Lal belong

to Udhampur and Doda Districts respectively and are known for their dedication and commitment to the duties having put in over three decades of unblemished and exemplary services in J&K Police in various capacities.

Senior officers of Executive and Prosecution spoke on the occasion and appreciated the services rendered by the retiring officers throughout their careers in J&K Police, especially in Crime Branch J&K.

In their address, the retiring officers thanked the J&K Police Department, especially the senior officers of Crime Branch J&K for grooming and training them to become responsible citizens of the country and for providing them wide open opportunities to serve the people, to excel in profession and to obtain self actualisation.

Advisor to LG of J&K, R R Bhatnagar, engages in Insightful Interaction at IIM Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Advisor to the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, IPS (Retd.) along with his spouse Smt Manu Bhatnagar, graced the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu with a visit on April 30th, 2024, engaging in a fruitful dialogue with the faculty, officers and staff of the Institute. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen collaboration and explore avenues for mutual growth between the government and academia.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, warmly welcomed him and led a campus tour, showcasing the institution's academic and infrastructural excellence. During his time at the institute, Shri Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar participated in insightful interactions with the esteemed faculty members of IIM Jammu at the Kashyap Classroom. The exchange of ideas and perspectives between the Advisor and the faculty was marked by a spirit of collaboration and innovation.

Shri Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, IPS (Retd.), Advisor to the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, expressed deep admiration for the architectural marvel created amidst the Trikuta Hills by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu and his team during his visit to the Institute. He described



his experience as truly life-changing and emphasized the immense promise held by the collaboration between the Govt of J & K and IIM Jammu for the development and progress of the youth in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted the importance of skilling the youth and empowering them to play a pivotal role in transforming Jammu into one of the finest states in the country. He reiterated the timeless value of good education, emphasizing that his visit to IIM Jammu had reaffirmed this belief. He also commended the state-of-the-art infrastructure, smart classrooms, vibrant library, and unique atmosphere at IIM Jammu, noting that they had left a lasting impression on him.

Shri Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, Administrative Secretary of the Department of Skill Development, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, commended Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu,

for the remarkable feat of constructing such a masterpiece of architecture within the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in a record time of three years. He described the institute as a paradise among IIMs, acknowledging its exceptional contribution to the region's landscape.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, extended a warm welcome to Shri R.R. Bhatnagar upon his arrival at the IIM Jammu Campus. He underscored IIM Jammu's unwavering commitment to the growth and development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the institute's readiness to provide full support to the youth, as well as facilitate economic and entrepreneurship development for the U.T. of Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed gratitude for Shri R.R. Bhatnagar's invaluable insights and guidance, recognizing his invaluable support to IIM Jammu in driving excellence in education and

research.

Reflecting on the significance of the engagement, Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics at IIM Jammu, noted that Shri R.R. Bhatnagar's visit provided a platform to align academic pursuits with the region's developmental objectives, anticipating leveraging this partnership for comprehensive advancement.

Present on the occasion was Cmdr Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer, along with the faculty, officers, and staff of the Institute. Following the interaction, Shri Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, IPS (Retd.), Advisor to the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir also had an informal gathering with the faculty, officers, and staff, where they came together to celebrate the birthdays of those born in April. The atmosphere was light-hearted as they shared anecdotes and experiences, turning the occasion into a cultural get-together.

Shri R.R. Bhatnagar's, IPS (Retd.), Advisor to the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir visit to IIM Jammu underscores the institute's commitment to fostering partnerships that contribute to the socio-economic development of the region. It marks a significant step towards synergizing the efforts of academia and Govt of J & K in realizing the shared vision of progress and prosperity of the Union Territory.

'Disaster lightning' from sky in Mananu: Sanjeev Sharma demands early compensation

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, APR 30

About 30 goats died on the spot, while about 10 were injured due to lightning near Abdu Nath village of Mananu Panchayat in district Samba. There was a loss of lakhs in this accident. These goats belonged to the family of Shaukat and Rafakat. On Tuesday, Indian National Congress District Samba President Sanjeev Sharma met the families of the accident victims in Abdu Nath village of Mananu Panchayat and demanded appropriate compensation from the state administration as soon as possible. Animal herders told that during the rain around 3 o'clock on Monday night, these goats sat under a mango tree and at the same time, lightning struck them and all of them died on the spot. Congress District President Sanjeev Sharma, drawing the attention of the district administration to this, said that the Gurjar community supports its families only with the profit from goats. They raise baby goats and then sell them when they grow up so that they can support their families. But now the livelihood of two families is in danger due to the goats of two families suddenly becoming victims of the heavenly disaster. Therefore, we appeal to the district administration to take stock of the loss caused to these two families and provide appropriate compensation as soon as possible. Sanjeev Sharma assured both the families of all possible help from his side.

JKP in Jammu organizes farewell function for retiring officers & officials

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 30.04.2024

Jammu & Kashmir Police today organised a farewell function to accord a warm send-off to officers and officials who superannuated from their active services in Jammu. Accounts Officer DPO Jammu Shri Balwan Singh Chib is also among the officers who attained supranation today.

On attaining the age of superannuation,retires were given a warm send-off by all ranks of Jammu Police. On their retirement, a simple but impressive farewell party was organized at DPL Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, SP headquarters Jammu appreciated the work and dedication of the retiree officer and the official towards their duties. He extended good wishes and healthy



post-retirement life to them. He also presented gifts to retirees as a token of love and respect for their exceptional services spanning over more than three decades.

DySP DAR Jammu and other police officers/offi-

cial were also present on the occasion. They also acknowledged the contribution of the outgoing officer/official and conveyed their best wishes to them for post-retirement life.

All India IPSC volleyball U-19 championship concludes with Sainik School Nagrota emerging as champions



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJASTHAN, APR 30

The prestigious All India IPSC Volleyball U-19 Championship hosted by Vidya Niketan Birla Public School Pilani, Rajasthan, culminated in an exhilarating display of talent and sportsmanship from April 27 to April 29, 2024. The tournament saw the participation of nine elite public schools from across the country, including Sainik School Nagrota, Sainik School Kunjpura, and Birla Public School Pilani, among others.

In a fiercely contested competition, Sainik School Nagrota emerged as the dominant force, showcasing exceptional skill and determination throughout the tournament. The team's journey to victory was marked by a series of impressive performances, including victories against formidable opponents such as BRCM Gyankunj Haryana, Punjab Public School Nabha, Sainik School Kunjpura, Emerald Heights International School and DPS Mathura Road.

In the nail-biting finals, Sainik School Nagrota faced off against tough competition from the hosts, Birla Public School Pilani. However, with sheer grit and determination, Sainik School Nagrota secured a resounding victory in straight sets with the scoreboard flashing 25-22, 27-25, 25-17 and lifted the Championship trophy in style.

The Grand Finale of the tournament was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Sh. Pushpendra Singh Rathore, RPS, Additional Superintendent of Police, Jhunjhunu, who presided over the event. Sh. Rathore presented the trophy and medals to the deserving winners, commending them for their outstanding performance on the grand stage.

Capt (IN) AK Desai, Principal of Sainik School Nagrota, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the team, acknowledging their superlative performance and remarkable achievement in the tournament. The All India IPSC Volleyball U-19 Championship not only served as a platform for young athletes to showcase their talent but also exemplified the spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship, fostering a sense of unity and mutual respect among participants.

The All India IPSC Volleyball U-19 Championship is an annual event that brings together some of the most talented young volleyball players from prestigious public schools across India. Organized under the aegis of the Indian Public Schools' Conference (IPSC), the championship aims to promote excellence in sports and foster a spirit of healthy competition among youth.

Reliance Consumer Products Limited launches inspiring campaign for Campa Cola

JI NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, APR 30

Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL), the FMCG arm and fully-owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), has launched the latest brand campaign for Campa Cola, the iconic Indian beverage brand.

The campaign promises a differentiated approach of depicting real Indians and celebrates their spirit of resilience and determination, paying tribute to the audacious spirit of young India, which believes in continuously

chasing new horizons. "This is the start of a journey for us to provide global quality products at affordable prices to hard-working Indians, while celebrating their high aspirations in our communications," said Ketan Mody, COO, Reliance Consumer Products Limited.

As RCPL strengthens its supply chain and scales up its operations by expanding distribution in several parts of the country, the brand film conceptualised by ad guru, Prasoon Joshi, will be launched with media amplification planned across TV, digital, outdoor and print.

GM reviews performance of Northern Railway Operation should be effective, smooth: Shobhan Chaudhuri

* Reviews Mobility Enhancement, Safety, infrastructure work * Focus on Construction of Doubling, New Line Projects * Emphasis on increasing Freight loading, Earnings

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 30

Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager Northern Railways held a pivotal performance review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway and DRMs. The meeting, which took place at Baroda House focused on enhancing safety protocols and ensuring the highest standards of safety for both employees and passengers.

During the meeting, Sh. Chaudhuri emphasized the Northern Railway unwavering commitment to safety and highlighted



the importance of continually reviewing and improving safety measures. The officers in attendance actively engaged in discussions on current safety

procedures, potential risks, and promoting a culture of safety awareness.

Key topics addressed during the meeting included emergency response protocols, employee training initiatives, maintenance schedules, and the implementation of new safety technologies. The GM emphasized that visual examination and lubrication of rail joints and welds should also be completed on priority.

He also instructed that night patrolling inspections should be enhanced. Status of maintenance of track, welds of joints and signaling systems dis-

cussed in detail. He also reviewed the status of various important construction projects of Doubling and New lines and directed officials to expedite the work.

GM took stock of detention of trains due to crew change at crew changing points and instructed the divisions to implement crew changing within shortage possible time so that the delay of trains on account of crew changing can be minimized. He also instructed the department heads and DRMs, to maintain the punctuality and keep pace for freight loading with safety as priority.

CS assesses damages caused by incessant rains, flood-like situation

J I NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting with Administrative Secretaries, divisional, district and police administration of J&K to take stock of damages caused and measures taken after the incessant rains and subsequent flood-like situation in the UT.

From the Deputy Commissioners, the CS took stock of the situation in their respective jurisdictions and the damages caused to both private and public infrastructure. He enquired about the status of public services like power, drinking water, roads, health, food grains distribution, sanitation, dewatering and other utilities being provided through different departments.

Dulloo asked the Divisional and District administration to be proactive during such situations. He asked the DCs to personally visit the affected spots and ensure that the public grievances are resolved instantly.

The Chief Secretary



took note of restoration of electricity, water supply and road connectivity in all the areas. He asked for restoring all such public amenities within shortest possible time. He asked all the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that assessment is done swiftly and relief measures are followed strictly as per set norms.

He also asked about the loss of lives and livestock, if any, in the areas reporting flash floods or landslides. He called for reaching to such families and providing them immediate succor as per government rules. He instructed for assessing the damages

caused to roads, bridges, distribution transformers, electric poles, water supply schemes and other vital public installations. He also instructed for provisional restoration of the same at the earliest.

Dulloo also emphasized on strengthening the overall preparedness by the administration to ideally deal with natural calamities like these in future. He asked for carrying out mock drills, dry-runs to enhance the capacity and bring efficiency in the mitigation measures taken under such circumstances.

The divisional and district administration apprised the Chief Secretary

of the relief measures being taken up in their areas. It was informed that except a few areas in North Kashmir no major damage has been reported anywhere in the valley.

It was also informed that few villages in Ramban and Mandi Poonch of Jammu division have been affected badly. It was reiterated that the local administration should initiate instant relief measures for the people directly affected by it. It was also disclosed that dozens of relief camps have already been established across the districts to give shelter to those leaving their houses for safety.

The Deputy Commissioners also gave out that preliminary assessment of damage caused to infrastructure is being prepared and the loss of lives or livestock is also being ascertained from ground. It was revealed that the power and water supply was majorly restored except to some remote areas, which is going to be restored as soon as possible.

Regarding other amenities like road connectivity and distribution of ration, it was informed that the slips on almost all the major roads have been cleared off and the ration for the month of April had already been distributed.

It was also revealed that the administration is in full control of the situation as the waters had started receding in all the rivers and streams of the UT with cessation of rain. Besides, it was added that the administration is focusing on bringing respite to the affected with restoration of basic services. The administration is also geared-up to deal with any arising eventuality in future, as was apprised in this meeting.

Justice Tashi Rabstan visits SOS Children's Village; assesses facilities

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 30

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, today visited the SOS Children's Village in Hyderpora, Srinagar, to oversee facilities being provided to the inmates there.

Justice Tashi was accompanied by Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority and Muzamil Hayat Kabli, Under Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

Present on the occasion were Jawad Ahmed, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, and Incharge SOS Children's Village.

During his visit, Justice Tashi Rabstan had a comprehensive review of the facilities available for the children at the SOS Village. He interacted with the inmates,



listened to their concerns and assured them of continued support from the Legal Services Institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Tashi said, "It's heartening to see the dedication and commitment of the staff here at SOS Children's Village. We must collectively ensure that these children receive the love, care and opportunities they deserve. I urge all NGOs and civil society members to come forward and play their part in shaping the future

of our nation by supporting initiatives like these."

Expressing appreciation for the efforts of the administration and staff at the SOS Children's Village, Justice Tashi urged upon all NGOs and members of civil society to step forward and contribute towards brighter future of these children, emphasizing their crucial role in nation building.

Later, Justice Tashi Rabstan distributed sweets and fruits among the children, bringing smiles to their faces and spreading joy throughout the village.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024

DSWO Gbl discusses voting action plan for PwDs, Senior Citizens

J I NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, APRIL 30

The District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Ganderbal (Nodal Officer People with Disability and Accessibility for Lok Sabha Elections 2024) today convened a meeting at the Meeting Hall of Hope Disability Centre which focused on preparations for the upcoming elections.

The primary agenda was to sensitize and mobilize staff members from various departments regarding their roles and responsibilities in ensuring inclusive voting, especially for people with disabilities, senior citizens, and women.

DSWO emphasized the critical role of One Stop Centre, Ahat e Waqar, and DDRC Ganderbal in raising awareness about voting rights among marginalized groups. This included educating them about their rights, the significance of casting votes, and dispelling any myths or barriers that may hinder their participation.

The theme 'No Voter



Shall Be Left Behind' encapsulated the essence of the campaign. The focus was not only on encouraging voting but also on ensuring equal opportunities for all eligible individuals to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

Staff members were briefed on effective strategies to reach out to diverse communities. This involved using accessible communication methods, organizing awareness drives in local languages, and leveraging community leaders and influencers to amplify the message.

DSWO provided detailed information about the special arrangements made at polling stations to facilitate voting for people with disabilities and senior citizens. This included wheelchair ramps, accessible voting booths, trained personnel for assistance, and extend-

ed voting hours if needed. He reiterated the fundamental importance of every eligible individual casting their vote. This not only strengthens democratic processes but also empowers communities to voice their concerns and contribute to nation-building.

Following the meeting, a comprehensive action plan was devised, outlining specific tasks for each department and individual to ensure effective implementation of the campaign. Regular follow-ups and progress assessments were scheduled to track the impact and address any challenges that may arise.

By empowering staff members and emphasizing the theme of inclusivity, the campaign aims to create a more equitable and engaged democratic process, where every voice matters.

Doda admin accords grand farewell to retiring PWD Engineers

J I NEWS SERVICE
DODA, APRIL 30



District Administration Doda, in presence of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, hosted a grand farewell for two senior engineers from the Public Works Department (PWD), Er Ram Paul Gupta and Er Niaz Ahmed, who retired today after 36 years of committed service.

Er Ram Paul Gupta, who retired as Superintending Engineer from the PWD (R&B) Circle Doda-Kishtwar, served in various capacities, from Junior Engineer to Superintending Engineer, across multiple wings of the department. His colleagues and superiors praised his unwavering dedication and significant

contributions throughout his career.

Er Niaz Ahmed, an Assistant Engineer with the PWD (R&B) Division Doda, also retired after 36 years of service, having held roles including Junior Engineer, Assistant Executive Engineer, and Assistant Engineer in different wings of the PWD (R&B) Department.

The event, which took place at the headquarters in Doda, was attended by several dignitaries, including the CEO of the Bharderwah Development Authority (BDA), Bal Krishan. Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh extended his best wishes to both engineers for a fulfilling post-retirement life, acknowledging their hard work and dedication to the service.

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 30

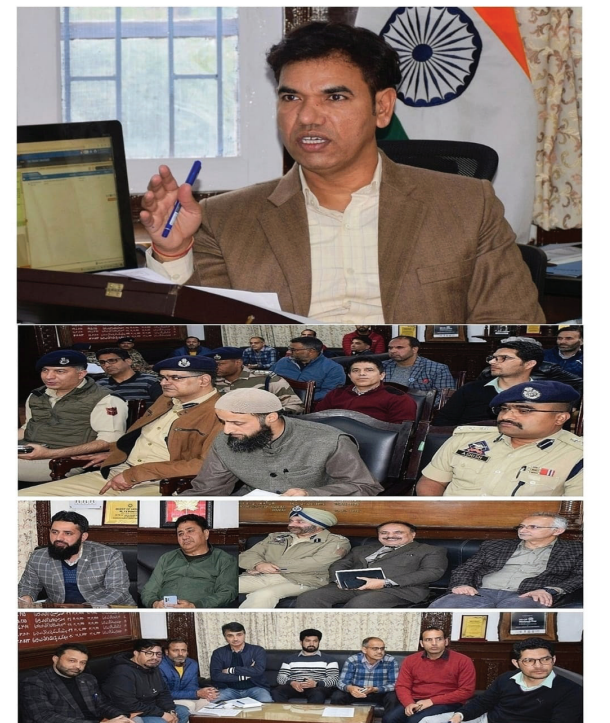
The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Tuesday called a meeting to review arrangements for the departure of Hajj Pilgrims on the holy pilgrimage to Mecca and Madina.

The departure of flights shall commence from May 09 while the last flight of pilgrims shall leave on May 25th, 2024.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, SSP Traffic, SSP Srinagar, SSP Security, Representatives of Div Com Ladakh and Jammu; Executive Officer and Haj Officer of Hajj Committee; MD RTC; Director Health Services Kashmir; Director Airport Authority and Officers of District Administration Srinagar, Customs department, SMC, KPDC, PHE, PDD, Radio, Doordarshan, BSNL, Spice Jet and other concerned departments.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed Director Airport Authority for deputation of adequate staff and installation of machinery including X-ray machines at the Hajj House besides providing other facilities for the pilgrims at the Airport.

He also directed SSP Security for issuance of entry passes for Hajj House while General Manager SRTC was asked to provide SRTC vehicles for transportation of pilgrims from Hajj House Bemina



to Airport.

Similarly, the Customs and Emigration Department was directed to facilitate pilgrims through Emigration clearance.

Div Com also reviewed Security arrangements, Traffic Management Plan besides health, drinking water and electricity facilities at Hajj House.

On the occasion, Div Com emphasised on concerned officers to make advance preparation and ensure all arrangements are put in place for the convenience of pilgrims.

He also stressed on close synergy and coordination among departments to ensure smooth and hassle-free arrangements.

The meeting was

informed that except for the Emigration clearance of Haj pilgrims all other formalities shall be completed at the Hajj House Bemina.

It was given out that all Hajj Pilgrims have been vaccinated by the Health Department. However, if any Hajj aspirant missed the vaccination a special drive of vaccination shall be conducted for them by the Hajj Committee regarding which they shall be informed accordingly.

EO, Hajj Committee also informed that the passports shall be given back to pilgrims after two days in their respective districts as per the schedule to be issued by the administration/ Hajj Committee.

Post Rainfall Scenario: DC conducts comprehensive tour of low-lying areas in Bandipora & Hajin

J I NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, APRIL 30

Amidst incessant rains, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman today undertook a comprehensive visit of low-lying areas of the Bandipora and Hajin Tehsils of district to assess situation and oversee the necessary measures.

The DC visited Aloosa Ghat, Lankreshpora, Tangwani, Gund Dachina, Hajin, and other adjoining areas to evaluate the current situation and assess any potential risks or challenges faced by residents, and take stock of situation

arisen due to incessant rains in low lying areas besides assess on-ground situation of various vital bridges including Hajin Bridge over River Jehlum.

During the visit, DC interacted with residents, listened to their concerns, and assured them that the administration is actively working to ensure the safety and well-being of all citizens.

Assessing the situation at Panchayat Ghar Aloosa Ghat, the DC directed for dewatering of panchayat premises, and also asked the BDO to strengthen the embankments of nearby streams to prevent water logging in panchayat

ghar premises.

At Lankreshpora, the DC asked Tehsildar to assess the situation and ensure that adequate measures are in place to prevent any flood like situation.

Taking on spot inspection of Tangwani Bridge Garoora, as reports regarding the damage of Tangwani Bridge were received, the DC directed the concerned to take immediate necessary steps in order to mitigate risks and ensure the safety and well-being of the public.

He also visited the Hajin area and took stock of the ground situation of various

areas besides reviewing the current situation of Jhelum Embankments and Bridges over River Jehlum.

The DC directed the concerned officers to proactively monitor the situation and take necessary steps as required with a focus on low-lying vulnerable areas on Jehlum and Wular Banks.

He emphasized the importance of preparedness and urged General Public to remain vigilant, particularly people living in low-lying areas besides urging them not to panic during such challenging times.

He said that District Admin-

istration Bandipora is closely monitoring the situation and has deployed necessary resources to address any emergencies that may arise.

Shakeel ul Rehman said, "Our priority is to ensure the safety and security of every individual, and we urge everyone to stay calm, stay informed, and not to panic besides stressed on following safety guidelines."

The DC was accompanied by CPO, AD FCS&CA, Executive Engineer R&B, Executive Engineer I&FC Sumbal, Ex. Engineer I&FC Bandipora, Tehsildar Bandipora and other concerned.

GDC Majalta hosts Mehfil-e-Mushaira

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Government Degree College Majalta on Tuesday organized a Bain lisani Mehfil-e-Mushaira (Bilingual poetry recitation program) in which the students of all the language departments participated.

The event was organized by the department of Urdu under the guidance of Prof (Dr) Shalini Sharma principal GDC Majalta.

The event commenced with a welcome address

by Dr. Shahnaz Qadri HOD Urdu, which was followed by special performance of a group of students by singing "Saarey Jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara" after that students recite poems in Urdu, English, Dogri and Hindi. Professor Shalini Sharma worthy principal was the chief guest of the occasion who spoke on the importance of such programs and appreciated students for their efforts to make the program successful.

Dr Chander Mohan

HOD English spoke on the importance of this program. The students and heads of various departments including other faculty members Dr Dalip, Dr. Palak, Dr Arshid, Dr Irshad Ahmad Dr Syed Aamir, Kuldeep & Ram Preshad grace the function by their presence.

The proceedings of the program were conducted by Prof Naresh HOD Dogri & vote of thanks was presented by Dr Shehnaz Qadri.