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As long as I am alive, there will be no religion-based reservation: PM Modi

AGENCIES
BANASKANTHA (GUJARAT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that the Congress, which had targeted him in 2014 as a 'tea-seller', had got such a reply from the country that the party which once used to occupy 400 seats, is now being brought down to 40 only.

Addressing the Vijay Vishwas meeting here today, PM Modi said that the government that was there before 2014 in



Centre was only known for news of terrorism, scams and corruption all around the country.

"This Congress 'Jammat' should listen, as long as Modi is alive, there will be no reservation on the basis of religion. Reservations for SC, ST, and OBCs have been given by the Constitution, and no one can take them away," he added.

PM Modi also challenged the Congress to declare that they would not provide

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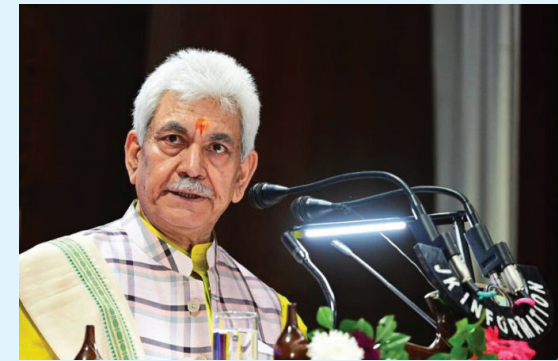
Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry delegation calls on LG

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 1

Sh Ramesh Nathal Vagharia, President, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with office bearers of SGCCI met the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

The meeting discussed several interventions for promotion of trade and industry sector in the UT of J&K.

The Lt Governor assured the delegation of necessary support and handholding from the UT Administration to the potential investors for



their business ventures in Jammu Kashmir.

Sh Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, I&C Department J&K; and members of SGCCI including Sh Nikhil Khimchand Madras, Honorary Secretary; Sh Kirankumar N. Thummar, Honorary Treasurer; Sh Sanjay Panjabi, Coordinator and Sh Arvind Mansukhlal Babawala, Chairman, Industrial Visit Committee were present during the interaction.

Doda residents accuse NHIDCL of dumping debris into river Chenab

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 01

The National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) is dumping debris into river Chenab opposite Ghat village in Doda district which is posing threat to the existence of the village and other nearby areas.

The NHIDCL is doing it illegally and against the norms laid down by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) of dumping any kind of material inside the water bodies. According to the news agency, Ghat village is home to more than 250 households and Government Medical College (GMC) Doda, and any incident will have a long lasting impact on thousands of people in general and people of Ghat in particular.

The NHIDCL has to dump the debris in already allotted dumping yards but since the start of the work thousands of metric tons of debris has been dumped inside the river which is visible from everywhere. For the last few days, more debris is being thrown inside the river and nobody is stopping them.

"Many at times district administration as well as NHIDCL authorities was apprised about the dumping of debris into the river which has increased the threat to Ghat village and water flow can damage the banks of the river and a grave situation could emerge," alleged Shahnawaz Ahmed, a resident of Ghat.

"For the last few days, NHIDCL is clearing debris accumulated due to a landslide

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CS reviews progress on implementation of multiple reforms in Transport Department

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Wednesday reviewed implementation of different reforms in the Transport Department.

Besides Secretary Transport and IG Traffic, the review meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Finance; Secretary PWD; MD RTC; Director Motor Garages; Joint Transport Commissioner; Regional Transport Officers and other concerned officers in person and virtually.



The Chief Secretary sought a precise brief about the progress achieved, so far, on different initiatives being taken up by the department from time to time to streamline its overall functioning. He asked about the progress

made, inter alia, in clearance of backlog driving licenses to be dispatched to the applicants.

Dulloo also asked about the initiatives being taken up by the department towards traffic management on roads. He took note of the action initiated by the officers against repeated offenders of traffic rules and called for stern action against habitual violators, including cancellation of Driving Licenses or Registration Certificates of their

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PDP, NC, Congress outraged over postponement of Anantnag-Rajouri Polls

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 1

The Election Commission's decision to postpone the voting for the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat to the sixth phase on May 25 has sparked outrage among the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference (NC).

Both parties have expressed strong opposition to the move, with senior leaders accusing the Commission of favor-

ing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies.

PDP, led by Mehbooba Mufti, reacted vehemently to the postponement, asserting that no matter what obstacles arise, Mufti's victory as MP is inevitable. Meanwhile, NC Vice President Omar Abdullah condemned the decision, alleging that it was a deliberate attempt to benefit the BJP and its allies.

As per news agency, addressing

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Properties of 7 terror Pak based handlers worth lacs attached in Baramulla: Police

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 1

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday said to have attached the properties in Baramulla worth lakhs belonging to seven terror handlers based in Pakistan.

"Police in Baramulla after obtaining attachment order passed by Hon'ble Additional Sessions Court Baramulla attached properties (8 Kanals, 6 Marlas & 2 Sersai) land worth lakhs belonging to terror handlers based in Pakistan namely Sajad Ahmad

Bhat son of Gh Mohammad resident of Bardan, Irshad Ahmad Khan son of Abdul Aziz resident of Pringal, Gulla Mochi son of Gama Mochi resident of Limber, Mohd Aslam Khan son of Shah Zaman resident of Pringal,

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Rainfall Fallout: Several bridges, roads; dozens of schools damaged in Kashmir

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 1

Following incessant rains over the past few days, numerous roads, bridges and structures across Kashmir have suffered damage.

According to an official statement provided to the news agency, floods have wreaked havoc on key infrastructure assets in various districts.

Among the affected structures are the Shumryal Bridge, Khumryal Bridge (side walls), Shatmuqam Bridge, Sohpora-Hayhama Bridge, Farkyan Bridge, two RDD buildings in Kupwara, and the AD Handicrafts office building. The Shumryal-Gundajhanger road has been severed due to scouring and a breach in the Doban Kachama dam.

The adverse weather



conditions have also caused damage in Uri, Baramulla and Pulwama. In Uri, several structures and roads, including Baramulla-Babreshi and Pakhwara-Tangmulla at Rafiabab, have been affected. Pulwama has witnessed partial damage to two roads and one orchard due to landslides, along with reports of a damaged boundary wall at a school. Flood spill channels at various locations have also been compromised.

Waterlogging has emerged as a major issue across several districts, affecting schools, offices and roads. Moreover, breaches in embankments at various points have resulted in water entering residential structures, compounding the challenges faced by people.

Sajad Ahmad Naqeeb, Chief Engineer of R&B Kashmir, said there have been minor damages to bridges in Kupwara, with no major incidents reported elsewhere.

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Jmu-Sgr NH reopens for light vehicles after 2 days

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was on Wednesday reopened for light motor vehicles (LMVs) after remaining

closed for the past two days following multiple landslides triggered by heavy rains in Ramban district, officials said.

Heavy motor vehicles are not allowed to ply on the highway for the time

being as the road clearance and widening operation is still on, a traffic department official said.

He said the LMVs were released on the highway from both sides around 9.30 am after debris were

cleared at Mehar, Dalwas and Magerkote.

The opening of the 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country,

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J&K Jatt Sabha demands CBI probe in Avtar Singh's brutal murder in Greater Kailash

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Jammu and Kashmir Jatt Sabha, President and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has demanded action against land grabbers, and nexus between land grabbers and police in Jammu that has resulted in the murder of a civilian at Greater Kailash in Jammu District on April 30th.

In a joint statement issued by S. Manjit Singh, Vice President of the Sabha, and DDC, Taranjit Singh Tony, District President Urban, and Ex-Corporator, Dwarka Choudhary, District President Rural, Manjit

Jatt, Urban Secretary, Harbans Choudhary and others, the leaders have demanded action against the notorious land grabber, who has been involved in the brutal murder of an innocent person namely Avtar Singh, son of Balbir Singh, resident of Mango Wali in RS Pura, at president, Kalu Chak.

"Being a border village resident, Avtar Singh had purchased the land far away from his native village here at Greater Kailash. However, he was murdered by the land grabbers / associates of a notorious land grabber and criminal, who have nexus with the police and

revenue department," the joint statement said.

Demanding CBI probe into the brutal case that took place in presence of the local police, the Sabha members demanded the arrest of the revenue officials, police officials, and the criminals, who have been working hand in gloves and allegedly were responsible for the murder.

"The police remained mute spectators when the innocent person was attacked with the iron rod and did not touch any of the attackers whereas they assisted the accused persons to escape from the plot soon after the murder," they said. He

demanding that all the police officials including Police Post Incharge of the concerned and SHO concerned police station should be booked in the murder case along with the attackers and the revenue officials.

"The action is must against the murderers, and the land grabbers for their involvement in the killing of an innocent person (actual owner of the land), who wanted to live a peaceful life with his family at Greater Kailash where his family had purchased the plot that was later re-sold to other people by the grabbers without knowledge of

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Budgam man booked for sharing 'fake' Shah speech

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR

Police here have registered a case against a Budgam resident for allegedly sharing a fake video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, officials said.

Following a complaint by BJP leader Altaf Thakur, a case was registered against Mohammad Ilyas Husain Mir at Magam Police Station of Budgam.

"This is to inform you one mischievous person under the name of Ilyas Mir Magami @

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PIL seeking eviction of Ex-Ministers/Ex-MLAs

DB extends time to Estates Dept to conclude process by June 5, 2024 instead of May 8, 2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

In the much publicized Public Interest Litigation (PIL 17/2020) seeking eviction of over-staying Ex-Ministers/Ex-Legislators from Ministerial Bungalows/A & B Type Kothies/Govt Flats, the Division Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kash-

mir and Ladakh (Jammu Wing) comprising the Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi allowed the application filed by Estates Department seeking extension of time in complying the directions of the Division Bench dated April 3, 2024 whereby the Division Bench had directed the Direc-

tor Estates Jammu/Kashmir to individually issue show cause notices to the over-staying 42 politicians including Former Chief Minister, Two Deputy CMs and many others.

While allowing the application filed by Estates Department seeking extension of time to implement the order of the

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Lok Sabha Elections-2024

General & Police Observers for Srinagar PC visit Ganderbal

JNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 1

The General Observer for O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC), Mukul Kumar along with Police Observer, Sandeep Singh Chauhan today visited Ganderbal and held a joint meeting in the V.C Room of DC Office here to take first hand appraisal of the preparedness for Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in the district.

The meeting was attended by District Election Officer, Shyambir; SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta; Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad; Dy DEO, ACR, SDM Kangan, CPO and other Nodal Officers.

At the outset, the Observers held an extensive interaction with Assistant Returning Officers

(ARO) and Nodal Officers, and discussed threadbare various crucial aspects related to the conduct of Lok Sabha elections in the district.

The District Election Officer provided a detailed overview of arrangements including SVEEP, Material Management, Manpower Plan, Transport Plan, EVM Management, arrangements at polling stations and Distribution cum Receipt Centres (DCRC), and other measures undertaken for smooth and peaceful conduct of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in the district.

Interacting with the Nodal Officers, the Observers stressed to work with utmost coordination to ensure incident free and smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections in the district.

It was informed that as many as 2,05,029 regis-



tered electorates are exercising their franchise in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in the twin Assembly Constituencies of the district.

The District Election Officer assured the Observers of the administration's full preparedness to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections. Measures such as providing facilities for voters including ramps for persons with disabilities were highlighted to enhance the voting

experience.

While reviewing the status of polling stations, the DEO informed that a total 260 polling stations are established in 213 designated locations in the district, besides 24 Special Polling stations are also established in different locations of the district.

While reviewing the AMF in polling stations, the General Observer emphasized that sufficient space shall be ensured in such polling stations which

are adjacent to each other so that voters may not face any inconvenience while casting their vote.

Furthermore, the Observers also supervised the 2nd Randomization of Polling Staff and training session being imparted to the Presiding Officers, and enjoined upon the Officers to work with added zeal and unwavering dedication to uphold sanctity of the election process and safeguarding the democratic spirit.

Meanwhile, they inspected the functioning of Media Monitoring teams during which Nodal Officer MCMC/DIO briefed them about their operations which are well-equipped and prepared to handle their responsibilities effectively. He further informed that no case of Paid News has been identified as on date in the district.

Later, the Observers inspected the readiness of

the Polling Stations during which the General Observer gave necessary instructions and stressed for close coordination among concerned officials to ensure that facilities at all polling stations meet the highest standards of accessibility and efficiency.

The Observers also thoroughly reviewed the arrangements at the Dispatch cum Receipt Centres (DCRC) established in Green Campus CUK for 18-Ganderbal Assembly Constituency and PTS Manigam for 17-Kangan constituency. Both the AROs briefed the Observers about the arrangements and action plan for dispatching poll parties and election materials to the polling stations.

They stressed on proactive approach and cooperation from all the stakeholders in preserving the sanctity of our democratic institutions.

DLSA Chairman Ramban meets land subsidence victims of village Pernote



JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 1

District Legal Services Authority Ramban led by its Chairman (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ranbir Singh Jasrotia today met land subsidence victims at Village Pernote and listened to their grievances and problems.

They stressed on proactive approach and cooperation from all the stakeholders in preserving the sanctity of our democratic institutions.

temporary locations provided by district administration, NGOs and Civil Society. The DLSA team assured the victims of all possible assistance while taking note of their grievances and problems.

The DLSA, in coordination with District Administration, is formulating a comprehensive factual report on damage and loss suffered by the affected families to project the same to the government for their rehabilitation.

The DLSA Ramban is in continuous touch with the district administration to ensure effective and timely medical and other aids to affected families. DLSA Ramban is also organising full day help desks at the temporary shelters at Panchayat Ghar Pernote and Community Hall Maitra to record the needs and grievances of the affected persons.

Justice Tashi Rabstan reviews facilities at Open Shelter Home for Girls, Phulwari

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 1

In order to review functioning and operational protocols of Child Care Institutions, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, (Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority), today visited the Open Shelter Home for Girls and State Adoption Agency (Phulwari) at Sanatnagar, Srinagar.

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.

Mukhtair Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer, Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Srinagar, Satinder Kour, Superintendent, Open Shelter Home and, Ulfat, Incharge Phulwari were present on the occasion.

During his visit, Justice Tashi Rabstan reviewed the facilities and protocols being followed by the



State Adoption Agency (SAA) and the Open Shelter Home for Girls. He took stock of every facility from kitchen to the counselling room and from recreation facilities to skill development programs.

Justice Tashi stressed on ensuring security measures including installation of CCTV cameras in and around the premises, for safety and wellbeing of the inmates. He emphasized the significance of providing a nurturing environment for the girls under the care of Phulwari besides ensuring transparent and efficient adoption procedures.

The staff of the Phulwari, during interaction with Justice Tashi, raised the issue of non-availability of Physiotherapist and speech therapist for the specially abled children.

Justice Tashi issued on the spot instructions to District Social Welfare Officer to engage these specialists for the inmates.

While expressing satisfaction regarding the facilities available at Phulwari, Justice Tashi appreciated the efforts of Social Welfare Department and the staff deputed at the Centre for taking due care of the children.

DLSA Srinagar, SMC commemorate 'International Labour Day'

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 1

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with Srinagar Municipal Corporation today observed 'International Labour Day', marking the significance of the global event, with great enthusiasm and fervor at ADR Centre, District Court Complex Srinagar.

The event, celebrated globally on May 1st every year, was held to mark the importance of labour rights and to create awareness about the significance of the day. The event was held under the guidance of Jawad Ahmed, Chairman of DLSA Srinagar (PDJ, Srinagar).

The programme witnessed the presence of Jahangir Ahmed Bakshi Secretary DLSA, Srinagar; Syed Zeenat Ul Islam, Sr. Journalist, from Asian Mail; officials and Legal Aid Defence Counsels of DLSA Srinagar, officials of Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar.



Speaking on the occasion, Secretary, DLSA Srinagar emphasized the importance of the day to the participants. He highlighted the need to promote and protect the rights of workers, and to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect.

Iram Aziz, Official DLSA Srinagar emphasized the participants about the Labour laws. She said these laws are essential for protecting the rights of workers and promoting a fair and equitable work environment.

Sehar Nazir, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Srinagar threw

light on the objectives of International Labour Day. She emphasized the need to promote fair labour practices, improve working conditions, and provide social security to workers.

The main aim of observing International Labour Day was to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the rights of workers, and to promote a culture of fair labour practices in the region. The event was an opportunity to reiterate the commitment to promoting the welfare of workers and to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect.

Labour Day DC Doda addresses workers awareness camp at Khellani Tunnel



JNEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 1

An informative camp was today organized at Khellani Tunnel here to commemorate Labour Day and raise awareness about labour laws and rights among workforce.

The event witnessed presence of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh; Tehsildar, Dy SP Hqrs, Assistant Labour Commissioner and Manager NHIDCL besides other officers and officials.

The DC, while address-

ing the gathering, highlighted about the significance of the day and commended relentless efforts of labour force, particularly those involved in the Khellani tunnel project. He emphasized on the implementation of Vishwakarma Scheme tailored for the welfare of labourers.

Later, the DC also inspected the progress of work on the Khellani Tunnel project along with various road construction works in the region.

He personally evalu-

ated the ongoing projects and urged for their early completion.

The awareness camp served as a platform to educate labourers about their rights, safety measures, and importance of adhering to labour laws, fostering a culture of respect and empowerment within the workforce.

Such initiatives reaffirm the commitment of the administration towards the well-being and prosperity of labourers in the region.

JKAACL dedicates 34th Balidaan Diwas to Amar Shaheed Sarwanand Koul Premi

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organized the 34th Balidaan Diwas in tribute to the esteemed poet, Amar Shaheed Sarwanand Koul Premi, at K L Saigal Hall, Writer's Club Jammu.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, was the chief guest on the occasion.

During his address, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of honoring the legacy of Premi ji by following his path in true spirit. He highlighted the significance of recognizing and celebrating the contribution of artists and poets towards preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the region.

The session commenced with address by Rajinder Premi followed by Principal Secretary Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta and Secretary JKAACL, Sanjeev Rana, who offered high tributes to the literary legend, Amar Shaheed Sarwanand Koul Premi.



nand Koul Premi.

The event witnessed presence of distinguished personalities and enthusiasts who celebrated the profound contribution of late poet to the cultural tapestry of the region.

The session culminated with vote of thanks by Rajinder Premi.

Following the inaugural session, another captivating paper reading session followed, featuring insightful presentations by the eminent scholars.

Professor Rattan Lal Hangloo, former VC of Allahabad University, who shed light on the literary accomplishments of Sarwanand Koul Premi.

Professor Rattan Lal Shant presided over the session while Arwind Karwani, Commissioner Relief and Rehabilitation, graced the event as chief guest. The poetry session

featured esteemed poets including B N Betab, P N Shad, A K Naaz, Santosh Shah Nadaan, JK Bezaan, Ashok Gowhar, B N Abhilash, Dolly Tickoo, Moti Lal Masroof, Tej Sagar, Dildar Mohan, Rajinder Agosh, Vijay Wali and Kusum Dhar, who mesmerized the audience with their poignant verses. A musical tribute to the poetry of Amar Shaheed Sarwanand Koul Premi captivated the audience.

NIC B'la bids farewell to official on his retirement

JNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 01

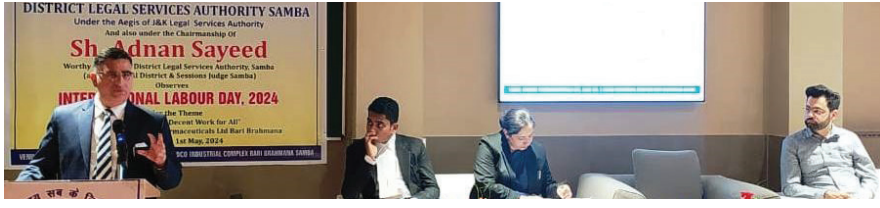
National Informatics Centre, Baramulla bid a heartfelt farewell to Ghulam Hassan Mir, who retired as a Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) after an illustrious career spanning 33 years.

Speaking during the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr.Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Technical Director Barkatullah Sheikh and colleagues of Ghulam Hassan congratulated him on his distinguished career and wished him a fulfilling and joyful new chapter of life.

Ghulam Hassan Mir expressed his gratitude towards his colleagues and said that he is thankful for the opportunities, support, and camaraderie that he has experienced during his tenure.

Labour Day

DLSA Samba hosts legal awareness program for workers



JINNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAY 1

Under able aegis of JK Legal Services Authority and as per action plan issued by J&K Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) for the month of April, 2024 and also under the insightful directions and supervision of Adnan Sayeed, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Samba, (Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Samba), District Legal Services Authority, Samba observed 'International Labour Day, 2024' under the theme 'Social Justice and Decent Work for All' by organizing a legal awareness programme on the relevant

provisions of Labour Laws for the workers of Emcure Pharmaceuticals Limited today at Emcure Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, SIDCO Industrial Complex Bari Brahmana here. The Chairman DLSA, who was Chief Guest on the occasion, in his special address greeted the workers on International Labour Day, 2024. He also discussed the historical background and importance of this day as well as New Codes of Labour Law i.e. Wage Code, Social Security Code, The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020 and the Industrial Relations Code. Assistant Labour Com-

missioner, Samba, Amil Khateeb in his address discussed the mandate of the department of Labour in district as well as the challenges being faced by the workers of the unorganized sector. Legal Aid Counsel, DLSA Samba, Hitesh Sharma, who was the speaker of the program highlighted the relevant social security provisions existing for the workers under different Labour laws with special emphasis on the Employees State Insurance Act. The programme was attended by officials and workers of the Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Legal Aid Counsels, Staff and PLVs of DLSA Samba.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024

Plantation drive brings life to 364 Kulgam polling stations under SVEEP

JINNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MAY 1

In a concerted effort towards environmental sustainability and community engagement, the District Election Office Kulgam executed plantation drives at all 364 polling stations of the district under SVEEP. With the General elections to Lok Sabha scheduled on 25th May 2024, the Kulgam Administration took proactive measures to not only enhance voter awareness but also contribute to the welfare of the environment. About the initiatives taken by the District administration, the District Election Officer Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan said that through collaborative efforts with locals, youth and volunteers each polling station has become a beacon of greenery and ecological consciousness. The plantation drives serve as a testament to the district's commitment to



fostering a culture of civic responsibility and environmental stewardship. The DEO said that Drive not only aims to enhance voter awareness but also to contribute to environmental sustainability. He also appealed to the people to use their right to vote on 25th May 2024. Pertinent to mention that such concerted efforts not only enriches the local ecosystem but also underscores the pivotal role of communities in shaping a greener and more participatory democracy.

Meanwhile, SVEEP Team under the supervision of DEO Kulgam has also planted thousands of plants including Deodar, conifer and other plants. The District has started plantation drives from day of the announcement of Elections GELS-2024 in the Country under the theme 'VOTE AND PLANT FOR FUTURE' and DEO Kulgam along with his Team is taking personal efforts to take this message to every Voter of the District and the Country.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024

Awareness programme under SVEEP held at Pulwama's Rahamoo



JINNEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, MAY 1

An impactful awareness programme under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative was conducted at Village Rahamoo, Pulwama. The event witnessed active participation from various segments of society, including the general public, women, new voters, imams and youth. The programme aimed to educate and engage the community in the electoral process, emphasizing the importance of voter participation and democratic values. Through interactive sessions and informa-

tive materials, attendees were empowered with knowledge about voter registration procedures, electoral rights, and the significance of exercising their franchise. The inclusive nature of the event, with representation from diverse demographics such as women, youth, and religious leaders, underscored the commitment towards fostering inclusive and participatory democracy. The success of the awareness programme reflected the collaborative efforts of the Election Commission and local stakeholders in promoting electoral literacy and enhancing voter turnout.

DLSA Shopian, Labour Department celebrate 'International Labour Day'

JINNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MAY 1

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian in collaboration with Labour Department Shopian today celebrated 'International Labour Day' at Transport Yard Mega Fruit Mandi Aglar, here. The programme was held under the guidance of Chairman DLSA Shopian and was attended by Labour Inspector Shopian, President Bar Association Shopian, Deputy Chief LADC Shopian, Panel Lawyers, PLVs and officials of Labour Department Shopian. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief LADC Rafie Ahmad Ganie said that 1st May is celebrated as International Labour Day all over the world. This is a day that marks the importance of labour and assures the dignity of work for every profession. The day recognizes the labourer's contribution

and impresses upon us the need to respect and honour them. He also emphasized the role of the Legal services Authority. President Bar Association Shopian, Advocate Gowher Hussain Wani also spoke about the Labour laws and said that it is concerned with the establishment of a labour-relations framework that provides peaceful industrial relations between labourers and organized workers. He enunciated the participants about different acts and schemes under Building and Construction Workers Act. Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Nasir-Ul-Islam also threw light on the provisions of labour laws. Advocate Abdul Basit Bhat held a candid interaction with the laborers present. He said the objective of celebrating this day is to spread awareness about the rights and opportunities of every laborer.

Secretary Health chairs Executive Committee meeting of State Health Society, NHM



JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 1

Secretary, Health and Medical Education (H&ME), Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today chaired Executive Committee meeting of State Health Society, National Health Mission, regarding execution of approved activities under State Programme Implementation Plan for FY 2024-25 and release of funds to District Health Societies and other implementing agencies. Mission Director NHM, Nazim Zai Khan, gave detailed PowerPoint Presentation regarding Action Taken Report on the minutes of previous meeting, approved annual Programme Implementation Plan and budget sheets for 2024-25 and other related issues. The Secretary, while reviewing the budget allocation for various schemes, stressed upon reducing out of pocket expenditure at public health facilities through proper implementation and availability of funds for various welfare

schemes under Maternal and Child Health. Dr Abid Rasheed directed the concerned for strengthening the existing process of recruitment at district and UT level to bring more transparency in the system and avoid litigations. He had discussion on various issues regarding the welfare and career progression of NHM employees. The meeting was attended by Principals of Government Medical Colleges, Jammu/ Srinagar, Director (Budget), Finance Department, Director Finance H&ME, Managing Director J&KMSCL, Director Health Services, Jammu/ Kashmir, Director AYUSH, Director Rural Development, Kashmir, Director Planning, H&ME, Additional Secretaries, H&ME, Controller, Drug Control Organization, Director Planning, NHM, Joint Director, Planning, H&ME, FA&CAO, SHS, NHM, representative from Planning and ICDS departments, Programme Managers and other officers from State Health Society, NHM.

DC Kupwara visits flood affected areas of Handwara



JINNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MAY 1

After recent flash floods, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, today visited various flood affected areas of Handwara sub-division to take stock of the situation. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather, accompanied the

Deputy Commissioner during the visit. On the occasion, DC visited Kawari village, Jagarpura, Chogal Bungam and Awathkula, and took stock of the damages caused by the recent flash floods in these areas. The DC also interacted with the flood affected residents and assured them of every possible support from the District Administration.

DM Reasi chairs district level NCORD meet



JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 1

A meeting of the District Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) was convened today under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan at DC Office Complex here. The primary agenda of meeting was to devise a comprehensive strategy to counter the menace of drug abuse in the district. During the meeting, the DM reviewed the enforcement of measures taken to eliminate drug abuse and its peddling throughout the district. He emphasized on the importance of keeping regular check

on poppy cultivation areas in the district and removing Cannabis sativa from roadside and other places. One of the key decisions taken during the meeting was to use drug kits in schools and colleges to identify individuals trapped in drug abuse. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, educational institutions and the community, to effectively combat drug abuse in the district. The meeting was attended by ADDC, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, DFO, Dy. SP HQ, Tehsildar Bhomag and other officers.

Enforcement team seizes 12 quintal banned polythene in Doda, imposes Rs 30,000 fine on violators

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 1

A joint team of JKPCC and Municipal Council seized huge quantity of banned polythene during an enforcement drive in Doda town. The team seized around 12 quintal banned material from different locations including shops, fields and residential houses. The operation, which involved the presence of a Magistrate and police personnel, was conducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh. The team, comprising Divisional Officer, Gurpreet Singh from JKPCC; Naib Tehsildar Vidya Sagar and Executive Officer, Amit Sharma from MC Doda, besides officials from the Municipality, PCC and Police personnel coordinated to carry out the seizure.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024 6 more candidates file Nomination Papers for Baramulla PC



JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 1

Six more candidates filed their nomination papers today at the office of the Returning Officer (RO), 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, Minga Sherpa, to contest the General Lok Sabha Elections-2024 from 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency. Sajad Ahmad Lone from Jammu & Kashmir People's Conference Party, Imran Raza Ansari from Jammu & Kashmir People's Conference Party and Suhail Ahmad Khan, an Independent Candidate filed their nomination papers before the

RO for 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency. Similarly, Peerzada Mudasar Rashid Shah from Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party (BHM), Nazir Ahmad Sofi, Independent Candidate, and Mustaq Ahmad Mir from National Loktantrik Party submitted their nomination papers at the office of the RO, 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency. With filing of 06 Nominations today the total number of Candidates who have filed their Candidature for 01-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency goes to ten, as four Candidates have already filed their Nominations papers.

DIC B'la bids adieu to official on his superannuation



JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 1

The District Information Centre (DIC) Baramulla bade a heartfelt farewell to Hakeem Ghulam Mohammad, Senior Assistant, who retired on superannuation after 40 years of dedicated service. In a ceremony held at the Girls' Higher Secondary School Baramulla, colleagues, friends, and dignitaries came together to celebrate the illustrious career of Hakeem Ghulam Mohammad. District Information Officer (DIO), Baramulla, Iftikhar Ahmad, officials from Information Depart-

ment Baramulla, employees from several other departments and other Media persons. During the farewell function, the DIO hailed the contributions of Ghulam Mohammad in the department and congratulated him on his retirement. He extended his best wishes for his post-retirement life. In his farewell address, Hakeem Ghulam Mohammad reflected on the journey of his illustrious career in the information department and expressed gratitude for the support and camaraderie he received during his time at DIC Baramulla.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024 DEO Shopian inspects polling stations of AC Zainapora

JINNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MAY 1

The District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today undertook an extensive visit to several polling stations of the Zainapora Assembly Constituency of the district (part of the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency), in order to inspect and review on-ground preparation for the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections. DEO inspected polling stations located at Dangam, Baaskuchan, Cheermarg and Babapora villages of the constituency with the aim to assess and review the status of assured minimum facilities at these polling stations. The inspection encompassed a thorough examination of various facilities

put in place for the smooth conduct of the elections. During the inspection, the DEO engaged with stakeholders to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place to facilitate a smooth and efficient voting process. Basic amenities such as electricity, water supply, sanitation, accessibility for differently-abled voters was assessed at these polling stations besides logistical support for polling staff was also taken stock of. Expressing satisfaction with the overall preparedness observed during the visit, the DEO said that facilitating free, fair and transparent elections is the utmost priority of the district administration. The DEO was accompanied by AEROs, BDOs, BLOs and other concerned officers and officials.

Labour Day celebrated with enthusiasm across J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Labour Day, celebrated to honor the invaluable contributions of workers was marked with fervor and gratitude to workers across J&K. A function was also organized at Akhnoor in Jammu where Labour Commissioner J&K, Sh Charandeep Singh graced the occasion. The events underscored commitment towards supporting the welfare and rights of workers and symbolized solidarity with the labour force, reaffirming the importance of their role in nation-building.

A diverse assembly of workers and members of the public gathered to commemorate the day. At Akhnoor, Labour Commissioner, J&K interacted with members of the labour class, engaging in meaningful discussions about their challenges and aspirations. Subject of wages, safety and health and basic amenities envisaged under labour laws were touched upon. The event also provided a platform for beneficiaries of labour welfare schemes to share their inspiring stories, highlighting the transformative impact of these welfare initiatives in their lives.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh Charandeep Singh reiterated the commitment of the Labour Department towards fostering an inclusive and equitable environment that empowers labourers



and ensures their holistic development. "We are committed to enhancing the welfare, safety, health and overall well-being of workers in both the organised and unorganised sectors and also harmonizing the needs of workers and industry" he said.

Recognising the role of various individuals in advancing the cause of Labour welfare including social workers and employees, appreciation certificates were handed over to them by the Labour Commissioner. A captivating street play (Nukkad Natak) showcasing the various labour welfare schemes was also performed on the occasion. Later in the day, Sh Charandeep Singh also interacted with female students of the Integrated Village Development Center of Sohal Akhnoor, underscoring the government's commitment to empowering women and providing them with equal opportunities for growth and development.

Others who were pres-

ent included ALC Central Smt Renu Bala, officers and officials of the Labour Department, prominent citizens, social workers, employers representatives and members of the general public.

Assistant Labour Commissioner, Jammu Smt Rupali Jasrotia expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their active involvement and reiterated the department's unwavering dedication to advocating for the welfare and rights of workers. A vote of thanks was also extended by her. Labour Day was celebrated throughout the J&K with active participation of all Assistant Labour Commissioners in their respective districts. As Labour Day concluded amidst a spirit of camaraderie and gratitude, it served as a poignant reminder of the indomitable spirit and resilience of the labour force, whose efforts continue to fuel the progress and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir and the nation.

Police arrest drug peddler in Baramulla; Contraband substances recovered

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 1

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested a drug peddler in Baramulla and recovered contraband substance from his possession. A Police party of Police Post Palhallan headed by IC PP Palhallan at a checkpoint established at Palhallan-Yadipora Crossing intercepted a person identified as Irfan Ahmad Dhobi son of Bashir Ahmad resident of Shah Mohalla Palhallan. During search, 115 grams of Charas like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Pattan where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law have been registered at Police Station Pattan and investigation has been



initiated.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People

are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

Police seizes 2 vehicles involved in illegal mining in Baramulla; 2 drivers arrested



JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 1

Cracking a whip on illegal mining of minerals, police have seized two vehicles (tractors) and arrested two drivers in Baramulla.

The Police initiated the action under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Baramulla assisted by SHO PS Sheeri seized two vehicles (tractors) and arrested two drivers at Sheeri Baramulla, involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals. The accused drivers have been identified as

Yawar Rasheed Sheikh son of Abdul Rasheed & Umair Ahmad Ahanger son of Mohd Shafi both residents of Fatehgarh Sheeri. Accordingly, case under relevant sections of law have been registered in Police Station Sheeri and further investigation has been taken up. People are requested not to indulge in any kind of illegal mining activities from any Nallah/River, as it is the violation of Government rules. Persons found indulging in illegal mining activities shall be dealt as per law.

Jammu Police apprehends two notorious criminals

Hardcore criminal Tajinder Singh @Happy R/o Miran Sahib booked under Public Safety Act

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 5

Jammu & Kashmir Police acting tough against hardcore criminals in RS Pura-Miran Sahib area of Jammu District apprehended two hardcore, notorious criminals. In this direction a notorious criminal has been detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu District by Miran Sahib Police, today on 01.05.2024.

The hardcore criminal namely Tajinder Singh @ Happy S/O Mohinder Singh R/O Miran Sahib District Jammu has been booked under Public Safety Act for his repeated criminal activities in an organised manner, posing a threat to peace and order.

The accused did not change his behaviour/criminal activities, in spite of which, he has been booked under several FIR's and has been arrested by police in number of cases earlier, but he continued his criminal activities and such activities are likely to disturb, peace, tranquility & public order particularly in Police Sub Division R.S.Pura of Jammu District.

As per Police record, the said criminal is involved in more than 10 cases including those involving



heinous offences.

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

Action against notorious hardcore criminals is among the top priorities of Jammu & Kashmir Police which aims not only to take stringent action under substantive laws against notorious criminals but also stricter preventive measures towards maintenance of peace, tranquility and public order.

Moreover, Police has also detained one more notorious, hardcore criminal and repeated offender namely Raman Kumar S/O

Bohdh Raj R/o Kathar, Arnia who had been recently released from Jail and was again found indulging in criminal activities.

With the arrest of both these notorious criminals who are also repeat offenders, Jammu and Kashmir Police has given a loud message that no one would be allowed to disturb peace and tranquility in the area.

The arrest of Tajinder Singh @Happy was made by a team of P/S Miran Sahib headed by SHO P/S Miran Sahib under the close supervision of SDPO R.S.Pura, SP Hqrs Jammu & overall supervision SSP Jammu.

The locals of the area have highly appreciated the swift efforts of the J&K Police in acting tough, in curbing criminal activities from the area.

Nominations for Padma Awards-2025 begins

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

Online nominations/recommendations for the Padma Awards 2025 to be announced on the occasion of Republic Day, 2025 have begun from today. The last date for nominations for Padma Awards is 15th September, 2024. The nominations/recommendations for Padma Awards will be received online on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (<https://awards.gov.in>).

The Padma Awards, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country. Instituted in 1954, these Awards are announced on the occasion of the Republic Day every year. The award seeks to recognize 'work of distinction' and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields/disciplines, such as, Art, Literature and Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work, Science and Engineering, Public Affairs, Civil Service, Trade and Industry etc. All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these Awards. Government servants including those working with PSUs, except Doctors and Scientists, are not eligible for

Padma Awards.

The Government is committed to transform Padma Awards into "People's Padma". All citizens are, therefore, requested to make nominations/recommendations, including self-nomination. Concerted efforts may be made to identify talented persons whose excellence and achievements really deserve to be recognized from amongst women, weaker sections of the society, SCs & STs, divyang persons and who are doing selfless service to the society. The nominations/recommendations should contain all relevant details specified in the format available in the format available on the above said Portal, including a citation in narrative form (maximum 800 words), clearly bringing out the distinguished and exceptional achievements/service of the person recommended in her/his respective field/discipline. Details in this regard are also available under the heading 'Awards and Medals' on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs (<https://mha.gov.in>) and on the Padma Awards Portal (<https://padmaawards.gov.in>). The statutes and rules relating to these awards are available on the website with the link <https://padmaawards.gov.in/AboutAwards.aspx>.

GPJ celebrates 'International Labour Day'

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Government Polytechnic Jammu today organised a function to honour all the workers of the institute on occasion of International Labour Day 2024, in which Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal of the college was chief guest who in his inaugural speech appreciated the efforts of all Class IV and labour class for their sincere efforts in performing their duties with full dedication and their contribution towards the society. The Principal stressed on the fact that Government Polytechnic Jammu is committed to provide every possible help to the employees of the college and at same time advised them to work with more dedication. All the workers were felicitated with a token of gratitude for their untiring services to the college. Sh Amit Sharma



I/C HoD Travel and Tourism and Sports Secretary also highlighted the efforts and services of the workers and presented a vote of thanks in favor of chief guest Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal, Sh Raj Kumar HoD Mechanical Engineering department, Sh Raj Shekhar HoD Automobile engineering, Sh Manjeet Singh HoD Electrical engineering, Sh Sanjay Koul HoD Computer science, Sh Sukhdeep Singh HoD

Civil engineering department and all the workers in whose honour the function was organised. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Smt Mannu Rajput, Sh Chamel Singh and Smt Shailla Iram. Others who were present on the occasion include Sh Akhil Kumar Lecturer, Sh Himanshu Bakshi, Sh Gagan Partap Singh, Smt Toshvi Devi and Sh Rakesh Kumar.

Director CSIR-IIIM launches Swachhata Pakhwada

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

In its staunch to enthusiastically work for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine has launched a fortnightly cleanliness drive here today at its main campus at Jammu.

An official spokesperson of the institution said the Swachhata Pakhwada activities were inaugurated by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, with the plantation of saplings, followed by administrating the Swachhata Pledge to scientists, technical, administrative staff, research scholars and other workers.

It is pertinent to mention that Swachhata Pakhwada is an initiative of the



Prime Minister started in 2014 with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata by engaging GOI Ministries/Departments in their jurisdictions.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed while launching the Swachhata Pakhwada activities schedule for next two weeks in the institute said that Swachhata Pakhwada is a significant initiative

under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Mission and it is imperative for government offices to provide a clean and healthy working environment for its employees/visitors.

He also emphasised the need to educate people about the virtues of good sanitation practices and urged everyone to undertake special drives to clean their workplaces. CSIR-IIIM, Jammu under

the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has been observing this program every year, he added and mentioned that planting of more trees, cleaning of all labs, disposal of wastes, cleaning whole premises of institute and its beautification have been scheduled during the Pakhwada.

For undertaking the various activities during this Swachhata Pakhwada, scientists, students, supporting staff and Safai Karamcharies will take active part, he said.

It was also mentioned that IIIM has a standing "Swachh Bharat Mission Committee" comprising of Dr. P N Gupta, Senior Principal Scientist, Vikram

Singh, Sr. Controller of Administration, Rajesh Gupta, Administrative Officer, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Principal Scientist, Dr. Ravi Shanker, Principal Scientist, Dr. Rajendra Bhanwaria, Senior Scientist, Dr. Love Sharma, Scientist, Arvind Kumar Yadav, Senior Technical Officer, Chandra Pal Singh, Technical Officer, Er. Jai Sharma, AEE Civil & Bal Krishan, Security Officer, who would monitor and oversee the activities which are going to be happened during the Pakhwada.

Prominent among other present were Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist, All HoDs, Ajay Kumar, Controller of Finance & Accounts, Dilip Gehlot, Store and Purchase Officer.

SKUAST-TAJ felicitates Officers, Non-Teaching Employees on their superannuation



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

SKUAST-Teaching Association Jammu (SKUAST-TAJ) felicitates Sh Jatinder Raina - Joint Registrar, S. Manmohan Singh - Deputy Comptroller, Sh Subhash Chander - FCLA, Sh. Darshan Kumar - FCLA and Sh Hemraj - OCC on their superannuation after

rendering distinguished services of more than 35 years. President Teaching Association Dr. Vikas Sharma informed that Sh Jatinder Raina and S. Manmohan Singh proved themselves very enthusiastic and dynamic administrators during their tenure and all the superannuating non teaching employees were the backbone of agri-

culture University. Advisor SKUAST-TAJ Dr. RK Samnotra and the office bearers of teaching association - Dr Vivak Arya - General Secretary TAJ, Dr. PK Rai-Joint Secretary, Dr. Devinder Sharma - Publicity Secretary, Dr. Rajiv Bharat-Treasurer, wished the retiring employees a very healthy / prosperous post retired life.

EDITORIAL

Unity needed in Ladakh's political landscape

The recent fissure within the opposition INDIA bloc in Ladakh has underscored the need for unity and consensus-building, especially in a region as diverse and politically nuanced as Ladakh Union Territory. The announcement of former Chief Executive Councilor Haji Hanifa Jan as the joint candidate of the Congress and National Conference (NC) for the lone Lok Sabha seat has brought to light the complex dynamics at play in Ladakh's electoral landscape. The response from Nawang Rigzin Jora, the Ladakh Congress president, reflects the underlying tensions and divergent viewpoints within the party regarding this decision. While efforts were made to present a united front through consultations and consensus-building, the vertical split between the Kargil and Leh districts, both ideologically and demographically distinct, has posed a significant challenge. The rationale behind the nomination of Haji Hanifa Jan as the consensus candidate stems from the desire to avoid the division of votes and present a unified front against the ruling party. However, the lack of coordination and communication between the leadership of the two districts has led to confusion and disunity within the opposition ranks. It is imperative that the Congress high command steps in to resolve this discord and ensure a cohesive strategy moving forward. The absence of a formal announcement regarding Haji Hanifa Jan's nomination only adds to the ambiguity surrounding the situation, further exacerbating tensions within the party and the broader opposition coalition. The coalition partnership between the NC and Congress in Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Kargil underscores the potential for collaboration and mutual benefit. In October last year, the NC emerged as the single largest political party in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Kargil by bagging 12 seats out of a total 17 on which it fielded its candidates while the Congress stood second with 10 seats. However, this partnership must be guided by transparency, inclusivity, and a shared vision for the welfare of the region and its people. As the deadline for filing nominations draws near, it is crucial that all stakeholders prioritize the interests of Ladakh Union Territory above individual ambitions or district-based allegiances. The voices of the people must be heard and respected in the decision-making process, ensuring that their concerns and aspirations are adequately represented in the political arena. The upcoming Lok Sabha elections present an opportunity for Ladakh to reaffirm its commitment to democracy and pluralism. It is imperative that the opposition INDIA bloc rises above internal divisions and presents a united front to effectively challenge the status quo. Only through unity and solidarity can Ladakh realize its full potential and chart a path towards inclusive development and prosperity for all its residents.

A S MITTAL

As our lives become increasingly reliant on technology, semiconductors have become the essential foundation of society. These tiny chips are the powerhouses behind our electronic devices, communication systems and even the functioning of our agricultural implements, medical equipment and vehicles. India has recognised the enormous socio-economic potential and strategic importance of this silent revolution of technology and is taking the lead in building a robust semiconductor ecosystem and developing a talented workforce.

India's goal of becoming self-sufficient and a global leader in semiconductors is supported by the fact that the semiconductor industry is expected to generate over one million job opportunities for semiconductor design engineers, manufacturing engineers, R&D scientists, operators, technicians and skilled workers in chip design and semiconductor fabrication, packaging and sales facilities over the next five years.

"Around 30 per cent of the new global capability centres established in India during the December quarter of last year were in the semiconductor space, indicating a growing interest in

leveraging the local talent pool in areas such as front-end design, performance testing and post-silicon validation", according to the National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) and Zinnov latest report. The world's leading chip design companies, including Intel, Texas Instruments, AMD, Nvidia and Qualcomm, have design and R&D centres in India. AMD recently inaugurated its largest global design centre in Bengaluru.

In March, an event-'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat,' witnessed the foundation stone of three semiconductor projects worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore.

Tata Electronics in partnership with Taiwan's Power Chip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC), set up the country's first semiconductor fab plant in Dholera (Gujrat) with an investment of Rs 91,000 crore and another plant in Morigaon (Assam) with investment of Rs 27,000 crore, with the first chips to begin coming off the production line in 2026. US-based semiconductor manufacturer Micron India plant with an investment of Rs 22,500 crore in Sanand (Gujarat), is expected to roll out the first "Made in India" memory chips by December. It is contributing its bit to the Chandrayaan-3 mission Semiconductor

Corporation of India (SCL) proposed to update and expand its chip facility in the Mohali plant with an investment of Rs 20,000 crore, to enhance its contribution to ISRO and other space research organisations globally.

95 Percent Import Dependency: Despite the upward trajectory of India's current semiconductor chip ecosystem, the country remains dependent on the US, Taiwan, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea, with over 95 per cent of semiconductors imported from these countries. To reduce this dependency on imports, India recognised the strategic importance of a robust domestic semiconductor industry. It unveiled the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) offering 50 per cent capital expenditure support to new entrants, production-linked incentive (PLI) and design-linked incentive (DLI) schemes with an outlay of Rs 76,000 crore, as well as state Government incentive support, international partnerships and a focus on talent development. The Electronic and IT Ministry plans to train over 85,000 engineers in chip design over the next five years to address the skill gap. Such focused efforts aim to steer the ecosystem through nurturing policymaking to develop a

self-sufficient ecosystem.

Moreover, the geopolitical uncertainties involving the China-US trade war have compelled companies to seek alternative production bases or sourcing locations outside China. Amid this relocation in the industry, India and Southeast Asian nations like Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia have been preferred for front-end manufacturing in the future. India's entry into this ecosystem is timely and strategically important for diversifying the global supply chain and positioning India as a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing and technology development, fostering the creation of employment opportunities for the nation's youth.

Present Landscape and Scope of Growth: Bengaluru and Hyderabad together host about two-thirds of India's semiconductor global capability centres (GCCs), which is over two-thirds of the total 55 semiconductor GCCs in the country. With more than 95 GCC units and a specialised workforce of 50,000, this demonstrates India's strong commitment to the semiconductor industry. Presently, India's semiconductor market is valued at an estimated \$15 billion and is expected to reach \$55 billion by 2026. Smartphones

and wearables, automobile components, computers and data storage account for more than 60 per cent of the market.

Challenges: Semiconductor manufacturing is an extremely complex process that requires precision at the smallest level. Since the global chip world is closely connected, Indian companies need to collaborate with countries like Taiwan and South Korea to gain access to advanced technology that will enable them to support emerging applications with more chip content, such as autonomous machines, smart medical devices, futuristic communications at 6G onward and AI across electronics.

Bridge the skill gap: India needs to bridge the skill gap, especially for advanced chip design and fabrication. The global semiconductor manufacturing industry has a talent pool of 2.3 million, with nearly 25 per cent of senior talent being Indian.

To attract and retain this talent, Indian companies are holding roadshows in Taiwan's chip manufacturing centre of Hsinchu. Communications and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav says, "The engineers who have decided to return to India from the US are younger, while those from Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia are generally over 45 years and with more experience. We

expect many of them to come back to participate in India's high-tech manufacturing revolution".

Road Ahead: The future of the semiconductor industry in India holds immense promise. It will play a crucial role in shaping the country's advanced technological landscape, driving economic growth and positioning India as a global leader in innovation. The semiconductor industry will also generate opportunities for an entrant and Indian talent working in this sector globally, many of whom wish to return to their roots.

India's ambition to become a self-reliant and dominant player in the semiconductor industry is clear. With the talent, resources and infrastructure in place, India is poised to make significant strides in the semiconductor sector and establish itself as a global leader in the years to come.

-The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman (Cabinet Minister rank) of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President, of Tractor and Mechanisation Association (TMA). Views expressed are personal

For Congress, economic reforms and social justice go hand in hand

RACHIT SETH

The Congress' election manifesto is a hotly debated election topic with the party firefighting the daily allegations against it. Has its 48-page Nyay Patra exposed the ideological contradictions of its economic policy, or has it carefully crafted an agenda of future governance, using 'Nyay' (justice) as its theme?

After the first phase of polling on April 19, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) concocted outrageous claims regarding the Congress' manifesto, and leading this attack was Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Indian Overseas Congress Chairman Sam Pitroda's comments on inheritance tax amplified this attack.

The aim of this article is not to dissect a widely covered and discussed political controversy, but to examine whether the Congress has veered away from the agenda of

liberal economic reforms and taken a more leftward turn as is being alleged by the BJP.

A new template

The Congress manifesto's thrust on Nyay (social justice) is reflected in its focus on the caste census, and breaking the 50 per cent threshold for reservation and Mandal politics. That said, through the manifesto, the Congress tries to carefully construct an agenda for the second round of economic reforms. It has woefully failed to convey this to the electorate thus far, and the BJP is capitalising on this failure.

The pledge to implement a socio-economic caste census has been the central talking point of the Congress' politics for over a year now. Fundamentally, there is no harm in a caste census, because the last OBC census was conducted in 1931, and the Mandal Commission estimated the OBC population at 52 per cent, which in

today's scenario if counted, would be higher in numbers.

Given that the Modi-led government has not conducted the decennial Census 2021, it is important to have basic data for policymaking. This entire narrative of 'Ginti Karo' and 'Hissedari Nyay' through increasing reservation in the form of affirmative action, beyond 50 per cent, has also created a new template of politics to counter the BJP's religion-based politics. That is the reason why the BJP is spinning it to create anxiety among its key vote base - the affluent and the middle class.

The flip side is that this narrative of Mandal politics and social justice has eclipsed the agenda of economic reforms mentioned in the Congress manifesto. A detailed reading of the Congress manifesto tells us that it has proposed at least 50 measures of such economic reforms which are not only progressive but are also missing from

the BJP manifesto - a party which boasts of making India 'Viksit' by 2047.

Wealth creation, and farm reforms

The Congress manifesto focuses on wealth creation and promises to design laws that will facilitate the 'production of goods and services in larger volumes and higher values.' It talks about reviewing laws that inhibit free and fair trade and about doubling the GDP in 10 years. It neither talks about redistribution of wealth nor inheritance tax. The only mention of 'inheritance' is for providing equal rights to property to women. The grand old party's manifesto promises to support every enterprise in its endeavour to create jobs and the freedom to sell anywhere.

The Congress has incorporated a series of farm reform proposals, and is unlike the BJP which has shied away from this topic, having lost political capital after the farmer protests where the Union

government was forced to roll back its three controversial farm laws. The Congress manifesto falls short of abolishing the APMC Act, but it proposes incremental agricultural reforms, including a sound export-import policy of farm produce - which is a contentious issue skipped by the BJP.

A new economic policy

The Congress manifesto promises to raise the share of manufacturing from '14 per cent to 20 per cent of GDP in the next five years.' It also promises to 'introduce reforms in industrial and labour laws to restore the balance between labour and capital to meet our twin goals of full employment and high productivity gains'.

Emphasising that it steered the 1991 liberalisation, the Congress bats for an open, free, and competitive economy with regulatory oversight by proposing a 'Nav Sankalp Economic Policy', which gives priority to 'jobs'.

Interestingly, unlike the BJP, the Congress proposes to 'create a new employment-linked incentive (ELI) Scheme for corporates to win tax credits for additional hiring against regular, quality jobs.' - a need of the hour to solve the growing issue of rampant unemployment.

Under the rhetoric of caste-based politics of reservation and affirmative Mandal-driven action, the Congress conveniently plugs its economic agenda, which is progressive, reform-oriented, free-market driven and liberal. It is a crying shame that despite having such a liberal agenda, the principal opposition is forced to douse the fire of lies and contrived propaganda.

(Rachit Seth is Founder, Policy Briefcase, and is a policy analyst with the Indian National Congress. The views expressed are personal. Twitter - @rachitseth)

A picture is worth a thousand words

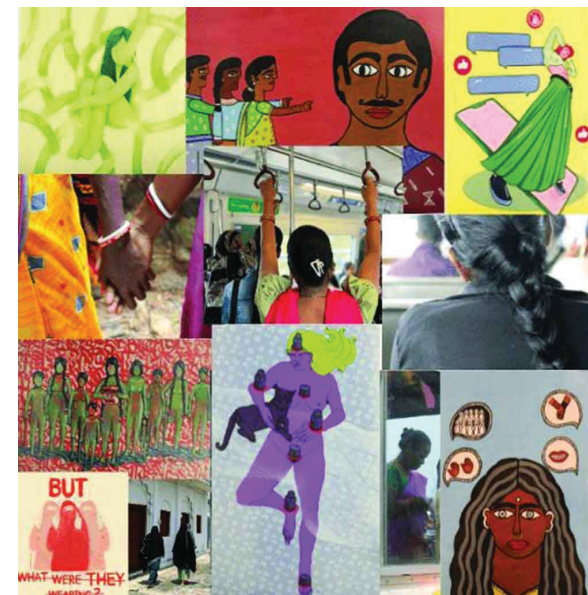
SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

As a scared figure crouching in a corner, a large hand covering a mouth trying to muffle a scream, outstretched arms pleading for help, tattered clothes. More often than not, images like these accompany media reports of sexual violence against women. As a survivor of sexual harassment, Ankita Anand felt insulted looking at these images. She didn't want to be depicted this way.

What upset her most were drawings meant to represent the survivors and create awareness that served to titillate. She decided to take matters into her own hands. The activist-turned-journalist started a campaign with a Change Org petition and directed her attention to one of the major news channels to set an example by not using disrespect-

ful images of women in sexual violence reporting. What was needed to transform the way society perceived women was images that were not about helplessness but about the rage that challenged the oppression. Pictures that showed that women are "doers," not always the "done-upon-s." were shared by Anand in her piece about her innovative campaign for the Network of Women in Media, India.

While her 2018 petition garnered over 47,000 signatures and also helped to spotlight an earlier Redraw Misogyny campaign by Breakthrough, an organisation working to end violence against women, many media platforms continue to churn out images that strip the victim of agency and perpetuate shame and stigma attached with rape and sexual harassment, creating a biased perception of women who have experi-



enced sexual violence.

But now Anand and the many survivors in India and the region, no longer have to be depicted in this disempowering way thanks to the just-launched free-to-use image bank reframing visual narratives around women and sexual violence in South

Asian media.

Conceptualised by the Hri Institute for Southasian Research and Exchange, Kathmandu and developed with the help of a team of artists and photographers from India and Nepal, the image bank re-imagines visual depiction of women and sexual

violence to address the wide spectrum of women's experiences. It is an outcome of a unique collaborative effort to explore the role images play in forming perceptions around sexual assault, women and gender equality. The project 'Challenging Visual Depiction of Women and Sexual Violence in Southeast Asia' led by Laxmi Murthy and Pawas Manandhar united researchers, activists, filmmakers, and artists to redefine visual portrayals of gender-based violence in cinema, media, and popular culture across Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

The one-year project focused on challenging problematic imagery and promoting more meaningful depictions of violence and trauma. South Asian artists utilised textiles alongside illustrations and photos to narrate stories of injustices against women.

It is an important artistic medium of expression, especially for those who have suffered violence, repression and discrimination as textiles are inextricably linked to the lives of people, particularly women. "I Never Ask For It," a campaign by Blank Noise, a Bengaluru-based volunteer-led project, has been working to generate awareness of gender-based violence and end victim shaming/blaming by building testimonies of clothing. Images from this campaign can also support survivors of violence to feel heard and believed.

A picture is worth a thousand words. It can transform the way sexual violence against women is framed in the media when used sensitively and appropriately. It just needs the will to do it.

(The author is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views expressed are personal)

S.S. Sodhi, PVC Ignites Academic Excellence Among Students of DPS Katra

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

S.S. Sodhi, Hon'ble Pro Vice Chairperson, Delhi Public School Katra inspired students and staff at DPS Katra, delivering a motivational speech aimed at fostering academic excellence and nurturing aspirations towards civil services, including the prestigious Indian Administrative Service (IAS), J&K Administrative Service (JKAS), and other relevant positions. During his highly engaging address, the Pro Vice Chairperson shared personal anecdotes from his student days and emphasized the sense of belongingness and love for the institution. Highlighting the importance of dedica-

tion, perseverance, and a strong work ethic, Sh Sodhi said that education is a transformative tool that empowers individuals to make meaningful contributions to society. He urged students to set ambitious yet achievable goals, emphasizing the value of being focused, goal-oriented, and carving a meaningful purpose in life.

Success, according to Sh. Sodhi, extends beyond academic achievements to the impact one makes in the communities through knowledge and effective leadership. He stressed the nobility of service inherent in civil servants and urged students to consider a career in civil services, where they can contribute to the nation's

overall development and welfare.

Sh. Sodhi's visit left a lasting impression on the students, inspiring them to redouble their efforts in academic pursuits and aspire to become future leaders and change-makers in society. He extended his best wishes to the students and staff, encouraging them to value their time and pursue their goals with passion and determination.

Principal Miss Manikarnika Sharma, Administrator Ms. Simi Sharma, and all faculty members expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Hon'ble PVC Sh. S.S.Sodhi for his valuable advice and assured him for taking the school to even greater heights.

Painting competition organised to commemorate Kargil Vijay Diwas at Pallanwalla, Akhnoor



JINNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, MAY 1

The spirit of valour and tribute came alive at Pallanwalla Senior Secondary School as the Indian Army organised a painting competition to commemorate 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas.

The event, was held in the border area of Pallanwalla and served as a vibrant homage to the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers. The competition, held in Pallanwalla, witnessed enthusiastic participation

from students. Participants poured their hearts onto canvases, depicting the indomitable spirit of our armed forces and the resolute determination that led to victory in the Kargil War. Principal of the school, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming response to the event. He also said that It's heartwarming to see the community come together to honor the heroes who laid down their lives for our Nation. The paintings showcased a kaleidoscope of emotions, ranging from

pride and patriotism to solemn remembrance. Each stroke of the brush served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by our soldiers and their unwavering commitment to safeguarding our borders. The participants were lauded for their creativity and dedication in paying homage to the martyrs of the Kargil War. Prizes were awarded to the most outstanding artworks, but the true reward lies in the collective effort to honour the sacrifices of our heroes.

GPW Jammu celebrates International Labour Day



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Continuing with the tradition The International Labour Day was celebrated with enthusiasm in Government Polytechnic for Women Jammu today. Er. Suket Gupta Principal was the chief guest on the occasion.

On the occasion, the casual labourers and the back end team involved in implementing the PM Vishvakarma Scheme in the institution were honoured with certificate of appreciation and gifts.

Er. Naresh Gupta H.O.D. E&C, while speaking during the function

highlighted the need of recognition of contribution of labour class in development of skill ecosystem in the institution. He also highlighted the aims and objectives of the PM Vishvakarma Scheme and impressed upon the vishvakarmas present on the occasion to take maximum benefits of the scheme.

Among those present on the occasion included Ms. Nusrat Jan, HOD OMCA, Er. Kamal Kumar HOD Textile, faculty and staff of the institution. The program was coordinated by Ms. Bhawna Arora Program officer NSS wing.

Power shutdown

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Chief Engineer (Distribution), JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Industrial Area SIDCO Ghatti, Channi, Marheen, Paharpur, Rajbagh, Chandwan, Hariachack, Nanan Barnoti and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 02 and 03 from 6 am to 10 am.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Jogpur, Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 02 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Old Vijaypur, Vijaypur, Vijaypur Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 03 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Jerda and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 03 and 05 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Mahal and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 02, 04 and 06 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Police accords warm send-off to retiring officers on their superannuation in Ganderbal



JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 1

Police in Ganderbal organised a farewell function to accord a warm send-off to 05 officers who superannuated from their active services. On attaining the age of superannuation, retirees were given a warm send-off by all ranks of Ganderbal Police. On their retirement, a simple but impressive farewell party was organized at PS Gund & DPL Ganderbal.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Ganderbal Shri Sandeep Gupta-IPS appreciated the work and dedication of the retiree officers towards their duties. He extended good

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

Addl. SP Shri Malik Aijaz-JKPS, SDPO Kangan Shri Muzaffar Jan-JKPS, Shri Gh Hassan-JKPS Hqs Ganderbal, DySP DAR DPL Ganderbal Shri Nazir Ahmad, other Police officers/officials were also present on the said occasion. They also acknowledged the contribution of the outgoing officers and conveyed their best wishes to them for post-retirement life.

International conference on Materials for Sustainable Development Begins at CUJ



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

A three day "2nd International Conference on Materials for Sustainable Development and Technologies (ICMSDT-2024)" from 1 - 3, May 2024 at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, Central University of Jammu (CUJ).

The conference involved a gathering of renowned scientists and academicians across the country and abroad. The ICMSDT-2024 was organised by the Department of Nano Sciences and Materials under the patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice chancellor, CUJ.

In his presidential remarks Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University Jammu extended his heartiest welcome to the pool of intellectuals, dignitaries, and guests of the event. Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir graced the occasion as Chief guest.

Prof. Vinay Kumar, Dean of Applied and Basic Sciences, commended

the Department of Nano sciences for successfully organizing the 2nd International Conference. He further emphasized the importance of the research facilities, which will provide students and scholars with valuable opportunities to engage in innovative research. Dr. Vishal Singh, the Convener of the conference, provided an overview of the event, while Dr. Praveen Mehta warmly introduced the chief guest and invited him to address the attendees.

The first day of the conference featured two parallel sessions that included keynote lectures, plenary talks, invited talks, oral and poster presentations. The day began with ceremonial lamp lighting and the release of the "Abstract book." Prof. Balaji Rao Ravuri, Conference Chair of ICMSDT-2024 and Head of the Department of Nano Science and Materials, delivered a welcome address.

The formal vote of thanks was presented by Convener, Dr Pragati

Kumar. Approximate number of 250 participants were registered for the conference. The technical sessions comprised the keynote talks by eminent speakers from various universities across India and abroad.

There were 27 delegates from the 13 Indian states and 26 delegates from 15 other nations that attended this conference. There were many participants from national and international level. Out of them 44 participated from 14 nations and 174 participated from 19 states of India. The conference was enriched by the presence of Prof. Sabu Thomas, Prof. K. K. Raina, Prof. Chennupati Jagdish, Prof. R.P. Tandon, and Prof. Ravi Kumar, who generously shared their expertise through expert lectures.

On the very first day, the faculty members (Dr. Praveen Kumar, Dr. Tanuj Kumar, and Dr. Pawan Kumar) worked diligently to conduct parallel sessions with research scholars and M. Sc. students.

Modi Govt safeguarded rights of Gujjars, Bakerwals; provided succor through welfare schemes: Kavinder

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Coming down heavily against NC Vice President Omar Abdullah for his remark on deferment of poll in Anantnag seat, senior BJP leader and former DyCM Kavinder Gupta said unlike successive governments, the Narendra Modi Government has safeguarded the rights of Gujjars and Bakerwals besides providing them succor through centrally sponsored schemes.

In a rejoinder to Omar's allegation that BJP has conspired to change the polling date in Rajouri-Anantnag seat just to ensure that NC won't get the votes of Gujjars and Bakerwals communities, Kavinder said that votes of the aforesaid communities



will never be polled in NC's favour because this party's successive governments exploited the people of these nomadic tribes for years together and whatever Omar Abdullah was saying is nothing but a bundle of lies as postponement of polls is an independent decision taken by the Election Commission. He said that fears of NC that people would not vote

in its favour are genuine because the leadership of this party knows well that NC did nothing else except exploiting the people on different counts including regionalism, religion or ethnicity. He said that the BJP on the contrary provided avenues to the people of J&K especially the Gujjars and Bakerwals and other underprivileged sections to live a life full of

dignity and pride.

The senior BJP leader highlighted that the BJP Government at the Centre has prioritized delivering justice to the Gujjar and Bakerwal communities by safeguarding their reservation rights and extending support through various benefits via centrally sponsored schemes. This proactive approach has posed challenges for the NC party, as it is increasingly evident that members of the Gujjar and Bakerwal communities, alongside Pahadis, are unlikely to support the NC due to their realization of the strategies and deceptions employed by the NC over an extended period, he added.

Pathseekers commemorates Int'l Labour Day with Appreciation Event

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMGARH, MAY 1

Pathseekers International School celebrated International Labour Day today with a heartwarming event dedicated to acknowledging the invaluable contributions of its support staff. The event, held today, featured a series of activities including skits performed by students, aimed at recognizing the hard work and dedication of the school's drivers, maids, security personnel, and safakaramcharis.

Mr. Bhupinder Singh SSP, Rtd.(Chairman of Pathseekers International School), commended the efforts of the entire team in organizing a meaningful event for the students. He emphasized the impor-



tance of students understanding and appreciating the efforts of the team working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth functioning of the school.

During the event, Mrs. Manpreet Kaur, Principal of Pathseekers Interna-

tional School, personally extended tokens of appreciation and gratitude to the members of the support staff. Along with the tokens, refreshments were also distributed as a gesture of thanks for their continuous dedication and hard work.

The celebration of International Labour Day at Pathseekers International School not only highlights the significance of the day but also underscores the school's commitment to fostering a culture of appreciation and gratitude among its students.

DPS Junior, Kathua honours Labour Day with Acts of Kindness, Appreciation

JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 1

In the spirit of Labour Day, DPS Junior, Kathua, radiated warmth and appreciation as it honored the unsung heroes within its vibrant community.

The day commenced with a special morning assembly, where students eagerly expressed their appreciation through various heartfelt gestures. Mrs. Parmeet Kaur, the Environmental Studies teacher, shed light on the significance of Labour Day, fostering a deeper understanding of the day's importance among the students. The radiant talents of classes 2nd and 3rd shone brightly with a captivating performance skit, illuminating the stage with creativity and enthusiasm. In a touching demonstration of appreciation, young hearts from classes Nursery to UKG offered beautiful flowers, symbolizing the gratitude within the DPS Junior family.



The Primary Wing classes extended a hand of generosity, contributing daily essentials and beautiful handmade cards. Each item became a token of gratitude destined to warm the hearts of the school's invaluable support staff - the diligent drivers and helpers - during an intimate gathering crafted in their honor.

Moved by the outpouring of gratitude, the helping staff and drivers

expressed their heartfelt appreciation for being a part of the DPS Junior family.

Monika Singh, School Incharge, emphasised the importance of such activities, stating, "These acts of kindness are not only gestures of appreciation but invaluable lessons in empathy and compassion. We strive to nurture our students with the values of generosity and kindness, molding them into respon-

sible and empathetic individuals."

"We are deeply grateful to the parents for their unwavering support and cooperation in our endeavors to instill these values in our students," expressed Monika Singh, extending a special thanks to the parents who play a crucial role in the holistic development of the students.

Principal Mr. Vivek Arora extended warm commendations to the indomitable spirits of the school's support staff, students, educators, and dedicated parents for their unwavering support and encouragement.

As DPS Junior, Kathua continues its noble tradition of cultivating a haven of kindness and appreciation, the school steadfastly pledges its allegiance to nurturing generations of compassionate and responsible individuals, poised to leave an indelible mark of generosity upon their community.

Fulfill demands of VDGs at the earliest: Basant Raj Thakur

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Killing of Village Defence Guard (VDG) member Mohammed Sharief in Bantgarh area of Udhampur district, by terrorists is very unfortunate and most inhuman act and the culprits should be identified and punished. This demand was made by Basant Raj Thakur, Convenor J&K UT, BJP, VDG Cell, while addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, on Wednesday.

Basant Raj Thakur said that the VDG members are doing great service to the nation and the people of their areas. They have lost their precious lives while performing their duties. Their contribution in fighting terrorism in remote, far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir UT has been splendid. Basant Raj



Thakur said that the VDG members have been facing number of problems in their areas of operations and have been making repeated representations for getting their demands fulfilled so that they can perform their task more effectively and help local police and other forces while undertaking anti-insurgency operations.

Basant Raj Thakur said that the VDGs have genuine demands which need to be considered sympathetically and fulfilled immediately. He shared that the VDG members are being posted out of

their villages to other areas, which is against the spirit of the constitution of these bodies. He said that the VDGs are performing their duties with the old 303 rifles, which are not capable to respond to the modern weapons of the terrorists.

Thakur said that the government should stop the ongoing practice of posting the VDG members out of their villages; they should be equipped with the modern rifles like those of J&K police. The VDG members should be given relief at par with police constables.

The honorarium of the VDGs should be enhanced to ten thousand, the unpaid VDGs be given regular honorarium, the rifles of the retired members should be transformed to their family members.

Basant Raj Thakur further said that the files pertaining to recruiting VDG members on retirement of older members are lying in the office of the district police headquarters, and should be cleared without any delay.

Later, Basant Raj Thakur and VDG Cell office bearers paid tributes to Mohammed Sharief, who was killed by militants.

VDG Cell office bearers Ramesh Katoch, Narinder Kotwal, Rajesh Sharma, Hardeep Manhas, Ravinder Manhas, Uttam Chand, Sukhdev, Ashok Kumar, Surjeet, Sudesh Fouji, were also present in the press conference.

HDFC Bank's PayZapp receives Celent Model Bank Award

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

HDFC Bank's mobile app PayZapp has received the Celent Model Bank Award. The awards were presented to HDFC Bank's PayZapp in the categories of Payment Innovation at the Celent Model Bank Awards ceremony. Celent's annual Model Bank Awards celebrate and acknowledge the best practices in technology usage in banking. PayZapp is one of the 19 winners from 140+ nominations from 36 countries around the world. The judging criteria for this highly coveted award include demonstrable business benefits, the level of innovation relative to the industry, and technology excellence.

PayZapp is jointly developed by Zeta and HDFC Bank, leveraging Zeta's next-gen processing platform, Zeta Tachyon, and its bespoke engineering offering, Zeta Studios. Since its launch in March 2023, PayZapp has rapidly acquired 6+ million customers and has been rated by nearly half a million customers with ratings of 4.8 on iOS and 4.3 on Android, making it a top-rated app in the Finance section on the Indian app stores. On receiving the award, Mr. Ravi Santhanam, Group Head, Chief Marketing Officer & Head - Direct to Consumer Business, HDFC Bank said, "Celent's recognition is a testament to our commitment to delivering world-class digital banking solutions that meet the evolving needs of our customers. PayZapp is a critical pillar of our digital transformation journey and a testament to the power of a modern customer experience built on a next-gen, cloud-native issuer processing stack."

"Zeta is honored to have played a pivotal role in PayZapp's success," added Mr. Ramki Gaddipati, CTO & Co-Founder, Zeta, "A Zeta Studio, in partnership with HDFC Bank's talented & visionary teams, has delivered unparalleled payment choice for Indian consumers. HDFC Bank's customers can choose whether to pay using their account using UPI, debit cards or credit cards, without having to switch multiple apps."

AstraZeneca row: AAP questions Centre over Covishield side effects

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

Days after AstraZeneca admitted that its Covid-19 vaccine can cause rare "side effects" of blood clotting and low platelet count, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj on Wednesday accused the Central government of promoting Covishield vaccine at a time when European countries banned it following adverse reports about the vaccine. Addressing a press conference, Bhardwaj asserted, "At a time when most European countries had banned the Covishield vaccine, the Indian government was promoting it across the country and compelling people to get vaccinated with Covishield."

Referring to a BBC report, Bhardwaj said, "In March 2021, BBC made a report public stating that in 2021, doubts arose about the quality of the Covishield vaccine in many European countries, leading several European countries to ban the use of Covishield in their countries including Germany, Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, and Austria, among others."

"From 2021 until now,



the Centre has not provided any answer to this question, and even now, when the company making this vaccine, AstraZeneca, has admitted that people may experience complaints of brain stroke and heart attack due to getting this vaccine, the Indian government remains silent," Bhardwaj alleged.

"We were hoping that after the acceptance by AstraZeneca, the Indian government would take some strict action, but two days have passed and no steps have been taken by the Indian government, so we were forced to hold this press conference," he asserted. He further questioned the government about what steps it taking in such a serious matter that concerns the lives of millions of people in this country. "The Indian government will have to work at a war footing on this issue, talk to the AstraZeneca company, consult with doctors, and deter-

mine which tests should be conducted to find out what symptoms occur if someone is experiencing side effects of this vaccine and how their life can be saved," Bhardwaj said.

"AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine was marketed as Covishield in India and manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII)," he said adding that we have seen numerous videos on social media recently showing people collapsing and dying immediately after performing activities, which was not observed before the pandemic. Many people speculate a connection to the coronavirus vaccine and such reports are a matter of concern as they escalate tension."

"Most of the people who died, they were young. The government should work on that how can we stop it if people are experiencing side-effects," he added.

COVISHIELD Vaccine "Side Effects" row reaches SC

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

A Public Interest Petition has been filed in the Supreme Court by Advocate Vishal Tiwari seeking an expert panel of medical professionals to study the ill effects and risk factors of the Covid Vaccine used during the Pandemic.

The Petition seeks examination of AstraZeneca's COVISHIELD vaccine, its side effects and risk factors by a panel of medical experts appointed by the Supreme Court of India.

The Petition has been filed after AstraZeneca's admission in U.K. court that its vaccine has the potential to cause a rare



side effect associated with blood clotting.

The petitioner has sought strict law against the criminal act committed by selling or circulating the counterfeit Corona Vaccine by any individual or Organization.

Astrazine's admission in the UK Court triggered the fears among the people

who got vaccinated.

The petitioner has also sought that the Apex Court should direct that compensation should be granted to those who have suffered due to side-effects of the vaccination.

The Petition is likely to come up for hearing before the Supreme Court on Thursday.

Azad ensured Justice, NC & PDP exploited people: DPAP

JNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MAY 1

Today, in a significant gathering in Kellar Shopian, leaders of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) came together to address the people. Among them were G.M. Saroori, Vice Chairman of DPAP, Lok Sabha candidate Amir Bhatt, and Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami. The leaders passionately urged the people to cast their votes for the young and dynamic leader, Amir Bhatt. Saroori emphasized the importance of remembering those who have caused pain and suffering to Kashmiri youth through the use of pellets and bullets, which ultimately facilitated BJP's entry into Kashmir. He urged everyone to stand against those who have brought destruction to the land. He said, "NC and PDP rule only witnessed killings, they blinded people, but Ghulam Nabi



Azad ensured justice to the people. He did massive development. Both Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were in BJP govts. They will again go with them.' Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, reminded the public of Mehbooba Mufti's past actions and statements, underlining a

pattern of behavior that undermined the interests and dignity of Kashmiris. Nizami urged vigilance against political figures whose actions betray the trust of the people they claim to represent. Meanwhile Lok Sabha candidate Amir Bhatt has pledged to prioritise public concerns,

particularly those affecting the youth, echoing the approach of Ghulam Nabi Azad. Bhatt emphasized his commitment to tackling the pressing issue of drug abuse and vowed to advocate for the youth's well-being in Parliament. He said, "I will plead your case in Parliament, and we will never let you down. It's imperative that we put an end to the

drug menace in Kashmir, a problem that other parties have only exploited." Among others who were present on the occasion were, Javid Hakim Secretary, Peer Bilal Zonal President Qayoom Dar Working President, Mujtaba Dewan, Waseem Yaqoob and others.

CUJ organizes an Insightful Visit to SCERT Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

The Department of Educational Studies embarked on an insightful visit to the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) in Jammu, seeking to deepen the understanding of educational practices and policies among teacher trainees. The visit aimed to provide invaluable insights into the dynamic landscape of education, offering students a glimpse into the innovative practices and strategies employed in shaping the future of teaching and learning.

During the visit, the students delved into the heart of educational governance and innovation as they explored the SCERT facilities, interacted with professionals in the field, and gained first-hand insights into the development and implementation of educational curricula. The students engaged in interactive sessions with Ms. Jyoti Sudan & Mr. Yogesh Kumar, Sr. Academic Officer, who had shared the role of SCERT in education enhancing the pedagogical skills of teachers through training, research in educational technology and teaching methodologies, application of new and emerging technologies



in the field of education. Furthermore, the SCERT officials also exchanged ideas and perspectives on various educational initiatives and flagship schemes adopted by the institution like TOYCATHON 2023, Kathashilp, Felicitation of FLN teachers under NIPUN Bharat Mission, Veergatha Edition 2.0, etc. The officials also emphasized the crucial role of the State Council of Educational Research and Training Jammu in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at the state level where its responsibilities include curriculum development, teacher training, educational research, and monitoring and evaluation of educational programs. Additionally, SCERTs are expected to align their activities with the principles and objectives outlined in the NEP-2020 to promote quality education and holistic development. During the visit, students

had the chance to witness the collaborative efforts undertaken by SCERT to enhance the quality of education and address the evolving needs of learners in the region.

Reflecting on the visit, Prof. J.N. Baliya & Dr. Aman expressed gratitude to Dr. Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, SCERT, and other SCERT officials for providing an enriching experience to the students. They also added that visits like these are invaluable for our students as they enrich the academic journey and offer a glimpse into the practical aspects of educational administration, training, etc. which undoubtedly shape their careers in the field of education. Prof. Baliya also commended the efforts of Prof. Asit Mantry, Head of the Department, for taking various learner-centric initiatives that enriched the young and talented students of the teacher education programme.

JKDMA issues avalanche warning in Ganderbal district

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 1

Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) on Wednesday issued an avalanche warning in the higher reaches of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district during the next 24 hours, officials said.

An avalanche with "medium danger" level is likely to occur above 2700 metres over Ganderbal district in the next 24 hours.

People living in these areas have been advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders.

Kashmir valley was lashed by widespread incessant rains and snowfall during the past few days prompting authorities to issue a fresh avalanche warning as a precautionary measure for the people.

The authorities have also asked the people living in these districts to dial 112 for help in view of any emergency.

Threatening email sends schools in Delhi-NCR in tizzy; turns out to be 'hoax'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

Fear descended in almost all schools of Delhi and many in adjoining Noida and Ghaziabad on Wednesday after receipt of an email threatening a terror attack, which was later declared as a "hoax" by the police and the government.

The email prompted disruption of studies, evacuation and massive searches in the schools.

As news about the email spread, the schools sent their students home early, much to the relief of the anxious parents. The email, containing threats, was sent to multiple users at around 4.30 am.

"Multiple schools have received similar bomb threat emails. We are checking each and every school and are in contact with the school administration," the police said.

Immediately after receiving information about the threats, the police took action and evacuated all the schools.

Proper SoPs were followed and all out efforts were made to ensure that there was no panic among the students.

The schools were closed and the students were sent back home, a Delhi Police officer said.

Bomb Detection, along with sniffer dogs, and Disposal Squad and Delhi Fire Service units were sent to the schools and thorough searches were carried out. But no explosive or any other kind of harmful object was found.

"We have checked all the schools and nothing has been found, there is



no need to panic," Deputy Commissioner of Police, New Delhi, Devesh Kumar Mahla told reporters hours after the fear struck the educational institutions.

Delhi Police spokesperson Suman Nalla said the email had been sent to create panic.

She, however, refused to divulge the exact number of schools that received the threatening email.

There were reports that the threatening email was received by Delhi Public School's Dwarka and Vasant Kunj units, Mother Mary School in East Mayur Vihar, Sanskriti School in Chanakyaपुरी, Amity School in Pushp Vihar, and DAV School in South West Delhi. DPS Noida also reportedly received the bombing threat.

Amid chaos, Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena spoke to Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora and sought a detailed report.

He directed the Police to carry out a thorough search of school premises, identify the culprits and ensure there are no lapses.

He urged parents not to panic and co-operate with the administration in ensuring the safety of schools and the children.

The miscreants and cul-

prits will not be spared, the LG said

Delhi Education Minister Atishi posted on X from her official handle (@AtishiAAP) and said: "Some schools have received bomb threats today morning. Students have been evacuated and those premises are being searched by Delhi Police. So far nothing has been found in any of the schools.

"We are in constant touch with the Police and the schools. Would request parents and citizens not to panic. School authorities will be in touch with parents wherever needed."

Hours later, Delhi Police posted on social media X, "Some schools of Delhi received E-mails regarding bomb threats. Police have conducted thorough check of all such schools as per protocol. Nothing objectionable has been found. It appears that these calls seem to be hoax. We request the public not to panic and maintain peace."

The Home Affairs Ministry also posted on X, "There is no need to panic. Mails appear to be hoax. Delhi Police and security agencies are taking necessary steps as per protocol".

Nitish acknowledges role of labour force in shaping the destiny of Nation

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

On this momentous occasion of International Labour Day, Nitish Mahajan, Co-Incharge of the Social Media Department, BJP, Jammu & Kashmir, extended his warmest felicitations and profound gratitude to the dedicated labor force whose unwavering efforts serve as the bedrock of our nation's progress.

Speaking at a programme held here today, the senior BJP leader said that Labour Day, celebrated globally on May 1st, is a poignant reminder of the invaluable contributions made by the hardworking men and women who tirelessly in various sectors, driving the wheels of our economy forward. He acknowledged their immense role in shaping

the destiny of our nation and underscores the significance of their labor in building a prosperous India.

"Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to the labor fraternity whose sweat and toil lay the foundation for our collective advancement. Their dedication and commitment are unparalleled, and it is through their relentless efforts that we continue to achieve milestones in various spheres of development," remarked Nitish. He said from the construction sites to factories, from farms to offices, laborers across diverse fields play an indispensable role in driving economic growth and social progress. Their resilience, determination, and spirit of hard work embody the ethos of our nation and inspire us to strive for excellence, he added.

Medical camp conducted on 'Swasth Bharat' at Gambhir Brhamana, Rajouri



JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 1

Medical camps play a crucial role in remote underdeveloped areas (South of Pir Panjal region) by providing essential health care service to underserved communities particularly those residing in far-flung areas. Indian Army at Gambhir Brhamana Rajouri district conducted medical patrols dedicated in conjunction with ADPS

especially for Gujjar and Bakarwal communities. These patrols aimed to provide essential medical assistance and healthcare services to remote areas with is limited access. The initiative underscores the army's commitment to the welfare of Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, thereby ensuring that no one is left behind in receiving crucial medical attention while migrating to their summer locations.

ST/SC/BC Corp accords warm send-off to DGM (P) Mohd Iqbal Kataria on retirement



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

The officers and staff of the Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes Development Corporation Limited bid a warm adieu to its Deputy General Manager (Projects), Shri Mohammad Iqbal Kataria here on his superannuation. Hailing from Sangla Surankote area of district Poonch, Shri Iqbal rendered 37 years of service in the Corporation. Starting from the level of District Man-

ager in several districts of Jammu and Kashmir, his meritorious career rose to the level of the Deputy General Manager. The officers and staff of the Corporation appreciated his dedication, punctuality and simplicity during his almost four-decade illustrious career. Among others, the farewell function was attended by Managing Director, Shri Ranjeet JKAS, Ms Roshina Waheed, Financial and Chief Accounts Officer and Shri G.Q. Khatana, General Manager of the Corporation.

Apni Party seeks regularization of daily wagers on International Labour Day

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 1

In commemoration of International Labour Day, the Apni Party State President Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi, has reiterated his demand for the regularization of daily wagers in Jammu and Kashmir. Highlighting the invaluable contributions of these workers to essential services departments, the party emphasizes the need to acknowledge their sacrifices and dedication.

"Daily wagers in J&K have long been advocating for job security and fair treatment. Despite their pivotal role in ensuring the smooth functioning of various government departments, they continue to face uncertainty and exploitation."

"The Apni Party stands firmly with these workers, urging the Government of India and Lieutenant Governor of J&K to prioritize their regularization," Kazmi said. "As the world com-

memorates the struggles and achievements of workers worldwide, J&K Apni Party's appeal echoes the sentiments of labor movements globally, emphasizing the fundamental rights and dignity of all workers," he said.

"This International Labour Day serves as a poignant reminder of the ongoing fight for workers' rights and the importance of recognizing their indispensable contributions to society," he added.

DRDO successfully tests Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo system

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha early Wednesday morning.

Designed and developed by DRDO, SMART is a next-generation missile-based light-weight torpedo delivery system that will enhance the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy far beyond the conventional range of light weight torpedo, a Defence Ministry statement said.

This canister-based missile system consists of several advanced sub-systems, namely two-stage solid propulsion system,



electromechanical actuator system, precision inertial navigation system etc.

The system carries advanced light-weight torpedo as payload along with parachute-based release system.

The missile was launched from the ground mobile launcher. Several state-of-the-art mechanisms such as symmetric separation, ejection and velocity control have been validated in this test.

Meanwhile, Defence

Minister Rajnath Singh while complimenting the DRDO and the industry partners on the successful flight-test of SMART said, "The development of the system will further enhance the strength of our Navy".

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Samir V Kamat also lauded the synergistic efforts of the entire SMART team and urged it to continue on the path of excellence.

Gaurav calls on Atal Dulloo, submits memo

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu, today called on the Chief Secretary, J&K UT, Sh. Atal Dulloo and discussed pressing issues concerning land acquisition cases and rise in suicide attempts in Jammu city.

In a memorandum submitted to the Chief Secretary, Gaurav Gupta commended the efforts of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, his office and the Divisional Commissioner Jammu in resolving land delineation issues in Kathua and Samba districts. However, he highlighted the significant number of unresolved cases across the Jammu region, particularly regarding Gair Mumkin Khad.

Gaurav apprised the Chief Secretary about the hardships being faced by the people as well as the trading community due



to long pending issue of Gair Mumkin Khad. He urged for swift action to ensure justice for affected individuals as well as the members of business community.

Expressing serious concern over the alarming rise in suicide attempts at the River Tawi bridge in Jammu, he proposed the implementation of comprehensive fencing on both sides of all bridges spanning the River Tawi, following the pattern of New Delhi. He emphasized that such measures would create

a safer environment and act as a deterrent against tragic incidents.

Gaurav Gupta urged the Chief Secretary to take prompt and effective measures to resolve land issues and implement suicide prevention measures at the River Tawi bridge, prioritizing the safety and well-being of citizens.

The Chief Secretary gave a patient hearing to the issues put forth by Gaurav Gupta and assured prompt consideration of the memorandum's recommendations.

Record GST collection in April, breaches Rs 2L crore mark

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

Driven by a strong increase in domestic transactions and imports, India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hit a record high in April 2024 and logged 12.4 per cent year-on-year growth at Rs 2.10 lakh crore during this period. "After accounting for refunds, the net GST revenue for April 2024 stands at Rs 1.92 lakh crore, reflecting an impressive 17.1% growth compared

to the same period last year," Finance Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of April, 2023 was Rs 1.87 lakh crore.

In the month of April 2024, the central government settled Rs 50,307 crore to Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Rs 41,600 crore to State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) from the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) collected. This translates to a total

revenue of Rs 94,153 crore for CGST and Rs 95,138 crore for SGST for April, 2024 after regular settlement. Out of total GST collection in April this year, CGST was Rs 43,846 crore while SGST was 53,538 crore.

As per official data, IGST during April this year stood at Rs 99,623 crore, including Rs 37,826 crore collected on imported goods. The Cess collected during this period was Rs 13,260 crore, including Rs 1,008 crore collected on imported goods.

Ashok Koul, Tashi Gyalson, Phunchok Stanzin address nomination rally in Leh

JNEWS SERVICE
LADAKH, MAY 1

Adv Tashi Gyalson, CEC (Leh) & MP candidate for the Parliamentary constituency of Ladakh, accompanied by thousands of supporters and party workers filed nomination for the Lok Sabha election 2024 at Leh.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), BJP J&K and Ladakh, Sat Sharma, former Minister, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, former MLC and Satish Sharma, senior leader accompanied Adv Tashi Gyalson on the occasion.

Phunchok Stanzin, President Ladakh BJP, and Tashi Gyaltsan Kachu, District President, Stanzin Lakpa, Dorje Angchuk, PT Kunzoke, Ali Chandan, Fayaz Ahmed Qaari, Bilal Ahmed, Gailek, and other senior leaders of BJP Ladakh and thousands of party workers and supporters were also present during the nomination.

BJP MP candidate took out the impressive rally on the occasion which started from the party office, Leh and went through various locations culminating at the DC office.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the workers and the supporters on the occasion asked them to carry the momentum till the last day of election and direct their all actions towards the strong election working to secure the win of the party candidate by a massive margin. He said that the BJP has always taken up the cause of Ladakh on the front foot and stood like a rock for the people of Ladakh. He said that the opposition parties led by NC, Congress, and PDP

candidate Tashi Gyalson files nomination papers from Ladakh constituency



have looted the resources of this beautiful place and deliberately kept it away from the much-needed development.

Ashok Koul further said that while the people are feeling content with the massive development and have received numerous welfare schemes, the decisive steps by the Modi government have ensured that the region is safe and receives liberal funding for more infrastructure development.

Sat Sharma reiterated the BJP's commitment to develop Ladakh on the most modern lines and appealed to the people to ensure the win of Adv Tashi Gyalson to contribute in the development of Ladakh.

Phunchok Stanzin made a fervent appeal to vote for the BJP candidate in the Lok Sabha election. He said that Tashi Gyalson

has been strongly raising the issues related to local development and his win will ensure the unprecedented development in the whole region by the Modi government.

Adv Tashi Gyalson said that the BJP has always worked for the welfare of the needy and the neglected at the ground level. He said that there are many aspirations and issues of the region, for which the Modi government has always shown strong will to resolve. He said that as an elected MP representing the people of Ladakh he has the vision to make it a world's best destination with the support of PM Modi. He said that with the nomination, they have entered the election process and thanked all the party workers and supporters for accompanying him during the nomination.

Apni Party committed to empower working class in J&K: Manjit

JNEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, MAY 1

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has expressed commitment to empower the working class and farmers, if the Party forms Govt in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per a press release, the Former Minister chaired a monthly meeting of the Party workers here at Vijaypur to discuss the Party strategy and issues of the people to strengthen it on the ground.

During the meeting, the Party leaders informed S. Manjit Singh about the

difficulties the people, especially the border residents, and farmers were facing.

On listening to them, the Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh assured them that the demands related to development would be highlighted before the concerned authorities for the early redressal. On the other hand, he directed the Party cadre to intensify their activities in every nook and corner of the District Samba.

Speaking on the occasion, Manjit Singh said that the Party is committed to do justice with the work-



ing class and accordingly, empower them for their equitable upliftment to bring economic stability for them. He said that the

Party wants to strengthen the working class by effectively and practically implementing the Minimum Wage Act in Jammu

and Kashmir, and accordingly, the wages of the workers would also be enhanced both in organised and unorganised sectors.

He said that the working class as well as the farmers are the working class in the country and in Jammu and Kashmir. Hence, their rights should be protected.

He also sought justice for the workers in the unorganised sector in J&K and protection of rights of such workers.

“These workers in the unorganized sector should get free medical treatment,

and other related benefits which are available provided in the organized sector,” he said, expressing commitment to work for their welfare.

“We are committed to implement policies that would benefit the working class and farmers in J&K,” he said, addressing the monthly meeting of the Party leaders and workers in Vijaypur.

Meanwhile, the Party leaders also sought holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir as early as possible in Jammu and Kashmir, and the restoration of statehood to J&K.

Candidates for Amethi, Raebareli to be announced by tomorrow evening: Congress



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

The Congress party on Wednesday, while stating that there was no delay in announcing the candidates for the prestigious Amethi and Raebareli seats of Uttar Pradesh, said the names will be announced by Thursday evening.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, General Secretary in-charge Communication Jairam Ramesh said, “There is no delay in announcing the names of candidates. The CEC has empowered Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and most probably, the names of candidates will be announced in the next 24 to 30 hours”.

He said, “The Congress president is fully seized of the matter. He knows that a decision has to be announced well before the nomination time. There is still 48 hours left. If we do not announce the names by 11 am on 3rd May then it can be called as extraordinary delay”.

The Rajya Sabha MP rubbished the claims that the delay was due to fear of losing the seats asked from BJP as to why it has not

fielded a candidate from Raebareli.

“The BJP announced the name of Smriti Irani from Amethi as she is the sitting MP. But why has the BJP not announced a candidate from Raebareli.

Ramesh further said the Congress has even announced candidates just 24 hours before the last day of nomination in number of seats.

On the question of fielding Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from the two prestigious seats, Ramesh said, “Rahul ji, Priyanka ji and Kharge ji are our superstar campaigners and have been holding rallies across the country. Priyanka ji has extensively campaigned in the south and also in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and she will be campaigning for the remaining phases of the Lok Sabha election. It is unfair to say there is a delay”.

Pertinently the Congress party workers led by district president Pradeep Singhal, staged a demonstration at Congress' central office in Gauriganj. The agitating workers demanded that Rahul be declared a candidate from Amethi seat.

CU Jammu organizes Weeklong Camp SAGG Eco Village Kashmir



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Department of Social Work, Central University of Jammu under the aegis of its fieldwork unit organized a week long Social Work Camp at SAGG Eco Village, Watlar Ganderbal in collaboration with Human Welfare Voluntary Organisation. This initiative as part of the compulsory fieldwork immersion training aimed to provide students with practical exposure and learning opportunities in diverse areas of social work practice. The success of this event was made possible through the invaluable patronage and leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain whose principle of learning by ensuring that students are being brought out of their classrooms and immersed into the real world settings. The social work camp was attended by 23 students of the postgraduate programme of social work along with three research scholars and three field members.

The camp was coordi-

nated by Dr. Bhat Iqbal Majeed, Director Fieldwork, department of social work, under the supervision of HoD, Dr. Nancy Mengi. Apart from introducing the students to the rural settings, the social work camp ensured that students are trained through in-house sessions at the camp place. The two sessions on capacity building were held for the students besides arranging the rural on site field visits in various groups which were first briefed about the child protection mechanism by the UNICEF officials at the HWVO office and then taken for a grassroots visit. Two groups visited the village settings to witness the child protection groups' formed in those villages and one group visited the child care institutions. Apart from this the whole team of social work also visited the department of social work, university of Kashmir. The students from Central University of Jammu and social work

students from University of Kashmir had thorough interactions and shared their ideas regarding the fieldwork undertaken in their respective locales. The Social work camp concluded with a brief visit to the Meer Behri, a fisherman community located in the interiors of Dal Lake, Srinagar. Throughout the camp, students engaged in a variety of enriching activities designed to broaden their understanding of social issues and enhance their practical skills. Sessions included orientation programs led by department faculty and scholars, capacity-building workshops on social entrepreneurship, livelihood, and leadership conducted by SAGG Eco Village, as well as exposure sessions on pertinent topics such as “The Period Talk” facilitated by Zahida and Shahbaz from SKY Trust Kashmir. Culminating with cultural activities and certificate distribution, the camp was a resounding success, providing students with invaluable exposure and learning experiences. The Department of Social Work extends its heartfelt gratitude to all supporting organizations, including SAGG Eco Village, SKY Trust, Human Welfare Volunteer Organisation, and the University of Kashmir, whose contributions were instrumental in making this event possible.

DPAP will courageously voice public concerns in parliament; Azad



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU MAY 1

Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), conducted roadshows in Rajouri today, articulating his core agenda centered around development, unity, and progress. In his address, Azad denounced the divisive tactics employed by rival parties, condemning their attempts to sow discord based on religious and caste. He underscored the dangers of divisive politics, pointing out that while some parties have historically divided people on religious lines, they are now resorting to caste-based divisions. He highlighted the detrimental impact of such divisive tactics on the region's future, emphasizing that the election of MPs based solely on community affiliations would inevitably lead to neglect and marginalization of other communities. He urged the electorate to reject this

brand of politics, emphasizing the importance of unity for the progress and prosperity of the region and the state at large. He said, “If we choose MPs based on religion or caste, how can we expect justice for all communities? This politics is dangerous, and that's why we are not progressing. I have never engaged in politics based on religion or caste. When I built a hospital, it was for all. When I built roads, it was for all. We shouldn't divide people; we have to unite everyone and develop the entire region. As CM, I focused on development not on the basis of religion but for those who deserve.” Azad reiterated his commitment to catalyzing progress and prosperity in the region, if his government come to power. Additionally, he endorsed Adv Saleem Parray as the ideal candidate to represent the aspirations and concerns of the region in Parliament, citing Parray's

dedication and advocacy skills as instrumental in echoing the voices of the constituents. He said, “Adv Saleem Parray is young and educated. My aim is to see youth join mainstream politics, so that those who exploited them for years with one family politics should get a lesson, that J&K is not only theirs but these Kashmiri youth also deserve to be in politics and win elections to serve the public. NC and PDP only sold self-rule and autonomy for years; they don't speak on development. Now they are fooling again with false slogans. We should be aware and reject them.” He further said, “I've had many offers to join the Rajya Sabha upon my retirement from various parties. However, my priority lies in working for the betterment of J&K and lifting my people out of the current crisis. The discontent among the people is palpable; they yearn for development and peace.”

JKNC commemorates May Day at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Lauding the resilience and fortitude of work force for their sustained efforts in building Naya Jammu and Kashmir as per the dreams of visionaries, who envisioned a progressive, prosperous and peaceful state, senior National Conference leaders on Wednesday said that May Day is reminiscent of the workers' rights and societal response towards their well-being. The meeting was organized by Nar Singh President Labour Wing JKNC.

“It is a day of introspection for us all to ponder whether we have succeeded in assuaging their aspirations and urges”, Addressing the gathering Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary JKNC and former Minister, said and complimented the relentless campaign of the Labour Union in fighting for genuine cause of the work force.

The former minister said that National Conference has always fought for the cause of labour-class and said their welfare was an integral part of

Naya Jammu and Kashmir Charter. He made a particular mention of interest evinced by Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah for the empowerment of weaker sections especially the labour force and said this continues to be a guiding force for the party. “Labour force are the builders of nation and catalyst of socio-economic transformation”, he added

Sadhotra castigated the BJP for ignoring the welfare of labour force, saying but for remaining entangled in divisive politics, the party ditched the people of Jammu, especially weaker sections.

The senior NC leader said that every day is a labour day but observing it on May 1 has a historical significance as hundreds of people sacrificed their lives during the Haymarket Massacre in Chicago nearly two centuries ago while struggling for their rights. “Commemorating this day should not be a ritual but an occasion to pledge for wellbeing of the labour class and strive for dignity and honour of the work force”. He recalled the crucial role played by labourers in shaping



the public movement in Jammu and Kashmir as elsewhere in the world decades ago.

Addressing the gathering, former minister and Zone President Udhampur Reasi Mr Abdul Gani Malik referred to the background of this day and said it is being observed on May 1st all over the world to highlight the need for restoration of labour rights with a view to bridge the gap between haves and have nots for harmonious growth of the society.

Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone

President recalled the great role played by Sheikh Sahib for weaker sections of society especially the labour force and said history of National Conference is replete with steps taken from time to time for overall welfare of the labour class. He said that it is being observed on the weaker sections of the society so that they lead a dignified life. He said that National Conference will always strive for seeking restoration of labour rights and implementation of welfare schemes to uplift their socio-economic con-

ditions. Highlighting the problems of the labour class, President State Central Labour Union, Nar Singh listed several issues, saying these are needed to be earnestly looked into by the government.

Mr Nar Singh also listed various issues of the labour class and called for time bound implementation of Minimum Wage, regularization of daily wage employees/ Casual Workers/ Consolidated employees / ITI diploma holders in PSUs and Government Departments, revival of sick/ loss incurring units, abolition of contract system in private sectors, setting-up non-polluting as well as employment generating units and Constitution of Labour Board, DPC of employees in timely, employment to local workers in private sectors, Pension benefits to the public sector employees, enhancement of

budgetary support of to PSUs, improvement / up gradation of basic infrastructure of PSUs, un-authorized closing of units, Industries policy, Loss of Interest Paid to CPF amount of employees and Orders of furniture to School Education and other deptt. Joinery Mills, JKI. The speakers stressed the crucial need of economic emancipation and welfare of the work force. Those present on the occasion included Qazi Jalal Ud Din former MLA, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries, Bushan Lal Bhat former MLC, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Jugal Mahajan Treasurer, Raghbir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A, Vijay Lakshmi Datta Senior leader, Rashida Begum, Ashok Dogra, Waris Gill President Christian Cell, Kuldeep Sharma, Master Aslam, M.K Rana, Karan Singh Senior Vice President SCLU, Mahohar Karlopia District President Jammu Urban SCLU, Ajeet Kumar, Pritam Lal, Parveen Kumar President Intex, Sumita Bhan, Veer Ji Bhat, Ajay Kumar, Shiv Kumar Magotra and others.

PM Modi strengthened borders with China to safeguard Ladakh: Khatana

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has asked the people of Ladakh Union Territory to vote the BJP candidate, Tashi Gyalson in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections from Ladakh Parliamentary Constituency for strengthening the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to helm the affairs of world's largest democracy for the third time.

In a statement issued to the selected media houses from national capital New Delhi, Khatana said that vote for BJP candidate will ensure safety, peace, developments, employment and progress of all while voting in the favour of INDI alliance candidate can push the country to corruption, scandals, bloodshed and terrorism.

He said that BJP candidate from Ladakh, Tashi Gyalson is the sitting Chairman cum CEC of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Leh and has done a lot of developmental works in Leh. Khatana further appealed to the people of Ladakh for not falling prey to the conspiracy and wrong propaganda of certain wrong elements especially INDI alliance which have vested interests and nefarious designs.

He said that finding its ship sinking the Congress led INDI alliance is now resorting to lies and false-



hood about BJP to which the prudent people of Ladakh will give a befitting reply on the day of polling.

“PM Modi has a special place in his heart for the people of Ladakh and all the interests of Ladakh people can only be safeguarded under the leadership of PM Modi,” the senior BJP leader maintained.

He also said that Ladakh has seen immense developments in the last ten years under the leadership of PM Modi and in the third term PM Modi will accomplish the left over works.

Khatana said that now borders with China have been strengthened to safeguard Ladakh under the leadership of PM Modi and there were instances when the shepherds of Ladakh have on their own forced Chinese troops to retreat only by using stones as leadership of PM Modi has given courage to all the Indians to deal the enemy on spot without waiting for any support.

Rajeshwar Singh's new book 'Shabdon Ki Aakrityan' released

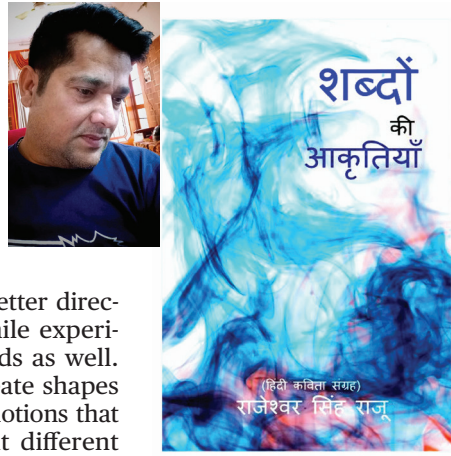
JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

'Shabdon Ki Aakrityan' a collection of Hindi poetry written by eminent English, Dogri and Hindi writer Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' released on AMAZON, FLIPKART and NOTION PRESS, Chennai. The book carries 75 poems in Hindi language predominantly free verse poetry written on varied subjects in a simple language so that the readers should connect with the thought therein with an ease.

The poetry collection that means 'IMAGES OF WORDS' is an effort to convert the thoughts evolving in the mind into the words and give them different shapes covering different aspects of life. An effort has been made to connect with poetry lovers in a simple way and make them enjoy the contents

therein as it belongs to all of us. If there is a flight of imagination then it talks about harsh realities of life also. It is simply a journey towards better direction in life while experiencing the odds as well. The words create shapes of different emotions that we undergo at different phases of our life. The poet has covered almost all the subjects in this collection like man-woman relations, spirituality, exploitation, social evils, love, conspiracies etc.

He says that every poetry lover understands any poem in his or her own way which is the beauty of poetry as well. Just like as reading poetry is an everlasting experience, for a poet the cre-



gets transformed into the shape of words and becomes a part of one of the genres of literature. The cover page of the book that carries 112 pages is designed by Mrinalini Singh which is quite attractive and creative too. The poet hoped that the book will be well received by readers and critics.

It is pertinent to add here that Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' has been writing in Hindi, Dogri and English languages for the last 34 years and this is his 25th book. About 1000 articles written by him in English, Hindi & Dogri languages have been published in different leading national and regional newspapers and magazines. He has also written 15 theatre plays which have been staged by prominent theatre groups.

About 30 plays and 05 serials written by him have been broadcast from Aakashwani Jammu and about 20 plays, 15 serials and more than 100 Documentaries telecast from DD KISAAN, DDK Jammu, DDK Srinagar and DD Kashir. He has 24 books to his credit prior to this one and that include 09 in his mother tongue Dogri and 12 are in Hindi and 03 in English. Out of these 24 books, 06 are on poetry, 07 are on short stories, one on essays on social topics, 10 are on Art and Culture and one ambitious translation work 'Lachit Barphukan' in dogri language. In addition to several awards and honours, he has been awarded Sahitya Akademi's prestigious Bal Sahitya Puraskar-2022, State award for literature in Hindi & Dogri, Prof. Ram Nath Shastri Memorial award etc.

Cong will be extinct like dinosaurs: Rajnath

AGENCIES
BADAUN (UP), MAY 1

Defence Minister and Lucknow Lok Sabha candidate for BJP Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that Congress will cease to exist like dinosaurs in the next decade.

Addressing a public meeting in Dataganj assembly of Aonla Lok Sabha constituency in support of BJP candidates Dharmendra Kashyap and Durvijay Singh Shaikh, Rajnath said that Samajwadi Party (SP) is now moving ahead towards becoming a Samaptwadi Party, whereas Congress which encouraged corruption will also become extinct in 10 years.

He said that during the Congress regime, their Prime Minister had admitted that if they send Re 1 to the poor, only 12 paise is transferred to their account. "Today, during the regime of Prime Minister Modi, if one rupee is sent a cent percent amount reaches the account of the poor. Modi has freed the country from corruption by opening Jan Dhan accounts," he said. The sitting Lucknow MP said, "Everyone was affected by the Corona crisis. The Corona vaccine is not made in our country, the PM talked to the scientists and said that we will spend as much money as is required but the vaccine should be made in our country."



Scientists then prepared the corona vaccine. India is the only country in the world where its citizens received two to three corona vaccines. Everyone got the vaccine, some got two and some got three doses. People in America cannot claim that they have received two or three vaccines. We have done the work of giving the Corona vaccine to hundreds of countries around the world."

He said, "It was because of Mr. Modi's efforts to evacuate Indian students stranded in war-torn Ukraine that Russia and Ukraine stopped the war for four and a half hours. This is today's India. Even the guns came from other countries earlier. In 2014, we used to export only small nuts and bolts worth Rs 200 crore to some countries, today we have exported goods worth Rs 21,000 crore to the world. We are selling bombs, cannons, BrahMos. Even in the defence sector, India is rapidly becoming self-reliant."

ECI deferred election in Anantnag-Rajouri LS seat to favour BJP allies: alleges Mehbooba

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 1

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday alleged that Election Commission of India (ECI) deliberately deferred election in the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat to manipulate voters in favour of BJP allies. She also alleged that the move was to frighten the people not to exercise their franchise against the ongoing onslaught of Jammu and Kashmir's identity and resources.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday postponed polling in the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary seat to May 25 from May 7 citing logistical issues owing to adverse weather

er conditions.

The decision triggered sharp reaction from J&K's two major parties NC and Peoples Democratic Party.

Addressing election rallies in Maniyal Gali, Rajouri, Mehbooba asserted the significance of the ongoing Lok Sabha election in safeguarding Jammu and Kashmir's unique identity. The PDP President also emphasized that the polls present an opportunity to send a clear message to the Union Government that decisions made on and after August 5, 2019, must be revoked.

Mufti said there seems to be collusion at play between the officials and the Election Commission of India (ECI) to manipulate the electoral process.

DPS Kathua commemorates Labour Day with Special Assembly, High Tea Event

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 1

DPS Kathua celebrated Labour Day with a special assembly dedicated to recognizing the hard work and dedication of workers around the world. The event, organized by the school, aimed to pay tribute to the invaluable contributions of laborers across various sectors.

Students of DPS Kathua showcased their talent and creativity through a captivating play centered around the theme of Labour Day. The performance shed light on the struggles and achievements of the labor community, emphasizing the importance of their role in society. As a gesture of appreciation, a high tea was hosted for the laborers in attendance. This provided an opportunity for the school community to express gratitude and solidarity with the hardworking individuals whose efforts contribute to the betterment of society.

NGO, Anti Crime Bureau celebrates Labours Day

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

NGO, Anti Crime Bureau today under the Supervision of its Chairman Sham Lal Gupta Celebrated 'The Labour Day' with full aplomb.

On the Occasion, State President of Jammu and Kashmir NGO, Sahil Gupta along with ASI Naresh Digra extended greetings to the working force of the State. The event was organized to forge a better understanding of the labour community among the people must learn to respect and appreciate their efforts. He also said that the Public appreciates the hard toil of the workers put in by them throughout the year.

Gupta Showered the flowers on the labour workers, the employees were gifted with Snacks, Sweets and were Presented with Mata ki Chunri as a mark of respect, by the Leader. He asserted that workers are the real partners of development. private as well in government works.

AAP holds 'Nukkad Meeting' at Pyt Peuni in East Assembly Constituency, Udhampur



JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 2

Aam Aadmi Party District Vice-president Anil Malhotra organised a Nukkad Meeting of the party at Panchayat Peuni East Assembly Constituency Udhampur under the leadership of Ravi Shastri grievances cell co chairperson in which more than twenty people joined AAP.

While addressing the villagers meeting Shastri said that the party has become the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir Shastri, told the villagers that BJP Govt has set a trend to divert attention of the people from real issues by adopting diversionary tactics, besides suppressing the voices being raised against the misrule and mismanagement. Govt is exhibiting its animosity with the people in J&K by sidelining their genuine needs despite knowing that they are feeling isolated and depressed in the absence of the popular government are mandated to address public issues and take effective measures to address joblessness, developmental

needs and various other issues concerning them o workers that it is now their responsibility to reach out to public and highlight their issues be it the rising unemployment or be it the lack of development at grassroots in order to force the JK Govt to address these issues. he added that it is now our responsibility to reach out to public and highlight their issues be it the raising unemployment or be it the lack of development at grassroots in order to force the JK administration to address these issues.

After listen the genuine demands of the local residents like shortage of drinking water supply, electricity, mohalla streets, ration cards bpl etc. Shastri assured them of redressal of poor peoples demands at top priority basis with help of district administration.

Local those who attend the meeting Girdhari Lal, Bishan Dass, Babu Ram, Balak Ram, Mohd Hussain, Ramesh Chandra, Khadam Hussain, Rattan Lal, Ramesh Kumar, Parshotam Kumar Pinki Devi, Arti Devi and Shakuntala Bhagat.

Labour Day: Yashpal Kundal reminded Congress's guarantee

JNEWS SERVICE
VJAYPUR, MAY 1

On World Labour Day, many programs were organized by various labour organizations on Wednesday. On this occasion, voices were raised to protect the rights and interests of the workers. Jammu and Kashmir State Vice President of Indian National Congress Yashpal Kundal congratulated all the employees working as labourers in the state and across the country on Labor Day. Reminding the Congress Party's guarantee, Kundal said that Congress has announced Rs 400 per day as daily wage for every worker in its manifesto. He said that as soon as the Congress government is formed in the country, work will be started to make all

the temporary employees permanent. Kundal said that the Congress Party is committed to do justice to the working class and accordingly, empower them for their equal upliftment to bring economic stability for them. He said that the party is committed to provide justice to the working class by implementing the minimum wage law in Jammu and Kashmir. Wants to strengthen and salaries will also be increased. He said that along with the working class in the country and Jammu and Kashmir, farmers are also the working class. Therefore their rights should be protected. He also demanded justice for the unorganized sector workers in Jammu and Kashmir and protection of the rights of such workers.

Kesri compliments labour class, other workers for making lives of people easier, safer

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today complimented the Labour Class and other workers for making the lives of people easier and safer, describing the May Day as manifestation of their greater role and importance in the development of the country and its people. He also vowed to fight discrimination and injustices against the Labour section of J&K.

Addressing media persons in a press conference in Jammu today, Kesri laid emphasis over protecting and respecting the rights of Labour class. He expressed solidarity with the millions of workers across the country on May Day. He observed that the work-force in particular is facing a major brunt in present scenario. "Though the May Day is reminiscent of the workers' rights and



lations, poor working conditions, and dreadful work hours," he said.

In J&K daily wagers, need based, seasonal, casual Labours, ASHA's under NHM, Anganwadi workers and helpers, Mid Day Meal workers, CPWs,

societal response towards their well being yet there is greater need for the society to acknowledge its social responsibility towards these marginalized segments of the society", Kesri said.

Kesri recalled May Day as synonymous to workers struggles and the subsequent empowerment in the late 19th century. In India, the labour class started observing May Day from May 1, 1923. "The day is important because of workers struggle for agitation in the United States against draconian Labour laws, worker's rights vio-

MGNREGA employees, contractual & construction workers, artisans deserve Govt's top priority. Paying rich tributes to Zaldagar martyrs of 1865, he said that they laid the foundation of a struggle against the exploitation and atrocities on the artisans, a prominent section of working class. Kesri said that Labour is backbone of any country and it should be honoured. In India 70% of the population is linked with labour job but condition is not satisfactory. It indicates that Central and State Govt are not serious towards labour class.

Modi's Mangalasutra remark aimed at political gains: Siddaramaiah

AGENCIES
BELAGAVI (KARNATAKA), MAY 1

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah dismissed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent assertion alleging that if Congress comes to power, they would confiscate women's Mangalasutra, labelling it politically motivated fabrication aimed at securing votes.

Addressing reporters here on Wednesday, Siddaramaiah countered Modi's claims, highlighting the lack of precedent during the decades-long Congress rule where such actions were taken against women. He questioned PM Modi's integrity, citing unfulfilled promises and unmet commitments during his tenure.

"The Congress party governed the nation for five decades. Never did they resort to confiscating women's Mangalasutra. Why is Prime Minister



Modi resorting to such falsehoods?" the Chief Minister remarked, expressing dismay over Modi's statements given his position of responsibility. Responding to queries regarding Modi's criticism of the Congress government in Karnataka, Siddaramaiah accused PM Modi of deceit, pointing out instances where the central government failed to act in various state matters.

"What steps has the central government taken regarding the violence in

Manipur? Minorities have been promised reservations for 30 years," he stated, underlining the inconsistencies in Modi's assertions.

Addressing concerns over the sexual harassment case involving Prajwal Revanna of NDA parliamentary candidate, Siddaramaiah assured that the state government has initiated a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the matter, emphasising that appropriate action would follow based on the investigation's findings.

Karuna Chhetri, President Gorkha Samaj organizes Bhandara



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

On the Shthapana divas of Gorakh Nath Mandir Vinay Mahajan , Rajeev Charak and Sunil Prajapati inaugurated Bhandhara at Gorkha Nagar, Jammu.

Bhandara was organised by Karuna Chhetri, President Gorkha Samaj. Vinay Mahajan (Seh Prabhari Jammu North), Rajeev Charak (Senior BJP Leader), Sunil Prajapati (State President BJP OBC Morcha), Shalu Gupta (Vice President Jammu South) Pushpinder Charak v(General Secretary Jammu South), Narendra Koki (Secretary Jammu South),

Sharda Devi (Ex Corporation), Bharti (General Secretary Mahila Morcha), Hans Raj (Secretary OBC morcha Jammu South) were present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion Vinay Mahajan (Seh Prabhari Jammu North), greets public on this occasion said that every year this day is being celebrated with high enthusiasm and religious fervor.

Rajeev charak said Gorkha Samaj especially living in Gorkha Nagar celebrated this day like Festival for five days as they are deeply rooted to their cultural beliefs and traditions bequeathed to them by their forefather.

Sunil Prajapati said The youth of today remain glued to their laptops, mobile phones, video games etc and have little time to appreciate our culture and celebrate our traditional festivals. It becomes the duty of the parents to expose them to our rich culture and encourage them to take active part in the fairs & traditional festivals and thus, serve to preserve and transmit our rich culture to the posterity. He appreciated organisers and said social work like bhandaras is highly appreciable and Baba Gorakh Nath will bless all devotees with health, wealth and prosperity.

CS takes stock of rural households coverage under JJM



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today reviewed progress on providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to the beneficiaries under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across the districts of J&K.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Mission Director, JJM, Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti Jammu/Kashmir besides other senior officers of the department.

The Chief Secretary enquired about the status of Panchayats fully covered under the mission and households certified as 'Nal se Jal' during the 3rd party evaluation. He took stock of work progress on different schemes and asked for completion within the given deadline

of June, 2024. Dulloo also enquired about the status of issues raised in the last meeting. He exhorted upon the Engineers of the department to be proactive in the field and closely monitor the quality of works. He asked the Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineers to visit the sites for proper supervision and timely completion. The Chief Secretary had PHE division wise appraisal of allotted, under execution and completed works till date across all districts of the UT. He also enquired about the scheme wise performance of the department.

He asked about the monitoring of water quality of completed schemes besides assessing the feasibility of labs established by the department for this purpose. He asked for imparting necessary

training to the Pani Samities and those who would run these schemes in the villages as per guidelines of the Mission.

ACS Jal Shakti, Shaheen Kabra, presented a detailed outline of the progress made in implementation of this mission in the UT. He revealed that till date the Mission has achieved 78% of its target. He gave scheme-wise allotment for each division of the department. Besides, the JJM authorities presented details about Har Ghar Jal certified Panchayats/villages. They also gave the status of testing done in their labs established across the districts. It was added that the testing is being done by the Schools, Anganwadi Centers and village women through use of Free Testing Kits (FTKs) made available to them by the Department.

YS&S Ganderbal organize Chess & Tug of War competitions in Zone Tullamulla

JJ NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 1

A vibrant tapestry of talent unfolded as enthusiastic boys and girls student players showcased their skills in Chess and Tug of War in Zone Tullamulla organized by Youth Services and Sports (YS&S) Ganderbal.

Under the meticulous organization of GMS Batwina and MS Benhama, the events unfolded seamlessly, drawing a significant turnout from the local community.

The atmosphere was charged with excitement and determination as participants engaged in spirited competition, demonstrating their prowess in both mental acuity and physical strength.

The meritorious students were honored with medals, symbolizing their dedication and commitment to excellence. Their achievements stand as a testament to the unwaver-



ing spirit of youth in Ganderbal, inspiring others to pursue their passions and strive for greatness.

Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal is dedicated to promoting a vibrant sports culture and providing opportunities for the holistic develop-

ment of youth in the district.

Through a diverse range of programs and initiatives, the YS&S Ganderbal aims to instill values of teamwork, discipline, and resilience, empowering the youth to excel in both sports and life.

DC Bandipora conducts extensive tour of Kehnusa, Zurimnaz & adjoining areas of Tehsil Aloosa

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MAY 1

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Wednesday conducted an extensive field tour of Aloosa block, including Kehnusa, Zurimnaz and other adjoining low lying areas. The DC assessed the impact of recent incessant rains and took firsthand appraisal of the post rainfall situation.

At Panchayat Ghar Kehnusa, which is also

a polling station, the DC took stock of Assured Minimum Facilities including ramp, water supply, electricity and others for smooth conduct of Lok Sabha Election-2024 besides inspected ongoing work in Panchayat Ghar.

During his visit to Zurimnaz, the DC reviewed the on ground post rainfall situation.

While interacting with locals of Zurimnaz, the DC patiently listened to their issues and concerns and assured them to resolve

their issues on priority.

He asked concerned officers to devise a plan for a permanent solution of water logging in the low-lying Zurimnaz area.

The DC also paid a visit to Middle School Zurimnaz, interacted with staff and students besides directing the concerned officers to take fencing of school premises on priority.

Locals of Zurimnaz expressed gratitude to the DC for visiting the area and listening to their issues.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024

SVEEP: DEO Kupwara inaugurates 3-day Archery training camp for first-time voters at Handwara

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MAY 1

In a unique sports initiative to encourage voter awareness and electoral participation, the District Electoral Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today inaugurated a three day Archery training camp at Indoor Sports Stadium Handwara.

The camp was organized by District Administration Kupwara as part of the ongoing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.

Archery training camp brought together first-time voters, students, Officers of District Administration, teachers and members of Archery association, besides the general public.

The purpose of organizing the three day training camp under the SVEEP initiative was to raise awareness about the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and the importance of voting by combining the spirit of sports with a message of civic responsibility, and to develop a culture of active participation in the electoral process.



While interacting with the participants, DEO highlighted the importance of empowering

all citizens, especially first-time voters with the knowledge and confidence they need to

actively participate in the democratic process.

Ayushi emphasized the importance of every citi-

zen's voice in shaping the future of our democracy.

Addressing the first time voters, DEO said that students above 18 are our brand ambassadors for upcoming Lok Sabha elections. On May 20th, the occasion of poll day for Baramulla Parliamentary constituency, students above 18 will vote and motivate their relatives and friends to vote enthusiastically.

"You are going to spread the message of exercising the right to vote so that a responsible government is elected through responsible and informed voting" DEO said. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather, District Nodal Officer SVEEP/ CEO Kupwara, Ab Majeed Dar, CMO Kupwara, Dr. Ramzan, Tehsildar Handwara, District Youth service & sports Officer, ZEO Handwara, Cluster Heads, District Cultural Coordinator, Teachers and students from different schools, besides, officials from various departments, first time voters, community leaders, and general public also participated in the mega sports event.

Labour Day celebrated across J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 1

The Labour Day, celebrated to honour the invaluable contribution of workers, was marked with fervor and gratitude to workers across J&K.

A function was also organised at Akhnoor in Jammu where Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh graced the occasion.

The events, held across J&K, underscored commitment towards supporting the welfare and rights of

workers and symbolized solidarity with the labour force, reaffirming the importance of their role in nation-building.

A diverse assembly of workers and members of the public gathered to commemorate the day.

At Akhnoor, Labour Commissioner, J&K interacted with members of the labour class, engaging in meaningful discussions about their challenges and aspirations.

Others who were present included ALC Central Renu Bala, officers and

officials of the Labour department, prominent citizens, social workers, employer representatives and members of the general public.

Assistant Labour Commissioner, Jammu Rupali Jasrotia expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their active involvement.

Meanwhile, the Labour Day was also celebrated in other parts of the J&K with active participation of all Assistant labour Commissioners in their respective districts.

DC Bandipora reviews functioning of SAKHI One-Stop Centre



JJ NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MAY 1

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman today conducted a comprehensive review of SAKHI One-Stop Centre in a meeting held at mini Secretariat to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of SAKHI-OSC in delivering its crucial services to women in distress.

Centre Administrator SAKHI - One Stop Centre, Ishrat Ayoub apprised the chair that OSC serves as a vital resource for individuals affected by various forms of violence, pro-

viding a range of services including medical aid, legal assistance, counseling, and temporary shelter. It was revealed in the meeting that from January 2020 (Date of its Establishment in Bandipora) till date OSC registered 459 cases, out of which 350 cases were disposed-off at OSC and 43 were disposed-off at District Court Bandipora while 41 are under process at OSC.

The meeting was further informed that OSC conducted 306 awareness programs besides providing temporary shelter to 26 survivors.

Expressing satisfaction with the center's operations, DC commended the dedication of the staff and their commitment to empowering survivors. Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between SAKHI-One Stop Center and different Departments including ICDS, Social Welfare and Health to effectively address gender-based violence.

The DC underscored the importance of prioritizing initiatives that empower women and emphasized providing holistic support to women facing adversity, besides stressed on skill education for women to empower women through education and training.

Reasi Admin conducts day long operation to combat illegal mining activities



JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 1

Mining Department Reasi, in collaboration with the Police department, executed a comprehensive day-long operation to combat illegal mining activities in the district.

The strategic initiative was spearheaded under the vigilant supervision of District Magistrate Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan.

During the operation, conducted with meticulous precision, authorities apprehended and seized one heavy excavator along with five dumpers. The vehicles were found to be

clandestinely engaged in the unauthorized extraction and transportation of minor minerals at Anji Nallah, situated near release No. 4.

District Mining Officer, Shafiq Ahmed emphasized the importance of such drives in curbing the illegal extraction of minerals. He reiterated the District Administration's commitment to protecting natural resources and ensuring environmental sustainability. He highlighted that strict action will be taken against offenders to deter future illegal mining activities in the district.

CEO SSCL evaluates progress of Smart City Projects in Karan Nagar, Batmaloo & Moominabad

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 1

The CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Dr. Owais Ahmed today conducted a comprehensive assessment of the Srinagar Smart City Projects in Karan Nagar, Batmaloo, and Moominabad areas.

The purpose of the visit was to review the development achieved in these strategic locations and to provide immediate directives for accelerating the pace of work to ensure the projects are completed within the stipulated timelines.

Dr. Owais expressed his commitment to drive the progress of these smart city projects to enhance the urban infrastructure and quality of life for the residents of Srinagar.

He was accompanied by officials from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and the Srinagar Smart City Ltd.