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This election is for Modi's mission, not ambition: PM; dares Congress to restore Article 370

AGENCIES
JUNAGADH, MAY 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the ongoing Lok Sabha elections were not for satisfying his personal ambitions, but for fulfilling his "mission."

A strong and stable government was important not only for the country but also for the world, he said at a poll rally in Junagadh in Gujarat.

"These elections are not for my ambition, as people have fulfilled that ambition in 2014. The 2024 elections are for Modi's mission," the PM said.



Accusing the opposition Congress of having a "dangerous mentality", Modi said its manifesto is written in the language of Muslim League.

For Congress, this election was all about saving its existence and the party was taking help of its "Mazhabi vote bank" to stay afloat, the prime minister claimed.

In his address, he challenged the Congress to restore Article 370 in Jammu-Kashmir, abolish the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the law that bans triple talaq.

"I have buried Article 370. It is gone now. I want to challenge the Congress' royal family and its 'shehzada' (a jibe at the Gandhi family and Rahul Gandhi) that if it is your hidden agenda, then come out in the open and tell people you will restore Article 370," he said.

"I want to see how much courage they

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Greater Kailash murder case: Family stages protest, block Jammu-Pathankot NH

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

Seeking stern action against the culprits arrested by the police in murder case of a youth over land issue, the family of the deceased on Thursday staged protest and blocked the Jammu-Pathankot national highway near Gangyal here in the city outskirts.

Shouting "We want justice" and "anti-police slogans", the family members and relatives staged a protest demanding strict action against the culprits.

Notably, a day after police initiated action in Greater Kailash murder case with an arrest of seven persons, one of the accused identified as



Ravinder Kumar alias Gola Shah has also been booked under Public Safety Act.

However, many political leaders supported the protestors justifying their demand.

Protestors alleged that several high profiled officials from police and administration are hand-in-glove with the land mafia.

"We want that the culprits should be hanged to death and the properties of land mafia must be attached and bulldozed like the UP government is doing," they said.

The protestors appealed to the Lieutenant Governor's administration to intervene and issue directions to the officers in delivering justice to them.

Police on Wednesday arrested seven persons in murder case of one Avtar Singh, resident of Kalu Chak.

Police said that an investigation started and main persons, (total seven at present) related to the incident have been detained for questioning so far.

More arrests are underway as facts are coming to light, said police adding that the notorious land mafia have been tracked down and booked accordingly for their role in the conspiracy.

Jammu Kashmir Police is fully concerned about of the gravity of the matter and continues in its steadfast resolve to eradicate the mafia from its roots, said police.

Chairman JKSCC calls on LG Sinha



JINNEWSERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

S. Ajit Singh, Chairman, J&K Sikh Coordination Committee today called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

He was accompanied

by S. Balbir Singh, father of deceased Avtar Singh, a resident of Mangowali R.S. Pura, who was killed in Greater Kailash, Jammu.

Singh requested the Lieutenant Governor for a thorough and impartial investigation in

LG flags off road safety awareness tour from Raj Bhawan Srinagar

JINNEWSERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off Road Safety Awareness Tour "Mission Save Lives J&K Tour 2024" from Raj Bhawan on Thursday.

The Lt Governor commended the endeavour of Kashmir Road Safety Foundation to create awareness, educate communities, and implement measures to enhance road safety across UT of Jammu Kashmir.

Mission Save Lives J&K Tour 2024 will cover all the Districts of J&K and spread awareness about



the importance of Road Safety and Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor;

Nasir Ali Khan, Chairman, Kashmir Road Safety Foundation, senior officials and other concerned were present. KNO

Lt Governor reviews progress of TAs for PM Package Employees



JINNEWSERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday chaired a meeting with senior officials and reviewed the ongoing construction work of the Transit Accommodations for PM Package Employ-

ees.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the progress of Transit Accommodations across the Kashmir Division.

He directed the officials to accelerate the pace of work and complete the construction and associated infrastructure,

approach roads, water and power supply and other basic amenities.

Meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional

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J&K Police attaches property worth crores of a gangster in Akhnoor

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

Property worth crores of rupees belonging to a gangster in Akhnoor area of Jammu district was attached by the police on Thursday.

The property belonged to gangster Mukesh Kumar alias Gesha, son of Dilwar Kumar, a resident of Akhnoor.

According to the news agency, the gangster was evading arrest since long and has been involved in various acts.

Giving details, Jammu police said that Mukesh Kumar was evading arrest to avoid execution of PSA



warrant issued by district magistrate Jammu.

The Jammu police spokesman said that police initiated proclamation and attachment proceedings mandated under

provisions of sections 12(a) & (b) of Public Safety Act 1978 followed by 82 and 83(4)a, co & d CRPC to ensure the presence of the absconding Gangster

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J&K witnessing peaceful ever polls, massive participation of people: CEO Pole

JINNEWSERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer P.K. Pole, on Thursday, termed the ongoing elections in the erstwhile state as peaceful, urging the people to continue exercising their franchise in large numbers to ensure a vibrant and thriving democracy.

Speaking to reporters at Srinagar's Lal Chowk, Pole as per news agency highlighted the peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the region, even during the late evening hours, noting the bustling markets in the summer capi-



tal's business hub and the free movement of people without fear.

He characterized the ongoing election season as festive, citing increased participation and a peace-

ful environment. Pole emphasized the importance of people's engagement in the democratic process, urging them to turn out in large numbers during the upcoming phases of voting.

He outlined the election schedule, mentioning that Srinagar is set to go to the polls on May 13, followed by Baramulla on May 20, and Anantnag-Rajouri on May 25. Pole expressed satisfaction with the peaceful conduct of elections, likening it to other states and regions, and commended the impressive participation of the people.

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EC directs parties to stop registering voters for beneficiary schemes under guise of surveys

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

The Election Commission Thursday said it has taken a "serious view" of political parties and candidates seeking details of voters under the guise of various surveys for their proposed beneficiary schemes as it amounts to a corrupt practice under election law.

The poll authority noted that some political parties and candidates have been engaging in activities that blur the lines between

legitimate surveys and partisan efforts to register individuals for post-election beneficiary-oriented schemes.

The Election Commission issued an advisory to all national and state political parties to immediately cease and desist from any activities that involve registering people for post-election beneficiary-oriented schemes through any advertisement, survey or mobile application.

It said the act of inviting or calling upon

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Intruder might have been sent to test troops' alertness: BSF IG on infiltration bid in Jammu & Kashmir

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

A senior BSF official on Thursday said an intruder killed along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district might have been sent to carry out reconnaissance of the area and test the alertness of troops for a potential infiltration attempt.

Border Security Force (BSF) troops thwarted an infiltration bid on Wednesday night at Samba's Regal post along the IB and killed

an intruder, officials said. The body of the intruder was retrieved from the spot on Thursday.

"The troops noticed movement from across the border around 8:15 pm on Wednesday. It was closely monitored. The intruder first approached the border and then crossed the International Border. Despite being challenged by the troops, he continued to advance aggressively. Even after being challenged twice more, the intruder did not halt, leading to the troops firing at



him," BSF Inspector General (IG) D K Boora told reporters during his visit to a forward post here.

He said the intruder might have been sent to conduct reconnaissance

of the area and assess the security along the border.

"There is a gap in the embankment near the spot of the incident and also a gate, which is usually closed. He attempted to breach the border. There is a possibility that he was being followed by more individuals from across (the border) but they were not visible (to the troops)," the officer added.

Voicing suspicion that the intruder could have been part of an infiltration plan, the IG said, "He might have been sent to

probe the area. Had he succeeded in sneaking in from across the border, others who might have been observing him would have followed him. Such tactics are employed at the border." Lauding the troops, the IG said, "Our alert troops neutralised the intruder. That is our duty. Such actions also serve to demoralise the enemy." Responding to concerns raised by police about two groups of terrorists, who recently infiltrated from across

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CIK arrests youth trying to join terrorist ranks in Budgam

JINNEWSERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) Thursday claimed to have arrested an individual trying to join terrorist ranks in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

In a statement issued to news agency, that April 29, an input was received from reliable sources that terrorist outfit Ansar Gazwat-ul-Hind is trying to re-establish its base and revive its cadres in Kashmir.

The statement reads

that in furtherance to this conspiracy, a Pakistan based terror handler of AuGH identified as Hamzah alias Gazi has been learnt brainwashing Kashmiri youth to join terrorist ranks.

"It was further learnt that AuGH has brainwashed and cultivated few committed hybrid OGWs in Kashmir and these OGWs in connivance are planning a terrorist recruitment drive in the Valley," it reads.

It added that the input was further developed technically and one indi-

vidual namely Waseem Ahmad Sheikh of Beerwah was identified on ground and was accordingly detained for questioning.

During preliminary investigation it was revealed that he was in constant touch with the handlers through virtual mode and was about to join the terrorist outfit by forming a new group.

The statement reads that he had been further assigned to identify a group of youth willing to join terrorism with AuGH terrorist outfit.

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CEO SSCL inspects Jehangir Chowk Junction Improvement

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

The CEO, Srinagar Smart City Ltd (SSCL), Dr. Owais Ahmed Thursday conducted a detailed inspection of the Jehangir Chowk Junction evaluating the ongoing construction efforts and the current status of the project.

During the site visit, the CEO carefully reviewed the project blueprints of the Jehangir Chowk Junction stressing the significance of adhering to project timelines and upholding high-quality standards to facilitate the effective transformation of the Junction.

Recognizing the critical importance of the Junction for both traffic flow and pedestrian movement, the CEO instructed the Chief Engineer of SSCL to implement double-shift work to expedite the project's completion.



ject to favourable weather conditions. Furthermore, the CEO committed that the whole project will be completed within the stipulated time frame.

This proactive measure is geared towards ensuring the timely delivery of the project and facilitating smooth traffic circulation and pedestrian access at Jehangir Chowk.

The CEO committed to have macadamization on the road surface at Jehangir Chowk (Junction) within a week's time, sub-

ject to favourable weather conditions. Furthermore, the CEO committed that the whole project will be completed within the stipulated time frame.

The CEO was accompanied by Chief Engineer SSCL, Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, senior officials from SMC, SSCL and line departments.

SVEEP Team Rajouri hosts voters awareness at GHSS Deriralyote

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 2

The District SVEEP Team, under supervision of District Election Officer Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, conducted an awareness program at Government Higher Secondary School Deriralyote today.

The event was attended by Qayoom Shah, Principal of the institution, along with prominent figures from Civil Society, former PRI members, school staff, HOs of cluster Schools, and students.

The programme was aimed to bolster voter participation in Lok Sabha Elections 2024. Welcoming the attendees, Prof. Khalid Rayaz outlined the objectives of the SVEEP initiative.

Prof. Mohammad Iqbal Raina, Nodal Officer for SVEEP, provided insights into the ongoing SVEEP Awareness Program in the District, urging participants to disseminate the message widely to enhance voter turnout in the upcoming Lok Sabha 2024 election.



Mohammad Ayaz Raina underscored the significance of voting in India's democracy, urging participants to ensure every eligible voter participates in the electoral process.

The prominent locals present on the occasion affirmed commitment for maximum voting from their polling booths in the forthcoming election.

In his address, Qayoom Shah, Principal, commended the District SVEEP Team for their efforts in raising awareness about voting rights and encouraged active participation in the upcoming election.

Two week river rafting event commences at Gulabgarh Paddar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 2

District Administration Kishtwar has joined hands with adventure enthusiasts and stakeholders, including Asikini Adventures and Extreme Adventures to organize a thrilling two-week river rafting event in mighty Chenab River near Gulabgarh Paddar.

The event aims to promote adventure tourism and support adventure tourism operators in the area. A circus for the locals and children, along with tent houses, has been installed to enhance the recreational experience for attendees.

The two-week-long river rafting expedition has attracted adventure lovers and enthusiasts from across the region to enjoy the exhilarating spate of the Chenab River alongside the Gulabgarh bank.

The event witnessed the presence of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav; CEO Kishtwar Development Authority Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma; SDM Paddar Amit Kumar; ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh among other officers and officials.

DC Kishtwar shared words of encouragement with the stakeholders and

adventure enthusiasts for the event.

Meanwhile, during the tour of Paddar Sub-Division, the Deputy Commissioner assessed the preparations for the Shree Machail Mata Yatra by taking first hand appraisal of the status of approaching roads, bridges, and accommodation facilities. Necessary directions were passed to concerned agencies to expedite the preparations to ensure hassle-free facilities ahead of the Yatra.

SDM Paddar was instructed to monitor the process closely to ensure timely completion of all necessary arrangements.

2nd ICMSDT-2024 concludes second day with inspiring talks and cultural celebration

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

The Department of Nanoscience successfully concluded the second day of the International Conference on Materials for Sustainable Development and Technologies, a groundbreaking event that brought together leading researchers, scholars, and experts in the field of sustainability from across the globe. The conference, which began on 01 May and will run until 3rd May, has been a platform for insightful discussions, knowledge sharing, and collaboration towards a sustainable future.

The second day of the conference commenced with a series of engaging sessions, starting with a captivating plenary talk delivered by a distinguished speaker. This was followed by thought-provoking invited talks and oral presentations that explored various facets of sustainability, from environmental conservation to socio-economic development. One of the highlights of the day was the poster presentation session, where research-



ers and scholars from abroad and across the country showcased their innovative work and research findings. In the spirit of fostering cultural exchange and camaraderie, a vibrant cultural evening was organized with the generous support of Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean Student Welfare, Central University of Jammu. She conveyed her gratitude for the support of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain in inspiring and endorsing this cultural event at Central University of Jammu. Folk dances from Jammu,

Kashmir and Punjab are among the cultural dance performances included at this event. The Nitya Roots Dance groups showcased these vibrant dances, brought to life by the talented direction of Mr. Aakash Dogra, who skillfully choreographed the performances. Furthermore, Vishaka Bhardwaj and the esteemed vocalist Mr. Sunil Sharma, known as J&K's Kishore Kumar, demonstrate their exceptional vocal talents. Finally, the talented senior artist Proshant Kumar on tabla and Darshan Taroch

on guitar created a beautiful and harmonious evening. Mr. Sanjeev Raina, the secretary of the J&K Academy of Art and Culture, is the driving force behind this extraordinary cultural event.

The cultural evening provided a refreshing break and an opportunity for participants to unwind and network in a relaxed atmosphere.

Prof. Vinay Kumar, Dean of Applied and Basic Sciences, presented a significant recognition to the artists who showcased their talent during the cultural

evening. Prof. Balaji Rao Ravuri, the Conference Chair, expressed his satisfaction with the proceedings of the second day. The exchange of ideas and the collaborations formed here will undoubtedly contribute significantly to advancing sustainability efforts globally."

As the conference progresses into its remaining days, participants can look forward to more insightful sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities aimed at driving impactful solutions for a sustainable future.

Advisor Bhatnagar inspects the progress of establishment of Vidhya Samiksha Kendra

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today visited Teacher Bhawan to inspect ongoing works related to the establishment of Vidhya Samiksha Kendra (Command and Control Centre).

Secretary, School Education Dr. Piyush Singla, Project Director Samagra Shiksha Rakesh Magotra, Director School Education Jammu Ashok Sharma, Director School Education Kashmir Tassaduq Husain, Director Finance, Director Planning besides other senior officers of the department accompanied the Advisor during visit.

Advisor Bhatnagar had an extensive round of the Centre to assess the progress with regard to each component of the Kendra. After inspection of



ongoing works, the Advisor had a detailed meeting to get first hand appraisal of ongoing works in the Centre. He appreciated the department for the progress made, so far, in establishing the centre. He highlighted that this technology driven initiative of School Education Department will primarily focus on learning outcomes of the students and their holistic development.

The Advisor said that the main objective of VSK is to integrate all the data sources and build a structure for taking corrective measures to improvise

the education system. Besides, the dashboards and reports for districts, blocks and individual schools shall be collated in the VSK followed by a detailed analysis to fill the critical gaps.

The Advisor said that exclusive remedial classes and assessment tests of students, falling behind in their studies, shall be conducted through AI-powered chatbots of Vidhya Samiksha Kendra. He added that introduction of Vidhya Samiksha Kendra is all about giving our students and educators the best tools for success and it's the next big

step in refining education in J&K using real-time data and feedback loops, adding that the 6A framework of VSK including attendance, assessments, adaptive learning, administration, accreditation, and AI nudges will be setting new education benchmarks in near future.

During the meeting, Dr Piyush Singla apprised the Advisor of the progress recorded in establishment of VSK, so far. He informed that, real-time data on various parameters, will offer invaluable insights into student progress, teacher training and overall school performance.

Project Head, Convergence Private Limited, Anuj, who designed the VSK and executed the project, presented a detailed presentation on functioning, operationalization and outcomes of the project

Chenab Valley Bash T20 tournament commences at Bhabderwah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, MAY 02

The much anticipated Chenab Valley Bash T20 tournament commenced today at Bhabderwah.

The tournament was declared open by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Doda, Harvinder Singh at a grand opening ceremony marking the beginning of thrilling cricket extravaganza that promises to captivate audiences and showcase the best of local talent.

With teams from across the region vying for glory, the Chenab Valley Bash T20 tournament is set to be a showcase of skill, sportsmanship, and camaraderie. The tournament promises high-octane matches, nail-biting finishes, and unforgettable moments that will keep cricket enthusiasts on the edge of their seats. With a strong emphasis on fair play and competitive spirit, the Chenab Valley Bash T20 tournament is set to be a highlight of the sporting calendar in the region.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024: DC Ganderbal leads mega plantation drive under SVEEP at Badarkund

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 2

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamir Thursday led the inauguration of a significant plantation campaign at Tara Gali, Badarkund area in Ganderbal.

This plantation initiative was organized by the District Administration in collaboration with NLCO under Mission 50,000, a pivotal component of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of various stakeholders including ACD Ganderbal, Dr Bashir Ahmad; DFO Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal, Danish Khan; CPO, Shahnawaz Khan; Chairman NLCO, Manzoor Ahmad Wangnoo; DFO Social Forestry Ganderbal, DIO Ganderbal, students from diverse educational institutions, and local residents. Addressing the attendees, the DC com-



mented all the concerned for this green initiative adding that we have also achieved the slogan of one plant one vote, and till date over two lakh plants have been planted in the district. He appealed to all eligible voters to cast their votes with the same enthusiasm as shown during the

plantation drive. On the occasion the DC also appreciated the NLCO for rejuvenating the spring in the locality.

The DC also solicited the cooperation of the community in safeguarding and nurturing the planted saplings, emphasizing the collective responsibility

towards environmental conservation.

The mega plantation drive underscores the District Administration's commitment to environmental sustainability and civic engagement, marking a significant step towards a greener and more participatory future.

DSEK orders new timing for schools in Srinagar from May 6

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

The Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) on Thursday ordered a change in classwork timings for all government and private schools falling within the municipal limits of Srinagar from 06 May 2024. As per the news agency CNS, an order copy from the DSEK said that the new timings for the classwork of schools (government and recognized private institutions) falling within the municipal limits of Srinagar city would be from 08:30 am to 02:30 pm. "Consequent upon the approval conveyed by the competent authority, all Government and Private Recognized Schools within the municipal limits of Srinagar city shall observe school timings from 08:30 am to 02:30 pm w.e.f 06.05.2024," reads the order. *cws*

DC discusses SANJY- 2024 arrangements in Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 2

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today chaired a crucial preparatory meeting to discuss the comprehensive arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2024 (SANJY).

The meeting was attended by SSP Ramban Anuj Kumar, SSP Traffic Rohit Baskotra, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, PD NHAI Parshotam Kumar, CPO Shakeeb Ahmed, Executive Engineers of various wings and senior officers from other line departments.

For ensuring hassle free movement of vehicles on the National Highway, the Deputy Commissioner directed PD NHAI to maintain NH-44 from Nashri to Banihal especially on all vulnerable locations including Dalwas, Cafeteria Morh, Panthyal, Mom Pasi, Kishtwari Pather and other locations besides ensuring availability of sufficient men and machinery on identified points along the National Highway.

The DC also asked the concerned officers to install CCTV cameras



at crucial locations for 24x7 monitoring of Traffic movement especially during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

A threadbare discussion was held on water and power supply to langars, Lodgment centres, deployment of provision of health care facilities, sanitation plan, establishment of langers, management of lodgment centres, and process for seeking permission with mandatory provision of CCTV and fire extinguishers, uninterrupted traffic movement, availability of men and machinery, security, signage installation and maintenance of NH-44, parking of vehicles etc

The SSP briefed the

meeting about security arrangements and assured full cooperation to all civil departments for making necessary arrangements for the convenience of yatries.

The SSP Traffic also briefed about the traffic Regulation Plan and passed necessary directions to concerned officers for implementing the same.

The DC directed ADC to check all vulnerable locations for installation of CCTV cameras for real time monitoring of NH-44 situation.

Earlier, ADC, who is also the Nodal Officer Yatra, briefed the meeting regarding the action plan to make Shri Amarnath Ji yatra 2024 successful.

DC Doda reviews status of road access to tourist areas of Bhaderwah

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 2

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh toured tourists-spots of Bhaderwah Valley to gather first hand appraisal of the facilities available as well as status of road access to these areas.

The visit highlighted the ongoing efforts of district administration to ensure better connectivity and infrastructure for the upcoming tourist season.

During the visit, the DC met with officers from the tourism and developmental departments to discuss the ongoing work on key roads.

He emphasized the need to clear the roads and ensure that all tourist sites have updated facilities in the coming month, just in time for the upcoming tourist season.

The DC informed that the Bhaderwah-Padri-Chamba road has been thrown open for traffic. He emphasised the strategic importance of the road which would cater to Tourist inflow from neighbouring State of Himachal Pradesh & other states.

He urged the road authorities to work swiftly to ensure that this road remains open throughout the season, facilitating smooth travel for visitors and locals alike.

Blood Donation Camp held at GDC Ganderbal; 31 Blood Units collected

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 2

A blood donation camp was organized today by Department of Health Care Centre, NCC, NSS, Physical Education and Sports Department of Government Degree College, Ganderbal in collaboration with District Hospital, Ganderbal within the College campus, here. A team of doctors from District Hospital Ganderbal and other GDC officials were present during the camp. The NCC cadets, students and staff of the college took part in the day-long blood donation camp.

On the occasion, Prof Fouzia Fatima, Principal of the college said that blood donation is a noble cause through which precious lives can be saved as it does not cause any weakness but has many health benefits. Prof Fouzai thanked all the donors and participants for their overwhelming participation

and further said that organizing such camps in the College is giving an opportunity to every student and staff of the College to participate in the noble cause, and also emphasized more such camps be organized in the College.

Prof. Mujeeb Ahmad Kawoosa, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Ahangar, Dr. Shaheena Akhter and other Faculty members of the college were present on the occasion to supervise all the activities of the blood donation camp.

Many volunteers including students participated in the camp and donated blood as around 31 blood units were collected. All the NCC cadets along with the staff members were seen taking greater initiatives both as volunteers and donors.

Those who donated blood were taken to the relaxation room for the rest of a few minutes and given certificates and refreshments.

DLSAs of Srinagar & Budgam organize Awareness programme at Central Jail Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

In a joint effort, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar and District Legal Services Authority Budgam organized an awareness program on Access to Justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest, and Remand Stage besides Rights of Under-trial Prisoners at Central Jail Srinagar.

The programme aimed to educate the Jail Inmates about their rights and entitlements at various stages of the criminal justice system, including during pre-arrest, arrest, and remand. The programme covered topics such as bail, parole, and furlough, with the objective of enabling the prisoners to navigate the legal system effectively.

Shahrooq Bhat, Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Budgam spoke about the access to justice at pre-arrest, arrest and remand stages, highlighting the significance of seeking legal aid and assistance. He also emphasized the importance of parole and furlough, explaining the procedures and benefits associated with these provisions.

Urba Rashid, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Srinagar, emphasized the rights of under trial prisoners and the importance of plea



bargaining in the criminal justice system. She stressed that awareness of their rights is crucial for prisoners to navigate the legal system effectively.

The awareness programme was a significant step towards empowering jail inmates with knowledge of their rights and facilitating their access to justice.

District Legal Services Authority Srinagar and

Budgam have reiterated their commitment to providing legal aid and assistance to the marginalized sections of society, including prisoners.

The authorities believe that such awareness programmes will go a long way in promoting the cause of justice and ensuring that the rights of under trial prisoners are protected and upheld.

SVEEP team hosts musical concert at GDC Mendhar to reach out young Electorates

JI NEWS SERVICE
MENDHAR, MAY 2

As part of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme, the District Election Cell Poonch organized a musical concert themed "MY VOTE, MY VOICE" at Government Degree College here.

The aim of the concert was to educate and motivate young voters to exercise their right to vote as

responsible citizens. The event witnessed impressive performances by Ehsan Asgar, Aftab Mir and other local artists.

Speaking on the occasion, District Election Officer Yasin M. Choudhary emphasized that the purpose of the programme was to spread electoral literacy among students and youth and motivate them to participate in the election process. He further urged the young voters to exercise their franchise

without fail and contribute towards strengthening of democracy. The event witnessed huge participation of students and locals which gave a fillip to the already built up electoral atmosphere in the district.

A signature campaign was also conducted to motivate the voters to cast their vote. The event was also attended by SSP, Yougal Manhas, SDM Mendhar, and other officers of district administration.

DC Ramban Leads Efforts to Strengthen Connectivity in Sub Division Gool



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 2

Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, accompanied by SSP Ramban Anuj Kumar and ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, took proactive steps today by overseeing road maintenance activities at Bajmasta on the Digidol-Sumber route.

The initiative aims to bolster connectivity to Sub Division Gool, tackling challenges stemming from the recent closure of the Ramban-Gool road due to land subsidence at Pernote.

Recognizing the critical importance of uninterrupted connectivity for local residents, Deputy Commissioner Chaudhary

personally supervised the maintenance efforts.

The Digidol-Sumber route serves as a lifeline for transportation and economic activities in Sub Division Gool. DC Chaudhary emphasized that today's concerted efforts underscore our commitment to swiftly address challenges and maintain seamless connectivity for the community's welfare.

The Deputy Commissioner was also accompanied by Tehsildar Ramban, Deep Kumar, Executive Engineer PWD Ramban Abhishek Gupta, Executive Engineer PWD Banihal, Iqbal Ahmed, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Ramban, Rajiv Gai and various concerned officers.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

DEO B'la flags-off Student & Tonga Rally under SVEEP to boost Voter engagement

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 2

In a dynamic display of democratic fervor, the District Election Officer (DEO) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa in presence of Nodal Officer MCC, Syed Qamar Sajad, Nodal Officer MCMC, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina, today flagged-off first of its kind Tonga Rally from Dak Bungalow Baramulla, aimed at enhancing voter awareness and inspiring people to actively participate in the Lok Sabha Elections on 20th of May in the 1-Baramulla parliamentary constituency.

The unique tonga rally which passed through the streets of main Baramulla town before culminating at the historic Cement Bridge, garnered a widespread participation from the local community, emphasizing the importance of maximum participation in the electoral process.

Speaking during the ceremony, the DEO underscored that the goal of organizing these events and rallies is to promote electoral literacy and spread awareness of the election process, thereby empowering the electorates, especially the first-time voters to actively par-



ticipate in the elections.

The DEO further elaborated on the efforts of the district administration in educating the voters through a series of vibrant activities carried out under SVEEP to maximize participation in the electoral process and said that frequency of such activities will only intensify as the poll day for

1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency is approaching.

Later, the DEO flagged off a student rally from the Dak Bungalow Baramulla, witnessing an enthusiastic participation of hundreds of students driven by fervor to educate and inspire first-time voters, urging them to actively engage in the electoral

process. The rally traversed through the streets of Baramulla town, with students fervently waving placards and echoing powerful slogans, urging the community to actively participate in the Lok Sabha elections scheduled to be held in 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency on 20th of May.

International Labour Day celebrated in Kishtwar



JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 2

The spirit of International Labour Day (ILD) resonated in Kishtwar district as the local community came together to celebrate the hardworking workers under the auspices of District Labour department, led by Assistant Labour Commissioner Mamta Sudarshan and her dedicated staff.

The highlight of the celebration was a spirited cricket match organized to honour and encourage the diligent workers of the region, in collaboration with the authorities and staff of the ongoing

Hydroelectric Power Projects (HEPP).

Amidst cheers and camaraderie, teams passionately competed, showcasing not only their cricketing prowess but also their unwavering dedication and resilience in their respective fields of work.

The event served as a poignant reminder of the importance of acknowledging and appreciating the invaluable contributions of the labour force. As spectators cheered on, the cricket match became a symbol of unity and solidarity, echoing the collective strength of the workers in Kishtwar.

Ajaz Jan conducts tour to assess damages in upper hills of Mandi Tehsil

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 2

Ajaz Jan, Provincial President of Youth, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, conducted a comprehensive tour of the upper hills of Mandi Tehsil in District Poonch to assess the extensive damages inflicted upon the residents due to recent incessant rains.

During the tour, it was observed that several areas suffered significant losses. Panchayat Chikri Ban Mohalla RatanKata W No 5 witnessed substantial damage to houses, while the Barachar to Markot Link Road was completely destroyed. Additionally, numerous houses in Bedar Panchayat were damaged, alongside the roads in Gagrian and Sawijan. The losses in Loran Batalok Panchayat, Wandtantrya Panchayat, and Sib Panchayat were also notable.



Furthermore, the communities in Baila Panchayat and Balnoi and Dunnugam reported considerable losses to their homes.

Ajaz Jan highlighted the urgent need for government intervention to aid the affected residents. He emphasized that several houses were completely destroyed during the incessant rains, leaving many families vulnerable and displaced. He urged the government to extend

the benefits of the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (PMAY) to these families to facilitate their rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

Furthermore, Ajaz Jan called upon the government to promptly constitute assessment teams to evaluate the losses incurred and prioritize compensation for the affected individuals. He stressed the importance of swift action to enable

the affected communities to rebuild their homes and regain stability.

In addition to these concerns, he also highlighted that the Mandi Loran Sabjiyan Road was severely damaged, further exacerbating the challenges faced by the residents.

Ajaz Jan reaffirmed the commitment of National Conference to stand in solidarity with the affected communities and work tirelessly towards their recovery and welfare.

Among those accompanying Ajaz Jan during the assessment were Sarpanch Yaseen Shah, Shamim Shah, Naib Sarpanch Khalil Chohan, Rustam Lohar, Abdul Jabbar Tantry, Abdul Razak Sarpanch, Bashir Naik Sarpanch, Javiad Ahmed, Manzoor Ahmed Banday, Anwar Shah, Mohd Haneef, Khalil Lone, Abdul Rahaman Beig, Rafiq Sarpanch, and others.

Braham Jyot thanks OBC community for providing support to BJP in LS in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

Braham Jyot Satti, BJP senior leader and incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir issued a press statement and thanked all OBCs for providing support to BJP in on going lok sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his statement he said some self styled leaders from different political parties who always claimed to be leaders of obc communities have tried hard to instigate and divert the obc votes but OBC communities ignore these kind of all self styled leaders and cast their precious votes in favour of BJP .

He said Nation's first ideology of BJP is best and it works in the nation's interest and prominent citizens are joining hands with BJP which is highly appreciable .



He said OBCs are backbone of our nation because OBCs shares maximum population of India and OBCs are diehard nationalists . In this elections OBC communities are giving full support to BJP and casting their precious votes to bjp for nation's faith and definitely bjp will get full mandate in on going elections with the help of OBCs.

He said ongoing elections are not about any party but about ideology,

one which is in the interest of the country and the other which is anti-national . The BJP always works in the interest of the nation and our public will vest their interest in BJP again and we will make majority government.

He said from the past 10 year PM Narendra Modi led government is working for betterment of public and giving true example of Sewa , Sushasan and Garib Kalyan .

He said Prime Minister Modi is very dedicated and down to earth personality and has launched various beneficial schemes especially for OBCs and has provided new carrier opportunities to them .

He said in past 10 years BJP has made India a strong and Progressive country and created new employment opportunities for youth and working for all segments and India is blessed to have PM like

Narendra Modi.

He said in the past 10 years BJP dealt with big issues like surgical strike to strengthen the country, construction of Ram temple which has been in dispute for a long time, removal of Article 370 to connect Kashmir in the main stream, ban on triple talaq for justice to minority women. Our party has tried to realize the slogan of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas .

He said PM Modi also belongs to the OBC community and he highlighted various schemes like Vishwakarma , Ayushman Bharat , Kisan Samman Nidhi yojna , cleanliness campaign, Aawas Yojna, Ujjwala gas scheme and he said that Casting of Huge number of votes from OBC communities represents the dedication of OBCs samaaj towards nation and development.

NIT Srinagar mourns sudden loss of MED student in tragic road accident

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Thursday consoled the sudden demise of Vipul Tyagi, a student of the Mechanical Engineering Department, in a tragic road accident on a rainy day.

Hailing from Uttar Pradesh, Vipul, a 4th Semester student from the 2022 batch (BMECH115), met with an accident near Foreshore road on 28th March. The deceased fought for his life at SKIMS Soura for many days but unfortunately lost his battle on Wednesday.

The entire NIT Srinagar community including teaching, non teaching staff, students and scholars, led by Director Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, gathered at the Fountain Park for a condolence meeting. A two-minute silence was observed, and prayers were offered for the departed soul.

Describing Vipul Tyagi's passing as both untimely and sorrowful, Director expressed his profound grief and prayed for peace and mercy for the departed soul. He extended



heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, praying for them to find the strength and forbearance to cope with the loss.

"During this difficult period, may the family find the strength and resilience needed to navigate through the profound grief. NIT Srinagar stands united with them in this time of sorrow," Prof. Nath said.

"We are all aware of the rights and duties bestowed upon us by the constitution. While we often assert our rights, we must also remember our duties and responsibilities. When students are away from home, they must be more cautious and adhere to local advisories. Let us

all learn from this tragic incident and cultivate self-discipline. His loss is an irreparable one for the Institute," he said.

In his message, Institute's Registrar, Prof. Aatikur Rehman, expressed deep sorrow and offered heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the late Vipul Tyagi.

He mentioned that Vipul had been under treatment at SKIMS Soura for the past four days, and the NIT Srinagar administration had provided every time possible support to the family, emphasizing that his passing is a collective loss.

"Vipul's absence is deeply felt by all of us at NIT Srinagar. We extend

our support to his family and friends, offering strength and solace as they navigate through this challenging period of grief. May his soul rest in peace," Prof. Rehman said.

Head MED, Prof. Adnan Qayoom paid heartfelt condolences and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family. He stated that the entire ME department and Vipal Tyagi's classmates are profoundly saddened by the loss, standing in solidarity with the family during this challenging time.

"Vipal Tyagi was a good-natured and highly disciplined student. He was good at studies and his sudden departure leaves a significant void.

and we remain steadfast in solidarity with the grieving family throughout this difficult period."

Meanwhile, NIT Srinagar has advised its students to avoid non-essential travel, trekking, or visits to hill stations or water bodies during holidays until further notice.

"The safety and well-being of our students are of utmost importance to us. Given the current climatic uncertainties, including heavy rainfall, landslides, and potential road closures, it is imperative that you exercise caution and prioritize your safety above all."

It said students should stay updated with weather forecasts from reliable sources and adhere to any advisories issued by local authorities. If you have any concerns or require assistance, do not hesitate to reach out to us any time."

"Our team of all assistants/wardens is available to reach out to you. Your cooperation and understanding in this matter is greatly appreciated. Let us all work together to ensure the safety and security of everyone in our community," the advisory concluded.

Reliance retail's Tira beauty unveils new private label brand: 'Nails Our Way'



Away, and Treat Coat nail enamel collections. These collections boast a diverse palette of colours, ensuring a perfect match for every mood and occasion. Alongside vibrant enamels, the line offers essential nail care products including the No Bump Base, Cuti Care, and Toughen Up solutions to nourish, strengthen, and

J1 NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, MAY 2

Reliance Retail's Tira Beauty announces the launch of its latest private label brand, 'Nails Our Way', signifying a major expansion in its beauty offerings. This new line features a broad array of premium nail colour and care products, designed to enable consumers to express their unique style and embrace personal creativity.

'Nails Our Way' brings an innovative approach to nail care, with a product line that includes the Gel Well, Swift Dry, Breathe

protect nails. The range also introduces gentle yet effective nail enamel removers like the innovative 2 Toned Vanisher and the acetone-free Squeaky Clean. For those looking for a complete manicure solution, convenient kits such as French 'Em Up and Nailed It are also available, providing all the tools needed for a professional-quality finish at home. Explore the full 'Nails Our Way' collection online at Tirabeauty.com. Step into the world of Nails Our Way and let your true self shine with every colour and finish you choose.

Student Welfare: KU creating inclusive stage for excellence, personal growth: VC

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

To enrich student experiences and encourage a vibrant campus, the University of Kashmir (KU) is empowering students through a series of initiatives aimed at enhancing their welfare. In this backdrop, KU's Department of Students' Welfare (DSW) held a meeting with key stakeholders here Wednesday.

In a statement, KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan reiterated that the varsity remains steadfast in its commitment to student welfare.

"We consistently strive to create an enriching and inclusive campus environment conducive to academic excellence and personal growth," Prof Nilofer Khan said.

The meeting highlighted the importance of leveraging digital tools to streamline admissions while focusing on creating a conducive study environment for students.



"The aim is to simplify procedures and create a seamless and efficient experience for prospective students by minimizing hassles and improving accessibility," Dean, Student's Welfare, Prof Shamim was quoted in the statement as saying.

To organise a variety of activities that align with the interests of students and enhance their overall campus experience, suggestions were explored for specialised extracurricular programmes designed specifically for hostel residents.

"To simplify fee payments for students, reducing wait time and enhancing convenience for a hassle-free financial experience, payment methods such as, QR code-based transac-

tions were explored," the spokesperson said.

The varsity encourages active involvement in NSS activities and sports programmes among undergraduate, postgraduate and research scholars, promoting comprehensive development, mental health and encouraging community engagement.

Other concerns that were discussed included enhancing the healthcare services at the University Health Centre, particularly for hostel residents, improving accessibility, quality of care and medical facilities to better support student health and wellbeing was also discussed.

The university is already conducting health awareness camps to ensure the campus

remains agile.

The meeting also underlined the need for optimizing transportation services to enhance campus accessibility for the university students. The varsity already has a fleet of buses and vehicles to facilitate student and staff commutation.

"To bridge the student community with the administration, an online grievance redressal system is already in place to provide students with a convenient platform to address concerns and seek resolution for issues they encounter in a time bound manner," read the statement.

Further discussions included plans to make the process of obtaining 'No Objection Certificates' (NOCs) from various offices and departments available online.

"This will eliminate the need for students to physically visit multiple offices, simplifying administrative procedures and saving valuable time," it read.

You will be remembered as PM who indulged in divisive, communal speeches: Kharge to Modi

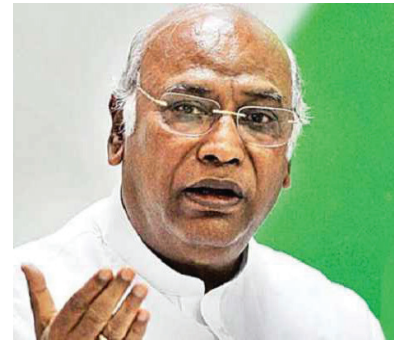
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday alleged that, the people of the country will remember Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a person who indulged in divisive and communal speeches filled with lies to avoid an inevitable defeat.

In a letter to Modi, the Congress president alleged that Modi has got frustrated due to the low turnout of voters in the first two phases of Lok Sabha election, and was using language that does not suit the office of the Prime Minister.

He said, "It is better as the Prime Minister if you seek votes on the performance of your government over the last ten years instead of indulging in hate speeches".

Referring to the letters written by PM to NDA candidates, Kharge said, "The letter makes it look like the lies in your speeches are not having the effect you intended and now you



do not blame your karyakartas," Kharge wrote to Modi.

He also slammed the Prime Minister and Home Minister Amit Shah for accusing Congress of practicing 'appeasement politics' and said, "The only appeasement policy that we have seen in the last 10 years is the appeasement of Chinese by you and your Ministers".

The Congress president also rubbished the Modi's claim that reservation will be taken away from SC, ST and OBC and given to their 'votebank'.

He retorted the claim saying, "Our votebank is every Indian - the poor, the marginalised, the women, the aspirational youth, the labour class, the Dalits and the Adivasis".

"Everyone knows it is the RSS and BJP which wants to change the Constitution to end reservation. Your leaders have

openly spoken about it. You need to clarify why you are opposed to reservation to SC, ST and OBCs on the basis of their population as per Article 16 of our Constitution," Kharge wrote.

The Rajya Sabha MP said while the Congress party was talking about Nyay Patra for all sections of the society, the BJP was not interested in talking about the ever widening inequality, unemployment and unprecedented price rise. He also hit out at the PM for spreading lies about Inheritance Tax and said, "Your letter lies that Congress wants to bring Inheritance Tax when it is your former Finance Minister and your party leaders who have repeatedly mentioned they want Inheritance Tax. People can see these speeches and comments of your leaders online," the Congress Chief wrote.

Kharge challenged Modi or anyone he deputed to debate on the party's Nyay Patra and the points Modi has made.

Director General ni-msme visits IUST: commends efforts for promotion of entrepreneurship ecosystem

JI NEWS SERVICE
AWANTIPORA, MAY 2

Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) hosted National Institute for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), GoI's delegation led by Dr. S. Glory Swarupa, Director General and discussed collaboration in the areas of skill development, business incubation, innovative readiness and further strengthening the industry-academia interface.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Shakil A Romshoo welcomed the Director General and Industry leaders representing different business chambers who attended the programme. He said that IUST values engagement with industry to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, skilling and start-up ecosystem as envisaged under NEP-2020. He said that under the aegis of CIED, Centre for Small businesses and



KAST extensive reach out and capacity building programs are being organized, and the active participation of youth indicates a palpable change in their perception towards setting up of business ventures. He also said that IUST prioritizes focus on new age technologies such as AI/ML, Robotics, Quantum Computing etc. and is establishing Centre for Industry 4.0, in collaboration with Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India which will be one of the ten such centers across the country. He said need of the hour is that strategic plans of educational

institutions dovetail with the industry to make up for deficit in skilled and productive human resources. Dr. S. Glory Swarupa commended IUST for its efforts in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship and highlighted various programs offered by ni-msme that could significantly benefit aspiring entrepreneurs in the region.

Prof. A. H. Moon, Dean Academic Affairs discussed the different verticals of CIED and collaborations with different eminent national institutions like SIDBI, IITs etc. He highlighted new centres and

new programmes established in the IUST focusing on the requirements of IR 4.0

The delegation engaged in a series of interactions, including meetings with government officials, representatives from PhD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, including Mr. A. P. Vicky Shaw (Chairman of PHDCCI Kashmir), Mr. Javid Anim (Co-Chair of PHDCCI Kashmir), Mr. Himayu Wani, (Co-Chair of PHDCCI Kashmir), Mr. Shahid Khan (Convener Education and Skill Development PHDCCI Kashmir), Er Rakesh Jinsi (Executive member PHDCCI Kash-

mir), Er Owais Raja (Co-Convener Education and Skill Development PHDCCI Kashmir), Iqbal Fayaz Jan (Deputy Director PHDCCI Kashmir), Er Pervaiz Qalander (Convener Industrial Affairs PHDCCI Kashmir), Mr. Adil Ahsan (Head SIDBI), Mr. Imran Murtaza (President Industrial Association Khonmoh), Mr. Fawzul Kabir (MD, GR8 Sports), and Mr. Bashir Ahmed (President Bakery Association). They also toured key facilities in the university, including the Design Innovation Centre (DIC), High-Performance Computing (HPC) facility, and e-Yantra. Parallely, an Expert Talk on Investor Awareness was delivered by Mr. B. K. Gupta (DGM, SEBI's Northern Region Office) and Mr. J. S. Kohli (Senior Manager at BSE) was also organized. The event also featured presentations by various faculty members focusing on different aspects of IUST's initiatives.

Enforcement Drive targets Traffic Violations in Gulmarg



JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 2

To address traffic violations and improve visitor experience, the CEO Gulmarg, Waseem Raja and SSP Traffic Rural, Kashmir Ravinder Pal Singh led a joint initiative with the Motor Vehicle Department, Traffic Department, Municipality and Police to conduct an enforcement drive in Gulmarg and Tangmarg, today.

The focus was on curbing overcharging and illegal parking to facilitate both tourists and locals.

and promote responsible behavior, witnessed the inspection of numerous vehicles. Substantial fines totaling Rs 45,000 were issued to offenders found guilty of wrong parking and other traffic infractions.

CEO Gulmarg and SSP Traffic emphasized that today's drive is part of a broader strategy to tackle issues such as overcharging, illegal parking, traffic flow management, and pedestrian safety.

In the coming days, scheduled enforcement efforts will continue to ensure a seamless experience for tourists visiting Gulmarg, they added

Swimming Classes begin at DPS Kathua: Students Dive into Skill Enhancement

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

Delhi Public School Kathua is delighted to announce the commencement of swimming classes, offering students an exciting opportunity to develop their aquatic skills. Amidst much enthusiasm, students have plunged into the pool, eager to enhance their swimming abilities under the guidance of the experienced Swimming Coach, Mrs. Aruna Jamwal.

Principal Mr. Vivek Arora expressed her appreciation for the students' dedication and hard work, as well as Mrs. Aruna Jamwal's commitment to improving the swimming skills of the students. She emphasized the importance of swimming as a life skill and its contribution to overall physical fitness and well-being.

With safety as a top priority, DPS Kathua ensures that all necessary precautions are in place to provide a secure and enjoyable learning environment for students.

54 selected cricketers set to grab opportunity in JKCA's Women's Cricket League

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

The selected 54 women cricketers across J&K were all set to grab the opportunity in the first of its kind JKCA's Women's Cricket League, which commenced with a One-Dayer at JKCA Hostel ground here today.

The players divided into four teams will have to play three 2-day matches and a one-dayer.

The League began with a One-Dayer between the two teams led by the star cricketers of Jammu and Kashmir namely Sarla Devi and Sandhya Sayal.

This is the platform to live dreams for women cricketers of Jammu and Kashmir as they will get ample opportunity in 2-day matches to showcase their cricketing skill.

Apart from the top women cricketers of the Union Territory, the list includes few big names



who have also served other States/UTs earlier, which include Jaisa Akhter, Chitra Singh Jamwal and Shivanti Gupta.

These cricketers will be showcasing their cricketing skill under the watchful eyes of the Selectors for the League including Ms Surabhi Dadheechi, Ms Ankita Jalla, Ms Masarat Ahad and Ms Pratibha Bhasin.

Ms Meenu Singh Slathia and Ms Summayah Jan have been appointed as the Coaches cum Incharges of the Camp, while Mr

Rohit Rana and Ms Satika Sharma are the Trainers for the Camp. Dr Lovely Bansal and Ms Diya have been appointed as the physiotherapists.

It is pertinent to mention here that apart from the players who had represented the JKCA at the national scene last season, the players have been picked from the Talent Hunt 2024 as JKCA has already shortlisted the probable in the women's U-23, U-19 and U-15 teams for 2024-25 season.

Samsung's 'Fab Grab Fest' is back with 'unbeatable offers'

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 2 MAY

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has announced its biggest summer sale, 'Fab Grab Fest', which offers an array of extraordinary deals and exciting cash-backs across a wide range of products on Samsung.com, Samsung Shop App as well as at Samsung Exclusive Stores.

"We are happy to bring back the most awaited summer sale on Samsung.com and Samsung Exclusive Stores. Through the Fab Grab Fest, we wish to bring the best deals and offers to our customers. We are witnessing an encouraging adoption of Buy More Save More, so in this Fab Grab Fest, we will extend flexibility to our customers to not only make bundles with the entire Samsung range but also enjoy an extra 5% off on the bundle. Adding to customer delight, we will also offer same day delivery on select models," said Sumit Walia, Vice President, D2C Business, Samsung India

During the 'Fab Grab Fest', customers can avail up to 64% off on select models of the Galaxy S series, Galaxy Z series, and Galaxy A series smartphones. Select models of Galaxy tablets, accessories and wearables will be available at up to 77% off. On the purchase of select models of Galaxy Book4 series laptops, customers can avail discounts of up to 24% off.

Select models of Sam-

sung TVs such as the flagship Neo-QLED 8K, Neo QLED, OLED, The Frame TVs, and Crystal UHD series will be available at up to 43% off. On purchase of select models of Neo QLED 8K, Neo QLED and OLED TVs customers can avail bank cash-back of up to INR 20000. Additionally, customers can avail benefits of up to INR 5000 as exchange bonus on purchase of all TVs.

The 'Fab Grab Fest' 2024 will offer discounts and unmatched prices on a host of digital appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines, microwaves, monitors and air conditioners.

With our 'Buy More Save More' platform, customers will be able to save an extra 5% on the purchase of two or more products through Samsung.com or Samsung Shop App. The 'Buy More Save More' platform allows consumers to enjoy bundled offers on a host of Samsung products.

The excitement doesn't end here, customers can get up to 48% off on a wide range of premium appliances such as Side-by-Side Refrigerators, the elegant French-Door Refrigerators, and the versatile Frost Free Refrigerators. They can also enhance their kitchen experience with the Bespoke AI Package by purchasing three or more selected products and enjoy an extra 10% discount.

Select models of washing machines will be available at up to 50% off. Additionally, they will get a generous

20-year warranty on the Digital Inverter Motor for both Fully Automatic Front Loading and Fully Automatic Top Loading machines. For easy access, the affordable EMI option is also available starting at just INR 1490 for Fully Automatic Front Loading, INR 990 for Fully Automatic Top Loading, and INR 756 for Semi-Automatic Washing Machines.

Select models of monitors will be available at up to 61% off. Additionally, customers will also receive a complimentary wall mount on purchase of select models of smart and gaming monitors. Samsung will also provide a 3-year warranty and up to 20% bank cashback (up to INR 10000) on all monitors.

Select models of Convertible Wind Free™ ACs, will be available at up to 47% off. Customers can avail an extra 10% discount when purchasing two or more units of WindFree™ AC models. Moreover, these models come with an extended warranty on the PCB part, offering 1-year standard warranty plus an additional 4-year extended warranty.

As part of the exciting bank offers, customers can experience exceptional savings of up to 22.5% cashback when using HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and other leading debit and credit cards, with a maximum cashback of up to INR 25000.

Indian Army organizes education awareness drive at Mughal Maidan, Kishtwar



JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 2

The Indian Army took a commendable initiative by organising an Education Awareness Drive at Mughal Maidan village of Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir. The event aimed to promote the importance of education and its role in fostering individual growth and national development. The event underscored the Army's commitment to community development and empowerment, highlighting the pivotal role that education plays in unlocking opportunities and driving progress. By fostering a culture of

learning and knowledge sharing, the Indian Army continues to be a catalyst for positive change, nurturing a brighter tomorrow for all. The event marked by enthusiastic participation of 28 people from village Mughal Maidan and nearby areas. The Education Awareness Drive resonated deeply with Mughal Maidan village, igniting a spirit of enthusiasm and aspiration towards academic excellence. Through such initiatives, the Indian Army continues to be a beacon of positive change, fostering inclusivity and fostering a culture of learning for a prosperous tomorrow.

Manthan 2024: Empowering NCC Cadets for Leadership and Responsible Citizenship

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

Manthan-2024, The brainstorming session spanned over two days with the aim to realign and bring all stakeholders on the same platform, with the intent of Empowering NCC Cadets to become potential Leaders and Responsible Citizens finally culminated on 02 May 2024. It was a free-wheeling discussion combined with an informal approach to achieve problem-solving through lateral thinking and thus make an endeavour to develop certain new concepts for NCC through innovative ways. On the second day of the event, the issues deliberated on included following:-

Special National Integration Camps to be held at Srinagar to make cadets understand and value the rich heritage of cultures that forge unity despite the diverse languages, traditions and religions of our country. To make it more impactful for young generation measures recommended to be adopted to make it more vibrant and innovative.



Improving overall Training Standards through creation of Training Assets and optimum Utilisation of Training Funds. Course of Action for sanction of land and creation of Training Infrastructure for Training Academy at Chhatabal.

Methods to further improve Institutional Training and disbursement of Refreshment allowance to Cadets.

Keeping in view the new raisings of the Directorate, feasibility of Conduct of ATCs/CATCs in Schools/Colleges of Jammu Group during vacations in order to reduce load on NCC Training Academy, Nagrota.

A Presentation on improving accountability and measure performance on quantifiable parameters for ANO's

with the aim of establishing a SOP and bringing out best practices.

The ADG congratulated the audience for their active participation. He concluded the Manthan 2024 with a vote of thanks and entrusted all Officers to imbibe on the discussion taken and maintain the momentum for making NCC more vibrant and successful with regular follow up. ADG shared good news that BRO is now giving 10% and 5% marks to NCC 'C' and 'B' Cert holders for enrolment. ADG mentioned that we all are concerned with leadership development of cadets for which brainstorming was carried out to arrive at actionable points. Motivation of ANOs and Cadets should be an ongoing process with regular appreciation awards to be given.

Red Cross Society Jammu organizes awareness drive and activities for World Red Cross Day Celebration

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

World Red Cross Day is celebrated on 8th May every year to celebrate the principles of Red Cross Society. In this connection, Red Cross Society Jammu is organising series of activities from 29th April-8th May, 2024 under the Chairmanship of DC Jammu and ADC Jammu. Various Activities like Slogan Writing, Painting Competition, Drug Abuse

Awareness Drive, Menstrual Health & Hygiene are the part of this Mega Drive. Event was organised at GGHS Shastri Nagar where Dr. Suksham Sharma (Consultant Gynecologist) delivered a lecture on the topic Menstrual Health & Hygiene to spread awareness among the students. District Level Symposium and Slogan Writing Competition on the theme "Keeping Humanity Alive" was also held.

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
E-Tender Notice				
Sr. DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-22.05.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in				
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System		
Open	Works	Single Bid System		
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time		
01.05.2024	08.05.2024	22.05.2024/15:00 Hrs		
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender		
1.	34-2024-25-ADEN-JUC	Upgradation/Improvement of Goods shed at Jalandhar City on JUC-ASR section under ADEN/JUC.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	1,81,44,572.66/-	2,40,700/-	60 Days	06 Months
	Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work".			
2.	35-2024-25-ADEN-II-ASR	Upgradation/Improvement of Goods shed at Bhagatnawala on ASR-KEMK section under ADEN-II/ASR.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	1,76,99,892.88/-	2,38,500/-	60 Days	06 Months
	Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work".			
Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No.-34-2024-25-ADEN-JUC & 35-2024-25-ADEN-II-ASR Date: 01.05.2024				
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				

EDITORIAL

Devise strategies to mitigate impact of extreme weather

In the wake of the recent calamities caused by heavy rainfall, flash floods, and landslides in the Jammu and Kashmir region, it's imperative to address the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to mitigate the impacts of such extreme weather events and bolster the region's resilience in the face of climate change. The devastation wrought by nature has resulted in loss of lives, destruction of infrastructure, displacement of families, and disruption of normal life across various districts. These tragic events underscore the vulnerability of communities to natural disasters and call for concerted action from authorities, policymakers, and communities alike. One of the foremost challenges that demand immediate attention is the inadequacy of infrastructure and preparedness measures to cope with heavy rainfall and its aftermath. Collapsed houses, damaged roads, and disrupted water supply systems highlight the pressing need for robust infrastructure capable of withstanding extreme weather events. Additionally, timely evacuation of vulnerable communities and provision of emergency relief must be prioritized to minimize the human toll of such disasters. Moreover, these incidents underscore the necessity of proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The unprecedented rainfall and subsequent flooding emphasize the importance of comprehensive adaptation strategies that consider changing climatic patterns. This includes improved land-use planning, sustainable water management practices, and conservation of natural ecosystems to reduce the risk of disasters and safeguard vulnerable communities. However, it's essential to recognize that the recent catastrophe is not an isolated event but rather a consequence of systematic failures in preserving nature and ecology. Unplanned urbanization, deforestation, and inadequate waste management have exacerbated the risks posed by extreme weather events. Infrastructure projects executed without proper planning have compromised flood drains and water catchment areas, leading to widespread flooding even from minor downpours. The closure of major roads and highways due to landslides and snow accumulation further compounds the challenges faced by commuters and residents. The damage caused to bridges, roads, and buildings underscores the need for proactive measures to identify and rectify risks. Addressing climate resilience requires a holistic approach that acknowledges the interconnectedness of climate change with other social, economic, and environmental challenges. Efforts to mitigate climate change must be complemented by sustainable development practices that address underlying drivers of vulnerability. While the recent tragedies underscore the urgent need for action, they also present an opportunity for change and renewal. It's imperative for authorities at all levels to prioritize climate resilience and commit to implementing concrete measures to protect vulnerable communities and ecosystems. Efforts must be made to provide essential supplies to affected areas, ensure adequate compensation for those impacted, and undertake long-term investments in climate adaptation and mitigation measures. Collaborative action is essential to build a more resilient and sustainable future for all. Now is the time for proactive decisions and concerted efforts to safeguard lives, infrastructure, and the environment.

Covid-19 | Families grappling with vaccine-related fatalities deserve answers and support

SRINATH SRIDHARAN

AstraZeneca, a leading global pharmaceutical manufacturer, has acknowledged that its Covid-19 vaccine, developed in collaboration with researchers from Oxford University, may lead to a rare side effect involving blood clotting and reduced platelet count post-immunisation. In India, where the vaccine is marketed under the name Covishield, and produced by Pune-based Serum Institute, an estimated 1.75 billion doses have been administered.

This revelation comes amidst legal proceedings in the United Kingdom, with the company disclosing the side effect, known as Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), in response to a lawsuit alleging severe harm and fatalities stemming from the vaccine. Although this marks the first formal acknowledgment in a legal setting, TTS has been extensively documented and recognised in scientific literature, surfacing shortly after the commencement of vaccination campaigns across Europe, prompting temporary suspensions in some nations' AstraZeneca vaccine

rollouts.

Despite these developments, within matter of few hours, numerous Indian medical experts have provided reassurances that TTS syndrome should not pose significant concerns for individuals receiving the Covid-19 vaccine within a specific timeframe.

However, it's improbable for affected Indian patients to participate in the British petition due to legal complexities arising from disparate regulatory approvals and the vaccine's manufacture by an Indian entity, subject to local jurisdiction and laws. Nevertheless, numerous Indian legal experts assert that a class-action lawsuit in India remains a viable option.

But then, can every patient or the affected bear the cost? Can they bear the length of a legal trial, media focus, and probably even various pressures on them to give up such an attempt at understanding what really happened to their bodies with vaccines? Many among us have witnessed instances of the young and the seemingly healthy individuals experiencing health crises, some resulting in severe, lifelong implications, within our own circles of family and friends. Tragical-

ly, some have even lost loved ones to sudden, unexplained deaths, often attributed to fate or the uncertainties surrounding Covid-19. Additionally, reports of individuals collapsing and succumbing to death shortly after routine activities have become more prevalent, a phenomenon previously uncommon prior to the pandemic or widespread vaccination efforts. Consequently, it's only natural for us to speculate about a potential connection to the vaccine.

The implications of such speculation are profound. If indeed these incidents are vaccine-related, who then bears the enduring burden of responsibility? Moreover, how can we trust the reliability and objectivity of those tasked with investigating these interconnections? These questions strike at the very core of the urgent need for thorough and transparent research, as well as accountability from all stakeholders involved in the development, distribution, and monitoring of vaccines.

The approval of Covishield for emergency use in early 2021, coupled with the waiver of traditional vaccine trial protocols by drug regulators, has the potential to

profoundly affect public confidence in the vaccine. Or for that matter, any vaccine or medicine in the future. Such expedited measures, while aimed at swiftly delivering vital vaccines to the populace during the pandemic, raise citizenry concerns regarding consumer recourse in the event of adverse effects.

During a pandemic, the prevailing sentiment of overwhelming gratitude towards vaccines probably inadvertently overshadowed the need to conduct a fair and comprehensive assessment of potential side effects. It is all too convenient for some to attribute medical conditions solely to familial medical history and genetic predispositions, while disregarding the potential impact of vaccinations.

Any scepticism regarding vaccine safety has been met with resistance or even disdain. While vaccines undoubtedly play a crucial role in mitigating the spread of infectious diseases, including Covid-19, it is essential to maintain a balanced perspective. Acknowledging and thoroughly investigating potential side effects is not an indictment of vaccines themselves but rather a fundamental aspect of ensuring public

health and safety. But where does one even start with this fundamental task?

While governments acted out of necessity to address the urgent health crisis, the focus on vaccine deployment must not overshadow the plight of individuals suffering from various side effects. While it may be theoretically untenable to hold governments solely accountable, questions arise regarding the accountability of vaccine manufacturers and distributors, entities with decades of clinical expertise and responsibility in ensuring product safety.

In medico-legal contexts, it is often tempting to dismiss adverse events as isolated incidents. However, in the case of vaccine design, where meticulous testing is paramount, the impact of Covid-19 vaccines on individuals' lives, including ongoing health challenges, cannot be disregarded. Families grappling with potential vaccine-related fatalities deserve answers and support, as do those contending with the enduring consequences of vaccine-related health issues.

In a humanitarian plea, one may ask: Is it too much to expect vaccine makers to acknowledge that testing may

have been insufficient? After all, each vial of vaccine, while undoubtedly saving countless lives, may also carry the weight of families mourning lost loved ones or individuals grappling with vaccine-related health issues. But vaccines, as much as any healthcare, is a hard-nosed business. Such an expectation is a flawed contradiction to the principles of justice. At the altar of a legal framework, such expectations would need time and financial resources.

The prospect of pursuing a medico-legal case can feel daunting for families already burdened by the consequences of vaccine-related adverse events. The pharmaceutical industry, with its considerable resources and legal expertise, may seem formidable in comparison. Yet, it is essential to remember that every individual impacted by vaccine-related issues deserves to have their concerns heard and addressed with empathy and fairness. Do we have such fairness in the Indian society?

(Srinath Sridharan is a policy researcher and corporate adviser. X:@ssumbhai)

Plug leakages in fertiliser subsidy

UTTAM GUPTA

As part of the 100-day agenda of Modi 3.0, the Government intends to administer fertiliser subsidies more effectively and cut down on leakages and diversions to build on the success of neem-coated urea. It intends to conduct a pilot in a few districts on a modified version of the direct benefit transfer (DBT) that seeks to establish a linkage between the land holding of a farmer and nutrient consumption. A proposal in this regard mooted in 2020 is being resurrected. To make urea - a widely used fertiliser that supplies primary nutrient nitrogen or 'N' and constitutes nearly half of India's total fertiliser consumption - affordable to farmers, the Union Government controls its maximum retail price (MRP) at a low level unrelated to the cost of production/import and distribution, which is much higher. The excess cost over MRP is reimbursed to the manufacturer/importer as a subsidy which varies from unit to unit depending on its cost. The MRP of urea is kept unchanged (today's price is more or less the same as in 2002) even as all cost escalations are absorbed by raising the subsidy.

In the case of fertilisers supplying phosphate or 'P' and potash or 'K' which constitute

the other half (call them non-urea fertilisers), there is a 'uniform' subsidy on a per nutrient basis for all manufacturers under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme. They are free to fix MRP but need to reduce it to the extent of subsidy. Even as the subsidy remains unchanged, rising costs mean ever-increasing MRPs. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DoAC) - in consultation with states - assesses the requirement of fertilisers for each cropping season - kharif (April to September) and rabi (October to March).

The Department of Fertilisers (DoF) prepares an agreed supply plan to cover all the urea requirements from domestic production and import. The states allocate all of the urea arrivals and track disbursal up to the district level.

The DoF has developed a mobile and a web application - a mobile Fertiliser Monitoring System (m-FMS) that provides information on stock, sale and receipt of fertilisers till the last retail point. The total expenditure on fertiliser subsidy - on both urea and non-urea fertilisers put together - is around Rs 200,000 crore annually. Now, when the Government talks of leakage and diversion, we are reminded of the Economic Survey 2015-16 which said as much as 24 per cent of the sub-

sidy is spent on inefficient producers, 41 per cent is diverted to non-agricultural uses including smuggling to neighbouring countries and 24 per cent is consumed by larger, presumably richer farmers. That leaves a tiny 11 per cent going to small and marginal farmers who constitute the vast majority i.e. nearly 86 per cent of the total number of farmers.

At a fundamental level, leakages are inherent in the way the administration of fertiliser subsidies is designed. The Government asks manufacturers to sell fertiliser at a low price - a price it thinks farmers can afford. Having sold at this price, the latter claims from the former an amount equal to the excess of the cost of supply over it as a subsidy. The subsidy could have been given to the farmer directly, by depositing the money in her bank account. But, for decades, successive Governments have preferred to route it through manufacturers.

Having to deal with a handful of manufacturers instead of crores of farmers (that would have been the case if the subsidy were to be given to them directly), they have found this arrangement convenient. But, there is a big negative to it. Since the subsidy is embodied in the MRP (albeit low), the subsidised fertiliser product must reach the farmer and be used

only for growing the crop. If it doesn't reach, then the benefit of subsidy is enjoyed by the person who grabs it.

After leaving the factory or the port (in case of imported stuff), fertilisers travel a long distance moving by rails/roads to reach storage points in the district and further movement to retail outlets for sale to the farmers.

In the initial years of the fertiliser pricing and subsidy scheme (it was introduced in 1977 for urea and 1980 for other fertilisers), manufacturers were given the bulk of the subsidy on the 'dispatch' of the material from the factory.

In due course, the Government shifted to disbursing 95 per cent of the subsidy to urea producers and 85 per cent to producers of non-urea 'on receipt of material at a district's railhead point/approved godown' (balance 5 per cent/15 per cent was paid on confirmation of sales to farmers by states).

In March 2018, the Government made disbursal of subsidies to manufacturers conditional upon actual sales to farmers and these getting registered on point-of-sale (PoS) machines. But, this by itself offers no guarantee as a diversion can still happen at the retail level all the more because anybody - including non-farmers - can

buy any quantity through PoS machines. All that he needs to do is to furnish his unique identity or Aadhaar number.

Meanwhile, in 2015, the Government issued an order mandating all manufacturers/importers to neem-coat all of the urea supplies. The logic was simple. Upon neem coating, it is rendered unfit for use in chemical industries; hence the manufacturers/dealers will have no incentive to divert. But, this would happen only when coating is done. This is where the rub lies. Policing of a mammoth quantity across the length and breadth of the country is well-nigh impossible.

Now, apart from barring non-farmers from purchasing subsidised fertilisers, the Government wants to link the purchase of fertilisers with the size of the land the farmer owns. The motive behind this is to make sure that her purchase is capped at the quantum required for growing the crop only; and that she doesn't get away with excess and make money from selling at a much higher price (albeit for industrial use).

The farmers' land/crop data will be loaded on her biometric card. When she goes to the retailer to purchase her requirement for the season, the PoS machine will register the number of fertiliser bags that

correspond to the data embedded in the card.

The retailer will deliver this number, not what she demands orally. The idea has massive appeal. But, making it work poses a daunting challenge.

The Government will need to have data - on land holding, crops grown, nutrient status of the soil etc on over 140 million farm households. Apart from ensuring 'full coverage', it will have to focus on the 'accuracy' of the data as well the 'accuracy' of the calculation as any incorrect figure or miscalculation could result in either shortfall or excess delivery of bags. Further, this data has to be updated on real time basis to account for the impact of changes in the weather/rainfall on fertiliser requirements. This apart, the Government is missing the woods for the tree.

The real reason behind leakage is control of the MRP at an artificially low level. When urea sells at one-tenth the cost of supplying it, dubious players have a huge incentive to divert and rake in a moolah. They will do every bit to circumvent the rules resulting in the misuse of subsidies. The way forward is to end control on fertiliser prices and let the subsidy be given 'directly' to the farmers using DBT mode.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Spiritual education can transform society

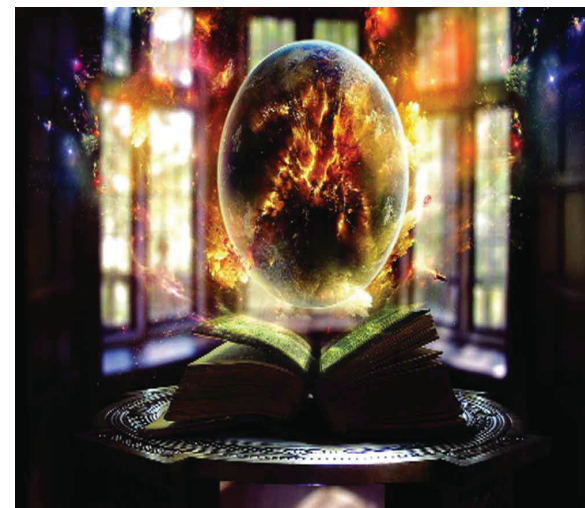
RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

All of us daily read, in newspapers, about one or the other major problem causing grave suffering to a large segment of society or mankind as a whole. These problems are classified as economic, social, political, racial, administrative, etc. and attempts are made to find solutions to them from the respective areas of human knowledge. The unjust treatment of industrial or farm labour, unfair treatment of undertrials, bride-burning, ill-treatment of women, inhuman treatment because of racial prejudices or casteism, bonded labour and abject poverty are only some problems on the long list, the top of which is the problem of armament race that threatens the very existence of humankind.

Economic and social

reforms, diplomatic negotiations, political declarations and legal enactments are only some of the measures that have been adopted to solve these and other problems over the years. Even such an august body as the U.N. also has addressed itself to some of these problems through its various organs. Though all these various efforts have borne some fruit, the problems at the core remain unsolved and there has been no satisfactory and lasting solution to resolve them. The question, therefore, remains: "What are these problems due to and how can these be solved or eliminated?"

A thorough analysis would lead us to the conclusion that all these problems are directly and indirectly caused by the absence or lack of goodwill or good motives. People generally lay emphasis on creative intelligence, scientific development,



courage and life full of pleasures but, it is usually forgotten that, if there is no good motive, science and intelligence may be used to promote means of mutual destruction, courage may be employed for killing and pleasures may be gained in evil ways. Hardly it is realised that if there were goodwill towards all, there would be no armament race, no

racial prejudice, no bride-burning, no exploitation, no poverty and no injustice to the labour class, for goodwill is the very antithesis of all these.

Without goodwill, conferences end in bickerings, assemblies achieve nothing, resolutions are considered mere scraps of paper, economic remedies cannot prove effective and legal acts or social reforms

cannot bring the desired change. The second factor essential to solving the problems of mankind is to consider the inherent worth of human personality. We must realise that every human individual is to be revered and is not to be treated as a means for the gratification of the desires of another. No one has to be degraded, for another person's benefit, to the level of material goods and chattels or dolls and playthings but has to be regarded as a person. If this principle of giving respect to every being is applied in our daily lives, there would be no slavery, no bonded labour, no exploitation of the working class, no poverty, no bride-burning and no ill-treatment of one by the other based on the difference in race, religion or caste. The ultimate and lasting solution of problems lies, without doubt,

in education that develops these two qualities in men and women and such an education cannot but be moral and spiritual. Trillions and Billions are spent every year by various Governments and non-Governmental agencies on solving social, economic, political, administrative and other problems without achieving the goal of ending exploitation of all sorts and thus ending class conflict, family conflict and other kinds of conflicts. This is mainly because we only talk of conflict resolution without real and practical moral and spiritual education. It's high time that the Governments and the people in power realise this and seriously do something about it & save our future generations from devastation.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

CAN METFORMIN ACTUALLY HELP YOU LOSE WEIGHT?



PARUL DUBE

The first course of treatment for type 2 diabetes is metformin. It is one of the most frequently administered medications to treat diabetes and obesity. Beyond its anti-hyperglycemic effects, researchers think metformin is relatively safe to use and provides substantial results. But the medication is only available by prescription, so you must see your doctor and check if it's right. While metformin may have various side effects, one of the most prevalent ones that everyone is curious to know is whether it induces weight loss. Surprisingly, the answer is yes!

It might sound like a good idea to consider taking a medication usually prescribed for type 2 diabetes to lose some extra pounds. However, the answer to the metformin weight loss claims is not that simple. Regarding weight loss and metformin, doctors are not supportive of its use solely for this reason, meaning that metformin treatment is for weight loss alone. Whether you have diabetes or not, a combination of diet and exercise remains the healthiest, most consistent route for weight loss.

What is Metformin, and How Does it Work?

To manage high blood sugar, doctors often prescribe metformin combined with a healthy diet and exercise routine. It is a member of the biguanide drug family. Metformin lowers the amount of glucose the liver releases and improves insulin efficiency, reducing blood sugar levels. It is suitable for someone with type 2 diabetes or prediabetes and higher body weight. However, you cannot use it to treat type 1 diabetes, (wherein the body produces little or no insulin and thus has difficulty controlling blood sugar).

Researchers have also discovered a high correlation between taking metformin and weight loss, even though it is not strictly considered a weight-loss medicine. Some studies have demonstrated the advantages of metformin treatment for weight loss in overweight

and obese patients. But does it work, and is it a good option for you? The short answer is taking the drug without practising other healthy habits may not lead to weight loss.

Note

Weight loss is an interesting side effect while taking metformin. It could provide a means to lose weight while controlling high sugar levels in type 2 diabetes. These outcomes have made metformin a desirable research subject for conditions linked to overweight and obesity. Talk to your doctor if you're curious whether metformin could be a suitable addition to your weight-loss journey.

Can Metformin Help Me Lose Weight?

According to research, after using metformin for a year, the average weight loss ranges from 1.8 kg to 3 kg. So some people can lose weight, but this drug is not a quick fix.

The following reasons could explain the "metformin weight loss" claims.

Improves Blood Glucose Control

As discussed earlier, metformin aids in regulating blood glucose levels. As a result, the quantity of glucose your liver produces and the amount you absorb from food reduces. Metformin also improves how your body reacts to insulin, a hormone that naturally regulates blood sugar levels. Weight frequently decreases when insulin sensitivity improves. Therefore, it allows the body to control and maintain weight better.

Reduction of Appetite

Metformin's ability to reduce appetite is the main factor in weight loss. Reduced hunger is a typical side effect of this medication, brought on by increasing the body's sensitivity to insulin and leptin hormone. Leptin tells your body when to stop eating, so increased sensitivity to this hormone makes you feel less hungry. Over time, even a little reduction in daily caloric intake might result in a significant amount of weight

loss that is evident. Little, subtle alterations can have a considerable impact; perhaps this is why metformin causes weight loss.

Making Healthy Lifestyle Changes

If you are also making dietary modifications and increasing physical activity simultaneously, you may lose weight while taking metformin. Such lifestyle adjustments might contribute to long-term weight loss. But suppose you are taking metformin but do not adopt other healthy habits. In that case, metformin alone may not be sufficient to lose weight. If you've just started a metformin prescription, the following can aid in speeding up your weight loss:

Engaging in regular exercise for at least 30 minutes a day

Reducing the added sugar and refined carbohydrates in your diet Metformin is not a stand-alone therapy for weight reduction due to its inconsistent weight loss effects. That said, measuring how well metformin works depends on your consistency. For example, there's a good chance you will return to your original weight if you stop taking metformin. But people who exercise tend to lose the most weight because metformin increases the calories burned during exercise.

Note

Although it is not a certified weight loss drug, metformin may lead to modest weight reductions. While some think this medication decreases hunger, others say it alters how the body regulates blood sugar. In addition to metformin and other drugs for type 2 diabetes or prediabetes, doctors frequently advise patients to make certain dietary and lifestyle adjustments. Regardless of these aspects, those wishing to lose weight while taking metformin should also maintain a nutrient-rich, calorie-controlled diet and exercise regularly.

How to Use

Here is some information regarding metformin usage in case you want to include it in your daily routine. But, most importantly, before making any decisions or modifying

your lifestyle, talk to your doctor about using metformin.

Dosage

The oral forms of metformin include liquid, tablet, and extended-release (long-acting) tablets. The liquid is often consumed once or twice daily with meals; dosages range from 5 to 9.5 ml. Two or three times a day, the standard tablet is typically taken with meals. The extended-release tablet is often taken with dinner once a day. For extended-release metformin, doses should not exceed 2,500 mg daily for adults and typically range between 500 mg and 1000 mg.

Take metformin exactly as prescribed, both in terms of dosage and frequency. Please do not take more or less of it than your doctor has advised because the amount required may differ from person to person. We recommend you carefully follow the instructions on your prescription label and ask your doctor or pharmacist to clarify any information you are unsure of. For example, your physician might prescribe you a low dose of metformin and then gradually increase it. Keep a close eye on your weight so your doctor can determine how effectively metformin works.

Adverse Side Effects

Metformin might result in side effects, just like any other medication. Therefore, use it with caution. If a person takes metformin and encounters any adverse symptoms, they should seek medical attention immediately. Typical adverse effects include:

- Weakness
- Difficulty in Breathing
- Stomach Pain
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Irregular Heartbeat
- Dizziness

If you suffer from kidney illness, let your doctor know. Most likely, your doctor will advise against taking metformin. Moreover, if you have dental surgery or any serious medical operation, please tell the doctor that you are taking metformin. Consultation is necessary even if you want to have any x-ray technique involving dye injection.

It is true, mainly if you currently or previously consumed substantial amounts of alcohol, have liver illness, or have experienced heart failure. Before the procedure, you might need to stop taking metformin and wait 48 hours before starting it again.

Precautions and Safety Tips

If you have an allergy to metformin, any of the substances in metformin liquid, tablets, or any other medication, let your doctor and pharmacist know before taking metformin. For a list of the ingredients, consult your pharmacist or the manufacturer's patient information.

For your doctor and pharmacist to be sure that metformin won't conflict with your other prescription and over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, nutritional supplements, and herbal items, it's crucial to let them know what else you're taking.

Diabetes and obesity are not cured by metformin, although you can manage them. Therefore, without consulting your doctor, do not discontinue taking metformin.

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. Then, if the next dose is due, skip the missed one and continue with your regular dosing plan. Do not take a second one to make up for a missing dose.

Make sure to abide by all the dietary and exercise advice given to you by your physician or nutritionist. Eating a balanced diet is necessary for weight loss.

Conclusion

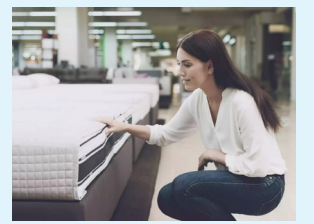
When you consider all factors, metformin can result in a small amount of weight loss in people who take it regularly. However, the average weight loss per year isn't very significant. Because of this, metformin is not a weight-loss treatment or magic diet pill but a prescription therapy that aids in improving blood sugar control in those with insulin resistance. However, suppose you have diabetes or are overweight and want to lose weight healthily. In that case, you can work with your doctor to develop a diet plan and exercise routine and start taking metformin.

COURTESY: HEALTHIFYME

BRIEFLY NEWS

Is your mattress giving you breathing problems? Find out

Some people opt for the spring version; others prefer cotton or foam-based – in either case, mattresses are often associated with back-related issues. However, they are rarely or never associated with breathing problems or asthma. But now, experts have established a shocking link between mattresses and the risk of respiratory disorders. Turns out, using a mattress for longer than 10 years could be a mistake – harbouring several dust mites and bacteria which can lead to respiratory problems like asthma, bronchitis, allergies or headaches, and eczema



For people already dealing with respiratory problems, a clean sleep environment free from dust and mites could aggravate the state. Ideally, one must replace the mattress every five to seven years. This, however, can vary on the mattress type and how it is used.

How to mitigate the risk of dust and mites in the mattress?

Doctors recommend regular vacuum cleaning of a mattress to prevent dust accumulation. Asthma patients are most prone to developing health problems due to the mattress. This is because mites and dust are the key triggers of respiratory problems.

Asthma is a condition characterised by swollen breathing tubes that carry air in and out of the lungs. It forces the tubes to narrow down temporarily if exposed to triggers.

Some of the key triggers of asthma are:

- Exercise
- Infections
- Allergies to animal fur, pollen, or dust mites
- Cold or flu
- When looking for the symptoms of asthma, watch out for the following:
 - Breathlessness
 - Cough
 - Tightness in the chest
 - Whistling sound while breathing known as wheezing

National Chocolate Milkshake Day: Know the benefits of drinking this beverage

National Chocolate Milkshake Day is celebrated every year on September 12 to celebrate one of the most cherished beverages, Chocolate Milkshake.



Though it is not a very healthy beverage, one can still resort to this milkshake on cheat days.

Chocolate milkshake has some nutritional elements present in it such as vitamins and minerals. Made with milk or ice cream, this milkshake has the nutritional properties of both milk and chocolate. This milkshake is usually made using milk chocolate but for a healthy alternative, you could use dark chocolate instead of milk chocolates. Also, keeping a check on the sugar levels can also help to make the drink healthier. Here, take a look at the benefits of drinking chocolate milkshakes.

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Weight Loss with Bananas: Are They Effective?

PARUL DUBE

Are Bananas Good for Weight Loss?

Bananas are one of the most common fruits, omnipresent in every household, and a global staple. This yellow fruit has several health advantages and is used in various cuisines because it has a sweet and creamy texture. However, do you know that it can help you shed some extra kilos? While trying to lose weight, eating one or two bananas will keep you active and completely healthy.

When it comes to bananas, they are often stereotyped as a weight-gaining fruit. However, contrary to popular belief, the mighty fruit tends to melt some fat. There is a widespread misconception that bananas are undesirable for weight loss due to their high carbohydrate content. Well, first of all, there is no proof that eating bananas cause weight gain or loss. Additionally, none of the food causes weight gain or loss. It all comes down to having a calorie deficit to lose weight and a calorie surplus to gain weight.

Compared to other fruits like berries, bananas provide more energy (calories) per serving, which has given them a bad reputation for being detrimental to weight loss. However, because bananas are high in fibre, they help us feel fuller for extended periods. They also decrease our appetite, which may make us consume fewer calories over time.

It is crucial to understand that one fruit cannot get classified as either a weight gainer or a weight reducer. If you wish to reduce weight, you must balance what you eat throughout the day and how active you are. Furthermore, no studies are conclusive on the impact of bananas on weight. They neither make you slim nor fat. On the contrary, you feel fuller for longer because of the fibre, which aids in weight loss. In addition, their creaminess and richness may help to reduce cravings for sugary, unhealthy treats.

Bananas will not cause you to gain weight if you keep your calorie intake under control. While bananas do not directly affect weight loss, they include qualities that can assist in weight management, such as high fibre content. In addition, satiety may help with weight loss by limiting the desire to consume too much.

When incorporated into your weight loss journey, Bananas assist in healthy weight loss. Moreover, there are various ways to serve bananas, such as banana chips, desserts, and shakes, cookies, fritters, etc. It is crucial to understand that correct food preparation is essential if the goal is to reduce weight. Banana as a whole fruit is the best for consumption. However, if you're using bananas to make snacks, ensure you use healthy ingredients or alternatives.

Moderation is the key to all healthy



foods, no matter their substantial benefits. For example, 1-2 bananas are suitable per day. Eating bananas at the recommended levels will never derail your weight loss efforts. Like most other fruits, bananas are nutritious, high in fibre, and low on fat, making them an obvious choice for weight loss. In addition, the fibre content helps curb the appetite significantly by slowing down the gut digestion rate, promoting weight reduction.

Note

Bananas are not detrimental to weight loss. On the contrary, taking them in moderation (1-2 medium size bananas per day) may assist in weight loss. However, overeating banana-based chips, cookies, and desserts, too frequently, can make you gain weight at a faster pace.

How to Use Bananas for Weight Loss?

Suppose you are one of those who deliberately shut out the bananas in

your diet because of popular myths that they lead to weight gain. In that case, you miss out on countless critical nutrients in this single fruit piece.

Here are some ways to include or use bananas for weight loss.

Banana Breakfast

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and skipping it is linked to increased weight gain. It is because it kick-starts one's metabolism. Hence it would help if you were thinking about what you want to consume. Bananas help to start your day on a healthy note due to their rich fibre content, making you feel full quickly for a prolonged time. In addition, it means you won't be binge-snacking before lunchtime, organically reducing the calorie intake.

Perfect Pre/Post-Workout Energy Meal

An intensive workout leaves you tired. Therefore, you will require an excellent meal to boost your energy without compromising your weight loss diet plan. In such a situation, eating bananas will be the best way to gain a quick energy boost so that you can motor throughout your workouts without feeling exhausted. In addition, it will replenish your energy and electrolytes and prevent muscle cramps and aches as it's rich in potassium.

A Healthy Alternative for Snack Cravings

Bananas are not only filled with nutrients but also make your day better, even without candies and chocolates. Due to their sweet nature, bananas are often considered a choice to curb sweet cravings and aid in dealing with hunger pangs. In addition, having bananas instead of unhealthy and high-calorie snacks like chips will make you feel satiated in fewer calories.

Note

Eating bananas for breakfast helps to get rid of excess weight. A glass of warm water with a banana for breakfast improves digestion and reduces the feeling of hunger. The metabolism gets boosted when bananas and warm water are combined. This breakfast is popular among the Japanese for weight loss. When you get bored of consuming bananas every day, you may replace them with other fruits.

Summary

Bananas are one such fruit that certainly should be present on your plate. Besides the delicious taste, bananas are packed with several essential nutrients, ensuring to keep up an individual's fit and healthy mode. The balance of what you eat throughout the day and how active you are, impact your weight loss in the long term. When you have it in controlled portions, the nutritious and healthy bananas will help you lose extra kilos and improve your overall health and quality of life.

Dr. Pawan Kotwal chairs review meeting for implementation of revised home stay Scheme

J1 NEWS SERVICE
LEH, MAY 2

The Advisor to the Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal presided over a meeting aimed at evaluating the implementation progress of the Revised Home Stay Scheme within the Union Territory, in the Video Conference Hall, UT Secretariat, Leh. The meeting was focused on assessing the efficacy of the Revised Home Stay Scheme in Ladakh. The scheme is designed to enhance tourism infrastructure by promoting sustainable accommodation options and fostering authentic cultural experiences for visitors to the region.

The Advisor Dr Pawan Kotwal highlighted the significance of the Revised Home Stay Scheme in strengthening Ladakh's tourism sector while emphasizing the need for continuous execution to maximize its benefits for both tourists and local communities. He directed the officials to issue strict guidelines to pre-



vent misuse and ensure the program benefits its intended recipients. The primary focus is to prevent any potential exploitation of the scheme, which is designed to enhance the local tourism infrastructure and promote sustainable tourist activities, he added.

Officials exchanged insights and recommendations to streamline procedures, ensure compliance with quality standards, and enhance the overall hospitality experience offered through home-stays in Ladakh.

The meeting concluded with a determination to expedite the implementation process of the Revised

Home Stay Scheme, and collaborative efforts from relevant departments and stakeholders to realize its full potential in contributing to Ladakh's sustainable tourism development objectives.

The meeting was attended by the Administrative Secretary of the Tourism & Culture Department, Ladakh; the Regional Wildlife Warden, Leh; the Director of Tourism, Ladakh; the Wildlife Warden, Leh; the Deputy Director of Planning (H), UT Ladakh; Assistant Director of Tourism, Leh, while Assistant of Tourism, Kargil; and Wildlife Warden, Kargil joined the meeting virtually.

BJP's policies threat to unity in diversity: Vikar Rasool

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, MAY 2

PCC president Shri Vikar Rasool Wani has said that Secularism is the strength of our country and unity in diversity is the way keep the country united.

Addressing a workers meeting at Nowshera, JKPC President lashed out at BJP for resorting to divisive politics in order to concentrate on majority votes, he said that it is dangerous for the peace, harmony and religious brothers. BJP is badly loosing this election's and INDIA alliance will form the government at the centre.

Canvassing for INDIA alliance candidate Mian Altaf in Anantnag - Rajouri seat, Vikar said that India alliance will win all lok sabha seats in Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh He termed Mian Altaf as the best candidate who will win huge margin.

Referring to the BJP, he it field to field it's candidate in the area and said that all their efforts to divide the society in Pir Panjal region failed to yield any political dividends to the party as

people are wise enough. Senior Vice President and Chief spokesperson JKPC Ravinder Sharma hit out at BJP for its politics of hate & division and said that people of country have realised the dangers of BJP politics.

He said winds of change have already started which has further frustrated the top leadership of BJP. He urged people to ensure victory of Mian Altaf Ahmad and strengthen the INDIA alliance. Addressing the meeting organised by him, Adv Rajinder Prasad welcomed the PCC President and said that Congress is truly secular party and only it can keep the country united and strong. He recalled the contributions of his father late Master Beli Ram in the development of the area selflessly. He said that Congress is in the hearts of people and the false propaganda of BJP against Congress won't work any longer.

Later two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to veteran congress leader and former Block President Ch Tara Chand who passed away last week.

BSP questions LG 'mission save lives' be implemented in reality or mere remains an event only

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

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

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

Expressing shock and anguish our daily road accidents, Gupta urged the authorities to implement a preventive strategy to curb accidents rather than relying solely on post-accident measures.

He highlighted the poor



authorities and Motor Vehicle Departments is questionable.

BSP leader called upon the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to prioritize human lives, emphasizing that a person's life is more valuable than anything else.

He further emphasized that

condition of roads in hilly areas, emphasizing that their deteriorated state makes them prone to accidents.

Gupta stated that numerous lives have been lost, and many people have suffered severe injuries due to road accidents in these areas. He said as deaths take place frequently on the roads, functioning of traffic

Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a significant number of fatalities last year, marking the highest toll in a decade.

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

DC Bandipora embarks on 02-day extensive field tour to Gurez

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA MAY 2

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, on Thursday embarked on a two-day extensive tour to Gurez and inspected various polling stations to assess assured minimum facilities (AMF) and other necessary preparations to facilitate smooth and peaceful conduct of Lok Sabha Polls-2024.

The DC, accompanied by a team of officers, visited polling stations of Izmar, Kanzalwan, Nyle, Dawar, and other adjacent areas, besides inspected arrangements at the Election Strong room established at Dawar.

During his visit to polling stations, the DC emphasized concerned officers to ensure implementation of ECI guidelines, guarantee voter accessibility, and maintain the integrity of the democratic process besides stressed on com-

pleting all necessary measures well in time.

He laid emphasis on availability and functionality of essential amenities such as electricity, drinking water, sanitation facilities, and accessibility ramps besides others.

At Government Middle School Izmar, which is also a polling station, the DC interacted with students and took feedback regarding academic activities besides assessing availability of basic facilities in the school.

He also paid a visit to KVK Bagtore and took stock of various programs and training activities carried out in KVK Bagtore.

On the way to various areas of Gurez, including Bagtore, Kanzalwan, Nyle, Dawar, and other areas,



the DC interacted with the public, listened to their concerns and took feedback on issues of public welfare. The locals put forward various issues including improvement of road infrastructure, upgradation of basic facilities in educational institutions, availability of teachers and subject specific lectures, upgradation of transport facilities, health infrastructure, mobile connectivity besides other issues of

public importance.

After patiently listening to the issues and concerns of the general public, the DC passed on the spot directions for redressal of various issues. He also assured redressal of other genuine issues on priority.

Later, the DC chaired a meeting of officers at Dak Bungalow Dawar Gurez to review the functioning of different departments.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the functioning of health, education, animal husbandry, social welfare, and other departments.

He emphasized officers to work diligently in order to enhance service delivery, streamline processes, and optimize resource utilization.

Shakeel ul Rehman said

that from having beautiful landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and diverse potential for outdoor activities, Gurez offers a unique opportunity for tourists seeking off-beat experiences.

He urged the stakeholders to further develop the tourism infrastructure to attract more tourists, thereby creating opportunities for economic growth and job creation for youth.

The DC said that the administration is committed to harnessing the tourism potential of Gurez involving local youth.

He also led a plantation drive by planting saplings within the premises of Dak Bungalow Dawar.

During the visit to Gurez, the DC was accompanied by SDM Gurez Mukhtar Ahmad, ACD Mumtaz Ahmad Pir, CEO Dr. G. M Pujosp, CMO Dr. Rafi Ahmed, DySP Ahmad Shaafi, and other concerned officers.

Ravinder Raina visits flood prone villages of Kupwara



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MAY 2

BJP J&K Chief Ravinder Raina conducts an extensive tour of flood-prone areas in Handwara, Kupwara, and Lolab to take stock of the flood-like situation caused by the incessant rains in the district.

Raina Accompanied by District President Kupwara Javid Qureshi and District BJP Office Bearers Visited Nallah Pohru, Chogal, Braripora, Neelipora Magam, Kalaroose, Trehgam Warsun, Kachihama Village Of Trehgam, to examine the flood situation and get the first-hand appraisal of the evacuation measures and took the stock of the situation.

During the visit, Raina Urged and stressed the concerned departments

to remain vigilant in case of any exigency.

He urged the concerned officers to be vigilant, and proactive and mobilize men and machinery so that any kind of eventualities is tackled smoothly. He also urged for close coordination to ensure timely rescue and rehabilitation.

Moreover, Raina appealed to the people not to venture close to the water bodies and Nallahs and contact proactively to District level or Tehsil level control rooms in case of any emergency or need of any evacuation and fully cooperate with district administration.

He also paid a visit to several areas of Trehgam Constituency villages including Kachihama, and Warsun to assess the situation.

Police destroys poppy cultivation

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MAY 2

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police in Budgam have destroyed poppy cultivation spread over vast area of land at Pallar, area of Budgam.

A special drive against illegal cultivation of Poppy was launched by joint team Budgam Police & officials of revenue & excise department. During the drive, a huge patch of Poppy spread over vast area of land at Pallar, area of Budgam. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 145/2024 under section 8/18 NDPS act against 16 people of estate Pallar was registered at Police Station Budgam for illegal cultivation of Poppy in their fields.

General Public is requested to extend cooperation to the Police and come forward with any information regarding any kind of anti-social activity in their neighborhood.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

This election is for...

(Congress) have to insult the Constitution drafted by Babasaheb Ambedkar. You (Congress) will fail because this (standing in your way) is Modi," the PM asserted.

Referring to the controversy surrounding the Katchatheevu island, he said during the Congress rule, the Union government had no idea about the exact number of islands India had.

"I then got a satellite survey done and found that we have 1,300 islands. Some of them are as big as Singapore. We will develop some of them for tourism purposes," said Modi.

A Congress leader had recently spoken about separating south India and forming a new nation, while those in the opposition INDI alliance also make statements on similar lines, he said.

"Congress leaders have inherited this mentality of partition. It was the Congress which accepted the country's partition for the sake of power," he said.

The Congress had gifted Katchatheevu island to Sri Lanka nearly 30 years ago as it was their personal property, he said.

"If Sardar Patel was not present, Junagadh would have gone to Pakistan. The Congress will create a dangerous situation for the country if it comes to power. They may give away the Kutch desert claiming no one lives there," he said.

The Congress just does not care and had given away several uninhabited islands, the PM pointed out, adding "if given a free hand" that party will "sell off the Himalayan peaks".

Attacking Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over a recent remark pertaining to Lord Ram and Lord Shiva, the PM said the opposition party had declared this election is a fight against Lord Ram.

"The Congress president said his objective was to defeat Lord Ram and that Lord Shiva will defeat Lord Ram. What are they thinking? The Mughals destroyed Ram Temple in Ayodhya and Somnath Temple with this same mentality," the PM asserted.

Speaking about reservation for Muslims, Modi said after Independence it was decided following careful deliberations that religion-based quotas would not be given.

"Those deliberations went on for months. And no BJP or RSS leader was in the picture. Learned Congress leaders as well as Babasaheb Ambedkar took part in the discussion. After deliberations, they decided reservation will not be granted on the basis of religion," he said.

The Congress now wants to snatch such quota and give it to others, Modi said. (Agencies)

Chairman JKSCC...

the matter. The Lt Governor issued on spot directions and assured every support and assistance to the family members.

RR Swain, DGP J&K was also present in the meeting. KNO

Lt Governor reviews...

Commissioner Kashmir; G Prasanna Ramaswamy, Secretary Revenue Department; Bupinder Kumar, Secretary, Public Works (R&B); Anil Koul, Secretary to Government, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Department and other senior officials-(KNO)

J&K Police attaches...

so that the arrest warrant is executed. This is the first such legal action taken by police in the union territory of jammu and Kashmir.

The proclamation notice was issued to the absconding Gangster directing him to surrender before competent authority within a period of 30 days but had failed to comply.

"Today proclamation proceedings and attachment order fixed on the property (immovable measuring 4

kanals land in Khasra no. 901 Gurha Jagir) belonging to Mukesh Kumar and was also pasted in prominent places of Akhnoor by joint teams of police and revenue headed by SDPO Akhnoor Mohan Sharma , SHO Akhnoor Tariq Ahmed and Tehsildar Akhnoor Naresh Kumar under the supervision of SP Rural Brijesh Sharma," the spokesman added.

Police said that Mukesh kumar is a habitual offender who is also a history sheeter of police station Akhnoor and is evading his arrest since long.

"This unique and maiden initiative has been taken by jammu police to deter the criminals elements particularly gangsters and more aggressive legal measures shall be opted against all the habitual criminals to annihilate their criminal activities," police added. KNO

J&K witnessing...

Meanwhile, on the ground, a noticeable change is evident. The absence of worrisome elements such as calls for boycott and threats by militants to candidates or voters marks a significant departure from previous elections characterized by violence and unrest since 1989.

In the context of the 2019 parliamentary elections, which were held amidst heightened tensions in Kashmir, instances of stone-pelting and violence disrupted the electoral process, particularly in the Anantnag parliamentary seat, where nearly 100 polling booths recorded zero voter turnout. The overall voter turnout was dismal, reflecting the prevalent disillusionment and unrest in the region.

The aftermath of the BJP-led government's decision to abrogate Article 370 saw security agencies, including the Jammu and Kashmir police and the National Investigation Agency (NIA), taking measures to target militants and separatist elements. This crackdown led to the elimination of top militant figures and the deten-

tion of several separatist leaders on charges related to militancy, inciting violence, and engaging in anti-national activities.

The majority of prominent separatist leaders associated with the Hurriyat Conference are now behind bars, with their organizations banned by the Government of India for their involvement in promoting violence and terrorism in Kashmir. KNO

EC directs parties to...

individual electors to register for post-election benefits may create an impression of the requirement of one-to-one transactional relationship between the elector and the proposed benefit, and has the potential to generate a quid pro quo arrangement for voting in a particular way, thereby leading to inducement. (Agencies)

Intruder might have...

the border, reportedly hiding in the Basantgarh hills, the officer said. "I can only comment on this particular incident. Basantgarh is not within our operational area, it is quite distant. Police are investigating and we will learn of the outcome in due course." Asked about potential infiltration attempts along the IB, he dismissed any such incidents, saying, "We have no information about any infiltration attempts along the International Border." (Agencies)

CIK arrests youth...

"It was further revealed that the Pak based terrorist commander had assured him of supplying arms and ammunitions for him and his group in coming days."

It reads that investigation further revealed that he was a part of many WhatsApp and Telegram groups associated with terrorist outfits. "Further investigation is on to identify other members of such groups to take legal actions against them." KNO

Modi Govt committed to address people's day-to-day problems: Yudhvir

Holds public grievances camp

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President, reiterated the Party's commitment in addressing the day-to-day problems faced by the people during a grievances' redressal camp held at Pt Prem Nath Bhawan in Kacchi Chawni, Jammu. He emphasized that the BJP is dedicated to bridging the gap between administration and citizens, making sincere efforts to ensure that people's concerns are promptly addressed.

Yudhvir Sethi, along with his dedicated team including Parveen Kerni, East Mandal President, Arun Sethi General Secretary of East Mandal and Anuradha Sharma, President Mahila Morcha East Mandal, Amit Sharma, BMYM President Bajalta Mandal and



Ajesh Sharma Sanjyok Ward No 2 listened attentively to the grievances raised by the attendees and assured them that their concerns would be addressed with utmost priority.

The camp witnessed a huge rush of people from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss their issues with senior BJP leaders. Various deputations, including individual persons-most of whom were women-visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension,

PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other development-related topics, as well as personal issues.

Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the deputations and resolved most of their issues instantaneously by talking to the authorities concerned on the phone. He assured the visiting people that he will take up the rest of their issues with the concerned authorities and get them resolved soon.

Sethi underscored the importance of grassroots engagement and proactive

measures to address the grievances of the public. He stated, "The Bharatiya Janata Party is deeply committed to addressing the day-to-day problems faced by our citizens. We understand the challenges they encounter, and we are determined to work tirelessly to alleviate their concerns."

Highlighting the significance of the grievances redressal camp, Sethi reiterated the BJP's proactive approach in reaching out to the people and providing them with a platform to voice their grievances. He emphasized the party's unwavering dedication to fostering transparent and responsive governance, stating, "Through initiatives like this grievances redressal camp, we are making a sincere attempt to bridge the gap between administration and people. We believe that effective communication and prompt action are key to building trust and ensuring the welfare of our citizens."

SKUAST-Jammu holds 25th Academic Council Meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

The 25th meeting of Academic Council of SKUAST-J was conducted at Chatha campus, Jammu under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. B. N. Tripathi. The main features of the agenda were institutionalization of the dual degree programme with Western Sydney University, Australia from academic session 2024-25, practical training for undergraduates, extensive research exposure and establishment of collaborative learning space in the University, research publication by Ph. D. scholar and guidelines for Ph. D synopsis, enhancement of intake capacity for admission to undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes for the academic session 2024-25, modification in the pre-requisite for taking up Experiential Learning Programme, engage-



ment of Ph. D. students as teaching assistant and profit sharing in Experiential Learning Units. After threadbare discussion, various agenda items were approved by the Academic Council Committee.

In his remarks, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. B. N. Tripathi emphasized the importance of regularly conducting Academic Council meetings to devise and modify rules, contributing towards continuous improvement in the quality of education. He stressed upon increasing the teaching competencies of University teachers through continuous capacities building programmes on modern teaching aids and methodologies. He

called for a revamp of teaching methodologies to be more practical-oriented that contribute to the university's improved ranking. He reiterated the scientists to strengthen the agricultural research and development for providing solutions to the existing constraints in the farming sector. He emphasised faculty members to take lead in raising awareness about patents or Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) during their interactions with students and researchers as patents significantly bestows inventors with public acclaim and bolster their credentials and open the doors to prestigious global institutions. He advised that

the recommendations be implemented effectively without further delay in the interest of academic excellence. At the end, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor appreciated the active participation of members in the deliberations of the Academic Council meeting and their enthusiastic involvement in the constructive decision making process. The agenda of meeting was presented by Dr. S.K. Gupta, Registrar and Member Secretary of the Academic Council. The meeting was attended by Directors, Deans of Faculties, Heads of Divisions, Regional Research Stations and Institutes, University librarian, Joint Registrar (Academics) Dr. Bharat Bhushan and one post graduate student (Ph. D.). Dr. Amit Jasrotia, Professor and Dr. Subash Kashyap, Associate Professor were the rapporteurs. Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. S.K. Gupta, Registrar.

India, Indonesia 7th JDCC meeting to take place in Delhi tomorrow



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

The seventh Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and Indonesia will be held here on Friday, where both sides will exchange views on regional and global issues of shared interest.

The meeting will be co-chaired by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Secretary General of Ministry of Defence, Indonesia Air Marshal (Retd) Donny Ermawan Taufanto, MDS, a Defence Ministry statement said. The India-Indonesia

friendship, which was elevated to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018, has widened the scope of bilateral relations to allow for new collaboration in the realm of defence industry, science and technology and other areas. The defence relations form a significant pillar to this growing partnership.

Defence engagements between the two nations have diversified to include wide-ranging contacts between the services, military-to-military exchanges, high-level visits, capacity building and training programmes, cooperation

in UN Peace Keeping, ship visits and bilateral exercises.

The defence cooperation agreement signed in 2001 between India and Indonesia stipulated the establishment of the JDCC to explore and identify potential areas of cooperation, matters of common interest, initiate, coordinate, monitor and control the approved cooperative activities.

The Secretary General, who is on a three-day visit to India from May 2, will also undertake discussions with Indian Defence Industries in New Delhi and Pune.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

DEO Srinagar organizes 'Jashn e Jugalbandi' under SVEEP at historical Polo View Market

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

A musical evening 'Jashn e Jugalbandi' under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) was Thursday organised by the District Election Office at Polo View market, here.

Chief Election Officer (CEO), J&K, Pandurang K Pole was the chief guest, while District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din; Nodal Officer SVEEP, Chief Education Officer Srinagar, officers from District Administration, Information and Public Relations, Tourism, Excise and Taxation, Education besides other departments also attended the event.

On the occasion, sufi songs with Jugalbandi were presented by the artists with main attraction being Sanson ki Maala, Chaap Tilak blended with voter motivational lyrics in jugalbandi. People also grooved on popular Punjabi sufi number Dum Gutkoo.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO said that the objective of this event is to enhance voter awareness and boost the public participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections particularly sensitizing the young voters about the value of vote.

He said our constitution has given us the right to vote to choose the candidate of our choice and appealed



voters' especially first time voters, to cast their vote on 13th May 2024, the day 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency is undergoing polls.

Pole appreciated Kashmiri talented youth, students and the guest performers. Several banners, posters and SVEEP selfie stands were placed at the venue by the District Election Authority Srinagar where participants and passersby captured



memorable selfies. Later speaking to the media, the CEO said that a great enthusiasm is found among voters especially our youth. Their vote is going to satisfy them in terms of employment, development and prosperity.

The historical Polo View Market was decorated in such a way that it exhibited a festive ambience. Meanwhile, people flock the venue in large

numbers to watch the musical evening, and were equally mesmerized by the sufi performances. Students and guest performers were awarded by the chief guest.

The CEO released the Tricolour balloons in air as a mark to cheer up young voters to exercise their franchise.

An election mascot was also displayed that captivated the participants and enthused them for voting.

ICG rescues fisherman with head injury off Gujarat coast

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

In a daring night rescue operation, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has rescued a fisherman who had sustained serious head injury.

According to an official statement, the fisherman had a fall while onboard the Indian Fishing Boat (IFB) St Francis due to rough sea conditions about 130 km west of Veraval, Gujarat on Wednesday night.

The ICG received a distress call from the Coast Guard Maritime Rescue Sub Center in Veraval. Responding swiftly, ICG Ship C-153, which was on a surveillance mission at the time, altered its course to aid in the medical evacuation.

The Coast Guard successfully evacuated the injured fisherman from the boat and promptly transferred him to a medical facility in Veraval for further treatment.

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LSAC felicitates Bollywood Actor Swatantra Bharat

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 2

Lagan Society for Art and Culture (Regd.) felicitated Bollywood and Pollywood Actor Mr. Swatantra Bharat here today. By rocking in the Bollywood cinema with his character roles, the son of soil Mr. Swatantra Bharat hailing from Trikuta Nagar area of Jammu is also giving commendable performances and keeping his fans spell bound in the pollywood movies too. A very calm and coop personality, Swatantra Bharat was born on April 11 to the couple Late Sh. Shivanaand (A Scientific Officer, Bio-Science Department, University of Jammu) and Smt. Sudarshana Kumari. He did his schooling from RRL School, Model Academy and Sri Ranbir Hr. Sec. School and later moved to New Delhi to pursue Fashion Designing Course. Swatantra Bharat is seen in many Bollywood movies like Welcome, Singh is King, Rowdy Rathore, Jannat, De Dhana dhan, Wanted, Singh is Bling and many



more.

The dignitaries and executive body members of Lagan Society for Art and Culture present on the occasion felicitated Mr. Bharat with a Dogra Pagri and memento to mark his contribution to the Indian Cinema. Mr. Rohit Bains (Secretary, LSAC) compared the proceedings in a befitting manner. Mr. Bharat, while speaking, humbly expressed his gratitude and said that it is because of the blessings of the parents and God Almighty that he got inspiration to do his bit. He is also active in exploration of ancient temples and promoting

cultural heritage of Indian Society. He also said that he will always remain with the Lagan Society for Art and Culture for each social and cultural activity.

Other prominent persons who participated include Adv. Sandeep Gupta (Patron, LSAC), Anil Kumar (Advisor, LSAC), Dr. Jugmohan Singh, Shubham Manmar (IT Incharge, LSAC), Vikas Khajuria (Media Incharge, LSAC) and family members & relatives of Mr. Bharat.

Mr. Rajesh Kumar Verma (President, LSAC) formally extended vote of thanks to the dignitaries.

Indian Army unveils aerial cableway in Poonch sector, fortifying connectivity along line of control

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APR 2

Indian Army in continuance to its commitment to serve the Nation as well as the populace of border areas, has installed an 'Aerial Cableway in Kirni Village of Poonch', situated along the Line of Control. Crafted with precision and ingenuity under the banner of 'Bridging Gaps through Ropes of Connect' this pioneering infrastructure is poised to revolutionise the transport of goods to the Kirni village, yielding tangible benefits in terms of time and space. By har-



nessing cutting-edge technology and engineering acumen, the Indian Army endeavors to optimise its own logistical operations while nurturing prosperity in the forward villages. This 900 metre Aerial Cableway

Span symbolises a tangible manifestation of the Army's resolve of technology infusion to enhance the quality of life for citizens & troops at remote areas. The inauguration ceremony drew a distinguished assembly

of local luminaries, villagers and military personnel who hailed the Aerial Cableway as a game-changing initiative set to ensure all weather connectivity to the village and reducing the time for the logistic supply from erstwhile 40-50 minutes to under four minutes. As the Indian Army continues to prioritise infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing operational efficacy and uplifting lives in border regions, the launch of the Aerial Cableway in Poonch stands testament to the Army's unwavering dedication to nation building.

Vaish community supported BJP Govt in realizing economic growth, creating jobs: Kavinder

Seeks support for BJP in LS polls

J1NEWS SERVICE
CHANDUASI (UP), MAY 2

The support of the Vaish Samaj holds immense significance in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in the country. As a prominent trader community, the Vaish Samaj has remained instrumental in driving economic growth and creating employment opportunities across the country.

This was stated by Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister while speaking at the Maha Sammelan of International Vaish Federation at Chandausi, Uttar Pradesh. Prominent among those who were present include Ashok Aggarwal, National President, Shyam Jaju, BJP National Vice President,

Anil Aggarwal Rajya Sabha Member, Kapil Dev Aggarwal, Sanjeev Aggarwal, Mithlesh Aggarwal, Parshant Singal Mayor, Girish Rattan, Pardeep Aggarwal and many others.

The BJP stalwart leader from Jammu and Kashmir highlighted the pivotal role played by the trader fraternity in the development of country. On the behalf of his party, he expressed gratitude towards the Vaish Samaj for their unwavering support, emphasizing that their contributions have significantly contributed to the progress and prosperity of the country.

Kavinder also acknowledged the challenges faced by the trader community, including regulatory hurdles and economic fluctuations, and praised their resilience in overcoming these obstacles. He highlighted the BJP



government's efforts to address the concerns of traders, such as simplifying tax procedures, reducing bureaucratic red tapism, and promoting a business-friendly environment. He said that the entrepreneurial spirit and

towards new heights of peace and prosperity. He noted that while Mahatma Gandhi secured the country's freedom, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have taken India to a new level of development, progress, and harmony by focusing extensively on various fields. He highlighted that both Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah belong to the Vaish Samaj, and their remarkable performance is a testament to the exceptional leadership of the community. He underlined that under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi, India is experiencing unparalleled development.

The former Deputy Chief Minister further underscored the commitments by both the Naren-

dra Modi Government and Yogi Adityanath's government in supporting the trader community through various initiatives, including skill development programmes, access to credit facilities, and infrastructural development projects. He reiterated the party's pledge to continue working closely with traders to ensure their continued growth and prosperity.

Kavinder urged the Vaish community in Uttar Pradesh to wholeheartedly support BJP in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls to ensure that PM Modi could continue the development spree started in the country after 2014. He expressed confidence that with the continued support of the trader fraternity, Uttar Pradesh would continue to flourish and emerge as a model of progress and development for the entire nation.

Police debunks WA messages about bomb recovery from Delhi schools

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

Refuting false claims being circulated on WhatsApp regarding the recovery of bombs from some schools in the national capital, the Delhi Police on Thursday urged the public to check the veracity and source of information of such messages.

Delhi Police PRO Suman Nalwa in a social media post said, "Fake news in the form of WhatsApp messages regarding recovery of some suspicious objects from some schools is going on."

"These messages are totally false. Please check the veracity and source of information behind every such message before believing or forwarding it," Nalwa mentioned. She also requests everyone to further disseminate information about the false messages to prevent panic among the masses. 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.

Sisodia seeks bail from HC in Delhi Excise Policy case

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia on Thursday approached the Delhi High Court seeking bail in the Delhi excise policy case.

The bail plea was mentioned for an urgent hearing and will come up in court on May 3.

Sisodia has sought bail in both cases, one related to the money laundering registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the other being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

A Delhi Court had earlier, on two occasions, rejected Sisodia's bail plea. His first bail plea in the CBI's case was rejected on March 31, 2023.

The second bail plea was also rejected by the trial court in the ED case on April 29, 2023 leading to the present plea before the High Court.

The Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court had also dismissed Siso-



dia's review petitions against the denial of bail in both ED and CBI cases.

His curative petitions have also been dismissed in both ED and CBI cases.

The Apex Court, while dismissing his bail plea, had last year said he could file a fresh bail plea before the trial court if the trial proceeds at a snail's pace.

Manish Sisodia was first arrested by the CBI on February 26 and then by the ED on March 9 last year, respectively.

The CBI alleged that Sisodia and others have been instrumental in 'recommending' and 'taking decisions' regarding the 2021-22 excise policy.

They had taken decisions "without the approval of competent authority to extend undue favours to the licensee post-tender," the CBI alleged.

The central agency has also claimed that the AAP leader was arrested because he gave evasive replies and refused to cooperate during the investigation, despite being confronted with evidence.

The Enforcement Directorate alleged that the excise policy was implemented as part of a conspiracy to give wholesale business profit of 12 per cent to certain private companies, although

such a stipulation was not mentioned in the minutes of meetings of the Group of Ministers (GoM).

The agency has also claimed that another accused, Nair was acting as a middleman on behalf of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Allegations against Sisodia are that he conspired with the Delhi government officials to grant liquor licenses to certain traders in exchange for bribes. The conspiracy to formulate a new excise policy was hatched in connivance with the AAP leaders and Delhi government officials and was coordinated by Vijay Nair and other individuals, along with South Group, to give extraordinary profit margins to wholesalers.

It is alleged that AAP made huge profits from the New Excise Policy, the proceeds of which went to the AAM Aadmi Party funds and were used for election campaigns, causing a huge loss to the government exchequer.

Yash Pal Sharma a bone-setter offers traditional treatment for problems from fractures to muscle spasm to stiff shoulder

J1NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, MAY 2

Yash Pal Sharma a well known name at Chak Badyal in Akhnoor is a bone-setter who in a way run traditional 'orthopedic clinics' where he offer traditional treatment for problems from fractures to muscle spasm to stiff shoulder. Sharma is sitting on an upholstered cushion on the floor, waiting for his next patient in his hole-in-the-wall clinic at his residence. It has a small bench, a shelf filled with bandage and cotton rolls, and a signboard on the wall listing the services on offer. Who-soever arrives at his residence with hurt leg with unbearable pain, Sharma, examines the painful part and delivers the diagnosis in a minute flat. They seem impressed, though they do not quite ask Sharma how he arrived at the diagnosis. He soaks a bandage in dark brown



oil and wraps it around the affected part of the leg. "Do not worry, you will be fine in a couple of days," he says. Come and show it to me in a week. Patients say Sharma has a Midas touch as he makes an effort to look self-effacing. There is a world where home-made 'secret oils', salves and lotions in various shades of brown serve as medicines and bamboo sticks and cardboard as splints. No X-ray machines, no casts, no forceps, most work with bare hands with a pair of scissors being the only the equipment. Many feel

he is quack but there are others who swear by their 'expertise'. Sharma talks about how bone and joint problems are increasing like never before in the country. "These days, I get a lot of patients, including youngsters, with knee pain. Increased use of refined oil is responsible for it. We should take a decent amount of mustard oil or desi ghee every day, which is very necessary for healthy bones," he says. Ask him why his clinic is so popular, and pat comes the reply: "Our expertise, and low-cost of treatment."

Have registered protest with China on illegal road-building in Shaksgam Valley: MEA

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

India on Thursday said it has registered its protest with China against the road-building activity being undertaken in Shaksgam Valley, a part of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir that Islamabad ceded to Beijing in 1963, and also asserted that it is part of Indian territory.

The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, answering a question on the infrastructure development being undertaken by China in the area, said: "We have registered our protest with the Chinese side against illegal attempts to alter facts on the ground."

He added: "We further reserve the right to take necessary measures to safeguard our interests", without elaborating. He said India has taken note of the activities being undertaken there, and added "We maintain it is our territory."

"We have never accepted the so-called China-Pakistan boundary agreement of 1963 through which Pakistan unlawfully attempted to cede the area to China and have consistently conveyed our rejection of the same."

"We have registered our protest with the Chinese side against illegal attempts to alter facts on the ground. We further reserve the right to take necessary measures to safeguard our interest," he said. His statement comes following reports that say, citing satellite pictures, that China is building a road in Shaksgam valley, close to the Siachen Glacier.

National Workshop on green-certified building materials held at SMVD University



J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 2

A workshop focused on augmenting the Green initiatives under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) was held at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), katra. The workshop titled "Green-Certified Building Materials" was organized by the School of Architecture & Landscape Design (SoALD) along with the School of Civil Engineering (SoCE), School of Mechanical Engineering (SoME) & School of Energy Management (SoME) in collaboration with TATA Steel Limited (TSL). During the workshop, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor (SMVDU), conveyed the vision of the University towards sustainable development of the University campus

and extended the cooperative & committed initiatives of the University for MoU with Industry leader, TATA Steel Limited. Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs spoke about the significance of the sustainability and the Green initiatives of the SMVD University. Ar. Abhiney Gupta, Assistant Prof. & I/c Head, SoALD discussed about the importance of the eco-friendly building materials in the construction industry. Further, an interactive lecture was delivered by Mr. Vivek Rai, Head, Product Application Group, TSL that enlightened the aspiring Architects & Engineers about the Industrial Green initiatives in terms of manufacturing process of Steel as building material. TSL is the first Indian Company that has acquired Green Pro certificate for

the rebar manufacturing process. Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh, Associate Professor & Coordinator of the workshop kindled the participants by citing Green rated buildings in the country and the joint role of the Architects & Engineers towards achieving the SDGs in his inaugural address. And conclusively, Ar. Navin Gupta, Assistant Professor presented the vote of thanks. The event was graced by the Patron, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor (SMVDU), Mr. Ajay Kumar (JKAS), Registrar, Mr. Kamal Sharma, University Engineer, Mr. Hemant Bhargav, Chief Sales Manager, TATA Tisccon Ltd, Deans & Heads of the University and Senior Architects of the Jammu region. The faculty, staff, Scholars & students had participated in the event.

Regional parties dividing people on caste, religion: Azad

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR MAY 2

Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad, slammed the regional parties for their divisive tactics based on caste, religion & region during road shows in Poonch and Mandi areas today. Azad expressed concern over the increasing number of Congress members departing the party, fearing a significant depletion in its ranks even before the Lok Sabha results are announced. He said, "I'm saddened to see Kashmir-based regional parties dividing our people based on caste and region. This damages our social fabric and unity. How can an MP elected from these parties do justice to all communities if they seek votes from one and ignore the other? This is dangerous." He reiterated the core agenda of the DPAP, emphasizing its unwavering focus on development, progress, and unity. He emphasized that the party is dedicated to addressing public issues in Parliament without discrimination against any community. "As MP and Leader of Opposition, I advocated for all citizens, irrespective of



their religious or cultural background," Azad stated. "Whether it's Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, or Christians, we stand firm against discrimination of any form." He further said, "We believe in a society where every individual's rights and dignity are respected. Our commitment remains steadfast in championing the cause of unity, progress, and inclusive development for all." Azad pointed to the establishment of colleges, schools, hospitals, and roads as key achievements, emphasizing the imperative to continue such initiatives. "As Chief Minister, our govt prioritized development projects across Jammu and Kashmir without any form of discrimination," he remarked. The creation of educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and infrastructure exemplifies our unwavering dedica-

tion to fostering progress and prosperity." Azad stressed the importance of sustaining and expanding these efforts to uplift all regions and communities within Jammu and Kashmir. Our singular agenda remains resolute: to propel the region towards comprehensive development," Azad affirmed. We are dedicated to advancing initiatives that improve the lives of all residents, regardless of their backgrounds. On the recent departure of several leaders from the Congress party, Azad voiced apprehension about the potential depletion of the party's ranks even before the announcement of results. Azad attributed the exodus to disillusionment with what he described as a pattern of appeasement and ineffective leadership. "It's concerning to witness leaders leaving the party

in droves, disillusioned by what they perceive as a culture of appeasement and leadership failures," he said. Misleading leaders with inaccurate feedback is counterproductive, and a loyal leader would never deceive the high command. If the high command fails to heed or act upon constructive advice, it's preferable to step down rather than endure humiliation." Azad appealed the public, urging them to support his Lok Sabha candidate, Adv. Saleem Parray, in the upcoming election. Describing Parray as a beacon of honesty, youthfulness, and unwavering dedication, he expressed confidence in Parray's ability to represent the people effectively in Parliament. "I wholeheartedly endorse Adv. Saleem Parray as a candidate who embodies integrity, youthfulness, and a steadfast commitment to public service," Azad declared. "I assure you that he will advocate for your concerns in Parliament with the same fervor and diligence that he has demonstrated in the past." Among others who were present on the occasion were Gen Secretary R.S.Chib, Riyaz Naz Secretary and others.

LOST

I, Anil Kumar S/o Rattan Lal R/o H.No. 59 Near High Court Road Old Janipur Jammu 180007 have lost my wallet containing my Driving Licence bearing no. JK02 2015 0170540, Aadhar Card, Pan Card and Voter Card. Now I am applying for duplicate of the same. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to concerned authorities within 7 days

India slams USCIRF as 'biased, with a political agenda'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

India on Thursday slammed the USCIRF and its latest report on India, terming it "a biased organisation with a political agenda" that continues to publish its "propaganda on India". A day after the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom released its latest report, recommending that India be clubbed among 17 nations as "Countries of Particular concern", the Ministry of External Affairs gave a scathing rejoinder.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said: "The USCIRF is known as a biased organisation, with a political agenda. They continue to publish their propaganda on India, masquerading as part of an annual report."

"We really have no expectation that USCIRF



will even seek to understand India's diverse, pluralistic and democratic ethos."

He also said that the USCIRF's "efforts to interfere in the largest electoral exercise in the world will never succeed", in reference to the Lok Sabha elections that are underway.

The USCIRF, in its 2024 Annual Report, recommended 17 countries to the US Department of State for designation as Countries of Particular Concern (CPCs) based on

their governments engaging in or tolerating particularly severe violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief.

Besides the 12 countries that the US State Department had designated as CPCs in December 2023 that include Burma, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, it included five additional names: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Nigeria, and Vietnam.

NLCO & Distt Admin Ganderbal hold Phase-2 of Mission 50000 Plantation Drive, restoration of spring at Badardkund

JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 2

In an eco conservation event in Ganderbal's environmental journey as Phase-2 of the Mega Plantation Drive, Mission 50000 organised by Nigeen Lake Conservation Organisation (NLCO) in collaboration with District Administration Ganderbal, concluded with great enthusiasm and dedication at Badardkund, Ganderbal. The event saw the successful planting of 10,000 plants (4000 in phase-1 and 6000 in phase-2), paving the way for a greener, more sustainable future for the district. Chairman NLCO in a statement said that "The inauguration of the spring, now accessible to the public, was met with joy and optimism. This spring will serve as a vital resource for locals grappling with water scarcity issues, underscoring NLCO's commitment to addressing community needs through eco-conscious initiatives."

Wangnoo expressed a gratitude to all who contributed to the success of this event. He paid special acknowledgment to DC Ganderbal Shri Shyambir Singh, IAS, Dy Director PPF, Range Officer, DFO



Sindh, Chief Planning Officer, ACD Ganderbal, along with officials from the Forest Dept., Social Forestry Dept., Education Dept., Traffic, and JK Police for their unwavering support and active participation. Wangnoo also appreciated NLCO volunteers, stakeholders, and collaborators, including patron NLCO SFA Gillani, former Addnl. Chief Conservator Forests, Lateef Ahmad Bhat EC Member KCC&I, Nadeem Qadri Environmental Lawyer, Amjad Rizvi Environmental Enthusiast, and coordinator Abdul Rauf Khan

Public Relation Officer District Ganderbal, for their invaluable contributions.

A special gratitude was paid by all to the students from various colleges and schools whose enthusiastic participation added a unique charm to the event. Their involvement from institutions like SSM College, Crescent Public School, Salvator International School, Bilaliya Educational Institute, R. P. School Nagbal, Alama Dar-e-Kashmir Memorial Educational Institute, Evergreen High school, HEMHS, NEW DREAM LAND EDUCA-

TION INSTITUTE, New moon land public School, New Tiny Hearts school, Qamariya model high secondary educational institute, among others, was truly commendable.

In a statement issued NLCO chairman said that their organisation has set a precedent for environmental stewardship, urging other green groups, eco organizations, and administrations to follow suit. He also expressed hope that the Forest Dept. and other allied agencies will ensure the care and maintenance of these plants.

Langeh leads election strategy meeting in Kangra Constituency



JINNEWS SERVICE
KANGRA (H.P.), MAY 2

Neelam Langeh, President BJP SC Morcha J&K and former MLA, convened a crucial meeting with senior party officials and workers in his capacity as the in-charge of Palampur Assembly segment within the Kangra Lok Sabha constituency. The meeting was aimed at strategizing for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and reviewing the progress of electoral activities in the region.

During the meeting, Langeh discussed various campaign strategies and emphasized the

importance of ensuring a resounding victory for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the forthcoming polls. He underscored the significance of grassroots mobilization and urged party workers to redouble their efforts in reaching out to voters and conveying the party's vision and accomplishments effectively.

Accompanying Langeh at the event were prominent party leaders including Pradesh Mahamantri Trilok Kapoor, Mandal Adhyaksh Surendra Thakur, District Mahamantri Amarjeet Singh Rana, Abhimanyu Ji, and Pradesh Sachiv

Kisan Morcha Sanjay Kapoor. Their presence underscored the collective commitment of the party's leadership to the electoral success of the BJP in the Kangra constituency.

Expressing her gratitude for the overwhelming support and participation of party members, Langeh reiterated her confidence in the BJP's principles and leadership. He called upon everyone present to work tirelessly towards securing victory for the party and advancing its agenda of development and prosperity for the people of Kangra.

Isuzu Motors India presents new 'Lifestyle Pick-up' Models in India



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU/SRINAGAR/LEH, MAY 2

Isuzu Motors launched 'Lifestyle Pick-Up' to introduce its enriched personal passenger pick-ups, that are Made-in-India which are Made-for-India. This is Isuzu's commitment to set a trend in the lifestyle pick-up segment. The vehicles are priced starting from Rs 21,19,900 (Hi-Lander), Rs 25,51,700 onwards (V-Cross Z) and Rs 26,91,700 onwards (V-Cross Z Prestige), ex-showroom, Chennai.

The latest V-Cross Z Prestige variants up the style quotient with a host of elegant yet classy elements on the exterior. This timeless appeal has been achieved with styling elements finished in Dark Grey. These subtly adds to the visual dynamism and a differentiated road presence that the vehicles now project, making them more aggressive yet sporty. With the host of over a dozen bold styling elements, add character to the vehicle's original design inspired by the 'Cyborg - Orca'.

The Active Safety Systems of Traction Control System (TCS), Electronic Stability Control (ESC), Hill Descent Control (HDC) and Hill Start Assist (HSA) have now been introduced in all the manual transmission models also. Traction Control Systems (TCS)

that automatically apply brakes upon identifying the wheel losing grip on the road, Electronic Stability Control (ESC) which helps prevent the vehicle from spinning out due to the loss of road traction, Hill Descent Control that maintains the vehicle range of 4 to 30 km/h to avoid over-speeding while driving downhill and Hill Start Assist which reduces chances of the rear collision on slopes. For enhancing the Passive Safety system, all the passenger pick-up models now come with 'Rear Seat Occupant Detection Sensors' and have a '3-Point Seat Belt for each of the 3 rear seat occupants' as standard.

Commenting on the launch, Toru Kishimoto - Deputy Managing Director, Isuzu Motors India, said, "We are proud to have set the benchmark in presenting India with its first ever lifestyle adventure utility vehicle and our passenger vehicles range of pick-ups have been consistently well-received since launch. We are happy to carry forward this success story. We are confident that with this enriched range of aspirational products, we shall be able to address the needs of the emerging progressive Indian customers and further strengthen our pole position in the segment."

NC, PDP darkened Gujjar-Bakerwal future: Vibodh



JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 2

During election campaign in Poonch, BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta while holding a series of Public Meetings at Poonch said that NC, PDP and Congress betrayed the Gujjar-Bakerwal community and stole their rights for decades by depriving them of political reservation, forest rights, and imposing a ban on inter-district recruitment. "NC, Congress and PDP brought black law of inter-district recruitment ban putting the future of children of Gujjar-Bakerwal in the dark and even today opposing popular decisions taken in favour of Gujjar-Bakerwal people."

It is the BJP, that raised voice on inter-district recruitment rule and abolished the ban, provide vehicles for the transportation of animals, gave political representation in DDC, BDC, delivered forest rights, opened Eklavya Model Residential Schools for their educational upliftment, and is always on the forefront to resolve the issues faced by these communities", said Vibodh. Vibodh further asserted that the Modi Govt also made sure that the Scheduled Tribes of J&K are empowered and therefore, ensured that the Pahari Tribe, Paddri tribe of Padder area, Gaddi Brahmins, Kohli communities and others

are given the benefit of 10% reservation while keeping the quota of Gujjar-Bakerwal intact. Speaking on the occasion,

District President Rajesh Raina said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the BJP government has undertaken remarkable initiatives to empower the Pahari Tribe and OBCs, ensuring their inclusive development and representation.

Former MLC Pardeep Sharma maintained that the government's focus on creating opportunities through various schemes has uplifted the people of border district Poonch and have also ensured increased access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. Applauding the Modi government for its tireless efforts in uplifting the Pahari Tribe and providing them with multiple avenues by fulfilling their demand of Scheduled Tribe status, former MLA Rajiv Sharma said that the Modi government has always remained dedicated to its mission of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas. BJP Prabhari Poonch Rajinder Gupta underscored multiple schemes of the Modi government which uplifted the marginalized sections of the society ensuring good governance, accountability, transparency and grass-root democracy.

BJP declares Brij Bhushan's youngest son from Kaiserganj seat

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 2

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday announced the name of Karan Bhushan Singh, the youngest son of Brij Bhushan Singh, from Kaiserganj Lok Sabha seats of Uttar Pradesh.

The party has dropped Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment by women wrestlers, and fielded his son Karan from the seat.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, Brij Bhushan won the election from Kaiserganj by two lakh votes.

The other name which was announced by the party was, Dinesh Pratap Singh who will contest for the Rae Bareilly seat.

However, Congress has not yet announced its candidate in Rae Bareilly. It is believed that someone from the Gandhi family will contest the elections from here.

Dinesh Pratap Singh is an Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) and a BJP leader. He had earlier fought the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from Raebareilly constituency, where he was defeated by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi.

Raebareilly has been the Congress' stronghold. Congress veteran Sonia Gandhi had been an MP from Raebareilly since 2004. She had announced earlier this year that she'll be not contesting the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections.

Prajwal's overseas departure triggers 'lookout' notice

AGENCIES
KALABURAGI, MAY 2

In a significant development, Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara revealed on Thursday that a 'lookout' notice has been initiated to capture Hassan NDA candidate Prajwal Revanna, who stands accused of sexual misconduct against women.

Speaking to reporters here, Dr Parameshwara stressed that despite Prajwal's plea for an extended grace period of seven days to appear before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) handling the case, such a provision does not exist beyond the standard 24-hour window.

"The issuance of the lookout notice swiftly ensued upon learning of Prajwal Revanna's departure abroad. We have promptly informed all ports and airports about the lookout notice," affirmed the Minister.

Prajwal, hailing from the lineage of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and son of MLA and former Minister HD Revanna, finds himself embroiled in controversy after explicit video clips purportedly involving the 33-year-old MP surfaced in Hassan recently.

Public outcry has erupted, with protesters taking to the streets to express their outrage against Prajwal's alleged involvement in the sexual abuse case. Meanwhile, Aravind Limbavali, a BJP representative, remarked that the scandal has brought embarrassment to the party.

During the recent Lok Sabha election, Prajwal contested as the NDA candidate in the Hassan constituency, where polling took place on April 26.

Dr Pawan Kotwal chairs meeting to review functioning of Handloom, Handicraft Dept UT Ladakh

JINNEWS SERVICE
LEH, MAY 1

The Advisor to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Handloom and Handicraft wings of Industries & Commerce Department UT Ladakh at VC Hall, Secretariat Leh.

At the outset of the meeting, a comprehensive presentation was given by the Handloom and Handicrafts wings of the Industries & Commerce Department on the Handicraft Department's achievements until 2023-24. The meeting was focused on replicating the good practices in the field into the Government sector and framing schemes/initiatives to consider the unique needs and challenges of the Handloom and Handicraft departments,



strengthening infrastructure, skill development and training, marketing and promotion, and preservation of cultural heritage. The director of the Industries and Commerce Department UT Ladakh expressed confidence on to bring the best and highest quality of Handloom products and goods at the earliest. The advisor Dr Pawan Kotwal highlighted the importance of hand-made products and ethnic Ladakhi designs. He directed the concerned officials to introduce new schemes/initiatives to promote knitting, weaving, pottery, etc, and

also to produce more fine Hand-made products and put standardization on designing the products.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary of the Industries & Commerce Department, UT Ladakh; Superintendent Handloom, Leh; Assistant Director Handicrafts, Leh; OSD to the Director; District Training Coordinator of Industries & Commerce, Leh while Director of Industries & Commerce, UT Ladakh; Superintendent Handloom, Kargil; and Assistant Director Handicrafts, Kargil joined the meeting virtually.

CS calls for enhancing overall efficiency of credit linked schemes to benefit farmers

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

Underscoring the importance of effective implementation and monitoring optimal utilization of resources allocated for agricultural development, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today emphasized the need for collaborative efforts towards streamlining processes, addressing challenges and enhancing the overall efficiency of credit linked schemes for the benefit of farmers across the region.

Addressing a meeting, convened to evaluate the effectiveness of credit-linked schemes of agriculture and allied sectors, the Chief Secretary called upon all concerned departments and officials to redouble their efforts in achieving the outlined objectives.

He reiterated the administration's com-



mitment to ensure the welfare of farmers and promote agricultural prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, attended by senior officials and representatives from the Agriculture Production Department, lead bank, and other stakeholders, focused on enhancing support for farmers through efficient utilization of available resources. Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra

Kumar, presented an overview of the current credit-linked schemes designed to benefit the farmers.

During the meeting, emphasis was laid on understanding the intricacies of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN) scheme, particularly regarding land seeding dependencies, and outlining measures to mitigate any associated delays. Deliberations also encompassed the status of Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

programme, including the sanctioned amounts and total outstanding balances, with a spotlight on issuance of fresh KCCs in the current fiscal year.

The meeting assessed progress made in the past three months regarding the Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF), as well as discussions on the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), PMFME, HDP, RGM, National Livestock Mission, and other pertinent schemes.

J&K Election Deptt, Legal Services Authority collaborate to enhance voter awareness for Lok Sabha Polls in Kashmir

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

In a significant collaborative effort to bolster voter awareness for the ongoing General Elections 2024, Secretary, J&K Advisory Board for Development of Pahari Speaking People and Nodal Officer for Media, Office of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Sapna Kotwal, today held a meeting with Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority.

Among others the meeting was attended by Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Amit Kumar Gupta and



Deputy Information Officer, Nodal Officer SVEEP, Office of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Akhtar Qazi.

During the meeting, a detailed fact-sheet for the constituencies of Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag for the Lok Sabha Polls

was placed before Justice Tashi, outlining the extensive efforts of the UT election office to disseminate awareness among the electorates about the significance of voting in a democratic set up. Kotwal sought support

from Justice Tashi Rabstan in spreading awareness among the masses about the importance of exercising their democratic right to choose their representative through District Legal Services Authorities in their respective jurisdiction.

Justice Tashi assured full cooperation in making these elections a successful festival of democracy. He instructed the Member Secretary, J&K LSA, to direct all the District Legal Services Authorities in Kashmir division to plan activities in coordination with the Nodal Officers of the Election Department appointed in various districts.

Secretary Civil Aviation reviews upgradation of facilities at Srinagar Airport

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

Secretary Civil Aviation, Aijaz Asad, today reviewed upgradation of the existing infrastructure, besides taking stock of other ongoing development works at Srinagar Airport. The Secretary, while addressing a meeting of officers held in this regard, was given a detailed presentation highlighting various facilities and Srinagar airport expansion plans, besides apprising of certain land hindrances at the proposed site. He had detailed deliberation on various passenger facilities in departure and security hold areas, upgradation of Instrument Landing system, CAT-II installation, preparedness for Haj flight operations, acquisition of land for expansion plans among other vital issues.

The Secretary issued directions to the concerned agencies regarding several



issues including CAT -II installation, transfer of land adjacent to the drop gate, handing over of patch of land as well as other important matters related to smooth execution of the project.

He also took notice of the passenger facilities at the airport while asking for evolving a systematic approach to ensure a seamless and efficient travel experience for all the pas-

sengers. He said that airlines have to be prompt in grievance redressal for the ease of passengers. He also enquired about the arrangements being put in place for departure of Haj pilgrims to holy pilgrimage of Mecca and Madina. He emphasised on concerned officers to ensure all arrangements are put in place for the convenience of pilgrims. He also stressed on close synergy and coordination

among departments to ensure smooth and hassle-free arrangements.

In this regard, the concerned Airline representatives briefed the Secretary about the flight arrangements in place for the pilgrims embarking on holy journey to Mecca.

The departure of flights shall commence from May 9 while the last flight of pilgrims shall leave on May 25, he added.

PFMS training conducted for J&K Planning and Finance Officers



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

The J&K Finance Department today organized a training program on the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), in collaboration with Ministry of Finance PFMS Division New Delhi and SD PFMS J&K in the Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

Led by PFMS expert trainers from both Delhi and J&K, the program focused on various PFMS modules, including Single Nodal Agency (SNA), Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and report generation of centrally sponsored schemes. Over 120 participants comprising of Planning and Finance Officers from various Departments and Chief Planning/ Districts Statistics & Evaluation Officers from all 20 Districts attended the training programme either in person or through virtual mode. The participants gained insights into crucial operations related to financial management of centrally sponsored schemes like on-boarding state linked schemes on PFMS portal, creation of child agencies, vendor management and beneficiary payments. Key highlights of the training

included discussions on setting drawing limits, hierarchy mapping, and effective report utilization. Emphasis was placed on optimizing PFMS for streamlined financial operations and accurate reporting.

The two days training, inaugurated jointly by Director Expenditure Madan Gopal Sharma, Director General Budget, Yaqoob Itoo and State Nodal Officer, Shakeel Maqbool, emphasized the importance of utilizing PFMS for efficient financial management of centrally sponsored schemes. Participants were

encouraged to leverage the platform for accurate reporting and streamlined operations. Officers were advised to avail this opportunity and get all their doubts about PFMS clarified from the experts who have come from New Delhi in the final session of the training to be held on 3rd May 2024.

This training shall enrich knowledge of J&K Government Officers in making effective use of PFMS platform for financial management and monitoring centrally sponsored schemes which benefit a large section of our population.

Participants were encouraged to leverage the platform for accurate reporting and streamlined operations. Officers were advised to avail this opportunity and get all their doubts about PFMS clarified from the experts who have come from New Delhi in the final session of the training to be held on 3rd May 2024.

This training shall enrich knowledge of J&K Government Officers in making effective use of PFMS platform for financial management and monitoring centrally sponsored schemes which benefit a large section of our population.

DC Udhampur reviews arrangements for Annual Shiv Parvati Mounгри mela



JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 2

The arrangements for the smooth conduct of three day historic Annual Shiv-Parvati Shrine (Mounгри) mela, commencing on May 14, 2024 at Sar Dabber, were discussed today here at a meeting of District Officers besides representatives of management committee of Lord Shiv -Parvati cave shrine Mounгри.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Saloni Rai here in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex here.

Threadbare discussions were held on various issues

for smooth conduct of the mela like maintenance of road, Security, Sanitation, Healthcare, Transport facility, Drinking water and power supply, market rate checking, deployment of Fire tenders, Cultural program and sports activities etc.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure all arrangements pertaining to their respective departments well in advance and in an effective manner leaving no scope for any complaint from any quarter.

Executive Engineer PHE was asked to make adequate arrangements

for drinking water supply at the mela site while Xen PDD was directed to provide uninterrupted power supply during the mela.

Executive Engineers PMGSY and PWD were directed to ensure timely filing of potholes and completion of repair of the road. It was decided that District Police would deploy adequate security personnel during mela days, while ARTO was asked to deploy a sufficient number of buses from different locations.

Regarding provision of medical facilities at the mela site, the DC directed the Chief Medical Officer to

deploy a team of doctors and an ambulance for the same. It was also decided that the Youth Services & Sports department, in coordination with the Education department, will organize cultural and sports events at the venue.

President, J&K Indian Style wrestling Association cum patron in chief Shiv Parvati caves Shrine Mounгри Development board, Shiv Kumar Sharma apprised the meeting that a wrestling competition will also be organized on the last day of mela which is one of the main attractions of the three-day event.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

General & Security Observers for 2-Srinagar PC visit Pulwama, review Poll Preparedness

JNEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, MAY 2

As the General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 are approaching, General Observer for 2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Mukul Kumar and Security Observer Sandeep Singh Chouhan Thursday made a visit to Pulwama to review the poll preparedness of the district. District Election Officer (DEO) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom provided a comprehensive briefing to the chair through a detailed presentation, highlighting the district's preparedness and strategies for smooth conduct of the elections.

The DEO gave 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.

It was informed that as many as 4,03,795 registered electorates are exer-



cising their franchise in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in the four Assembly Constituencies of the district.

The DEO 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 479 polling stations are established in the designated locations in the district, besides 12 Special Polling stations are also

established in different locations of the district.

Furthermore, Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) Pulwama and Awantipora briefed on the security plan to ensure a safe and secure electoral environment.

The Observers also visited the Joint Control Room and the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) to ensure that all election-related communications are in compliance with the guidelines set by the Election Commission. Monitoring and regulating campaign advertisements and communication are essential to maintain fairness in the electoral pro-

cess. Furthermore, Observers inspected the Dispatch cum Receipt Centre (DcRC) established at Degree College Women Pulwama, 35-Rajpora Assembly Constituency, to review the arrangements in place for the timely and secure dispatch of election materials. Ensuring the smooth logistics of election materials is vital for the efficient conduct of polling day operations.

Later observers conducted a thorough examination of the existing security protocols and infrastructure at the District Police Lines. Discussions were held with senior officials and key stakeholders to evaluate the effectiveness of current strategies and identify areas for improvement.

During the visit, emphasis was placed on leveraging modern technologies and intelligence-gathering techniques to strengthen preemptive measures against potential security threats. Additionally, collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies and the local community were highlighted as integral to maintaining peace and security in the district.