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2 missing, 7 rescued as Boat capsizes in Jhelum at Awantipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

A boat carrying nine labourers capsized in river Jhelum at Hatiwara area of Awantipora in South Kashmir's Pulwama district following which seven persons were rescued while two others are missing.

An official said that a boat having nine non-locals on board capsized at Hatiwara while with the efforts of locals, **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

LG chairs review meeting of Social Welfare Department



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Social Welfare Department.

The meeting was attended by Sh. Santosh

D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Ms Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments and senior officials.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the saturation of social welfare schemes. He directed the officials to make dedicated efforts to ensure 100% Aadhaar seeding of the beneficiaries under various schemes. **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Modi slams Congress over Sam Pitroda's "Skin Colour" remarks, hits out at Rahul Gandhi

AGENCIES
WARANGAL (TELANGANA), MAY 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday attacked the Congress over its party leader Sam Pitroda's alleged comments over skin colour and asserted that the countrymen would not tolerate insult on the basis of skin colour.

Hitting out at top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Modi said he has now understood that the national party sought to defeat President Droupadi Murmu in the presidential poll as her "skin colour is



dark". As Pitroda's reported comments kicked up a row, Modi asked, "will the ability of people be decided in my country on the basis of skin colour." "Who gave the permission

to 'shehzada' for this game of skin colour," he asked. Pitroda's alleged comments that people in the East in India resembled the Chinese, while those from the South looked like Africans, had kicked up a

row. "I am angry today. If anyone abuses me, I don't get angry. I can tolerate that. But, the philosopher of 'shehzada' gave such a big abuse which has filled me with anger," Modi said. Referring to Rahul Gandhi showing Constitution in his election rallies, he asked whether those who dance by keeping Constitution on their head were insulting the countrymen on the basis of skin colour.

India would not tolerate insult to the countrymen on the basis of skin colour, he said, **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Temp rises further as Kashmir parts record hottest day of season for 2nd straight day

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 08

For the second straight day, almost all the stations across Kashmir recorded the hottest day of the season as the mercury continued to rise here amidst the forecast of hot and dry weather conditions for next few days.

According to the news agency, Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, recorded the hottest day of the season at 30.4 degree Celsius. Jammu, the winter capital of the Union territory also recorded the hottest day of the season at 38.6 degree Celsius.

The sudden rise in the maximum temperature was recorded yesterday after the frequent wet spells in Jammu and Kashmir, which simultaneously led to the increase in the water level in all the water bodies, causing a flood like situation.

However, on the second straight day, Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kokernag, Kupwara and Gulmarg among other areas recorded the season's hottest day today.

In Qazigund the mercury settled at 29.2 degree Celsius while in Pahalgam and Kokernag recorded the hottest day of the season at 25.7 degree Cel-

sus and 27.4 degree Celsius respectively.

Kupwara has however, recorded the maximum temperature of 27.9 degree Celsius while in Gulmarg, the mercury also witnessed a sudden increase where a maximum temperature of 20.5 degree Celsius was recorded today.

Similarly, the other areas including Anantnag, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Baramulla and Sonamarg also recorded the hottest day of the season.

Bhaderwah station in Jammu division has also recorded the hottest day of the season at 31.6

degree Celsius. Meanwhile, the officials in the Meteorological department informed KNO that the weather would remain hot and dry till May 10 in Jammu & Kashmir.

They added that the plains as well as the higher reaches of Jammu & Kashmir would record a temperature above normal 4-5 degree Celsius. In Jammu division, the temperature would settle in between 30-40 degrees Celsius everywhere, they said.

However, they said that a light to moderate widespread rain

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Search operation in Akhnoor sector along LoC after suspected movement

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

A search operation has been launched in Akhnoor sector of Jammu district after information of suspected movement of terrorists along the Line of Control (LoC).

The operation is underway but so far nothing has been found.

Talking to the news agency, Jammu based defence spokesman Lt. Colonel Suneel Bhartwal said, "Likely suspected moment, a routine search operation was launched."

After the killing of a Village Defence Guard (VDG)



member in Panara village of Basantgarh in Udhampur district on April 27 followed by an attack on Indian Air Force (IAF) vehicle in Shah Sattar forest area of Surankote in Poonch district in which

one IAF official was killed, Indian Army is not letting any information go unnoticed.

Security forces have also released satellite pictures of terrorists involved in the attack on IAF convoy

in Surankote. Meanwhile, search operations in Basantgarh and forest areas of adjoining Kathua and Doda districts, and Sanai forests of Surankote have entered 11th and fifth day, respectively, with no success to the security forces so far. Terrorists continue to remain at large and security forces have launched combing operations in both these areas.

Police and Army are manning the upper reaches of Kathua and Doda districts which are adjacent to Basantgarh area of Udhampur and till **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

SSP Jammu calls for controlling crime, ensuring peace, stability in the district



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 08

To control crime and ensure peace and stability, senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu Vinod Kumar today held a security review meeting with all the sub district police officers and station house

officers. The meeting was held at district police lines here.

In a statement issued to news agency, the Jammu police spokesman said that during the meeting in addition to crime review, various security measures were discussed for controlling crime & ensuring

peace and stability in the district.

"Various aspects of policing including quality investigation of cases, crime disposal, verifications, disposal of NDPS, UAPA cases, inquest proceedings, absconded, missing persons and **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

21 among 23 professor posts vacant at GMC Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 08

Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri is grappling with a severe shortage of faculty, with only two out of 23 sanctioned professor positions currently filled.

This information was disclosed through a Right to Information (RTI) file obtained by RTI activist MM Shuja and accessed by the news agency.

Among the 364 sanctioned posts for GMC Rajouri, only 219 are currently occupied, leaving a staggering 145 positions vacant. These vacancies include crucial roles such

as professors, associate professors, assistant professors, senior residents, demonstrators, medical officers, junior residents, and paramedical staff.

The hospital is also facing significant infrastructural deficits, lacking essential facilities such as MRI, radiotherapy, a cath lab, Hormone analyzers, and critical care ambulances. The shortage of hostel rooms, numbering at 132, adds to the challenges faced by the institution.

Another alarming revelation is the surrendering of allocated funds over the past five

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ACB Jammu files FIR against PWD officials, contractor for abusing official position

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 08

The Anti-Corruption Bureau Jammu has registered a case against officers of Public Works Department Jammu and a contractor for abusing official position and violating codal formalities in inviting tenders for road construction work.

In a statement issued to the news agency a spokesperson said that the case was registered on the outcome of a verification conducted by ACB on the basis of complaint alleging that a contractor Avikash Choudhary in league with concerned engineers of

PWD Division-III Jammu and others manipulated to get the contract of upgradation of road from Lohri Chak to Chakrali via Sohagini in block Marh under NABARD by putting the lowest rates for the allotment of the contract.

The statement reads that on ground all clauses of the tender were violated and work has not been executed, thereby causing loss to government exchequer. It reads that the verification conducted revealed that while executing the work of execution of road, an item was not kept in DPR whereas base course was advertised to facilitate the contractor in

getting allotment of contract.

"The officials prepared the advertised rate list by incorporating base course which was not kept in DPR. It surfaced during the course of verification that the contractor quoted the rate of Rs 4.30/sqm for Bituminous Macadam (BM) against advertised rate of Rs 430/sqm and Rs 0.50/kg for reinforcement of RCC work against Rs.60/kg." It added that the rates quoted by the contractor were abnormally low and unworkable.

"The contractor did not execute these abnormally low rate items **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

CS reviews progress on vision document for accelerating employment through entrepreneurship

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 08

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday inaugurated a day long workshop on 'Yuva Udhayami Vikas Abhiyaan (YUVA)' aiming at accelerating employment of youth through entrepreneurship in convergence with several other schemes already under implementation here in the Union Territory.

The workshop was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Forests, Principal Secretary, Finance, Secretary, L&E, Secretary, Planning, DG,



Planning, Director, IIM Jammu, representatives from Banks, Bill Foundation besides other concerned officers.

Speaking on the occasion, Dulloo remarked that the vision document

to be prepared would act as a bedrock of the initiatives to be taken in making useful interventions for providing gainful employment opportunities to our youth through entrepreneurship. He exhorted

upon all the stakeholders to collaborate for preparation of version 1.0 of this document on the available date and their analysis. He maintained that once the document is ready, **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Over 17 lakh voters to decide fate of 24 candidates in Srinagar parl seat on May 13

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 08

More than 17.4 lakh voters will decide on May 13 the fate of over two dozen candidates for the Srinagar parliamentary seat.

As many as 24 candidates are in the fray for the Srinagar parliamentary elections, including National Conference's Agha Syed Ruhullah; People's Democratic Party's Waheed ur Rehman Parra; Apni Party's Mohd Ashraf Mir; Democratic Progressive Azad Party's Amir Ahmad and Gana Suraksha Party's Mohd Yousuf Bhat.

J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) candidate Hakikat Singh, Rubina Akhter of the National Loktantrik Party, Younis Ahmad Mir of the Bharat Jodo Party, and 16 independent candidates.

As per details obtained by the news agency, over 1740015 voters are registered for the Srinagar parliamentary constituency. The segments of this seat include Srinagar, Ganderbal, Pulwama, and three areas of the Budgam district.

Ganderbal district has two assembly segments, Kangan and Ganderbal. The total number of voters

in Ganderbal is 2,04,041, 77,537 of whom are in Kangan and 1,26,504 in Ganderbal.

In Kangan, there are over 39324 males, 38213 females, 1623 PwD (40% disability), 225 male senior citizens (85+), 213 female senior citizens (85+), and 438 total senior citizens (85+). In Ganderbal, there are over 63093 males, 63410 females, 1211 PwD (40% disability), 397 male senior citizens (85+), 408 female senior citizens (85+), and 805 total senior citizens (85+).

In Srinagar, there are over 8 assembly segments that include Hazratbal,

Khanyar, Habbakadal, Lal Chowk, Channapora, Zadibal, Eidgah, and Central Shalteng, where the total number of voters is 748863.

Of 7,48,863, 3,75,622 are male voters, 3,73,218 female voters, 1683 PwD (40% disability) voters, 4926 male senior citizens (85+), 4696 female senior citizens (85+), 23 transgender and 9622 total senior citizens (85+).

In Hazratbal, there are over 1,08,467 voters, including 54,380 male voters and 54,087 female voters. In the Khanyar segment, there are **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

DC Rajouri reviews implementation of BBBP

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 8

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat today reviewed implementation of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme (BBBP), besides functioning of Sakhi One-Stop Centre District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in separate meetings here.

Chairing a meeting of District Level Task Force, the DC reviewed the implementation of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme in the district.

The meeting delved into major objectives of the scheme, including check on dwindling sex ratio, containing girl school dropout and other important points and the strategies to ameliorate these challenges.

The District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO)

outlined the action plan for BBBP in the district, encompassing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities, specialized meetings of girls with police officials, and special training programs aimed at fostering their independence.

The members of the district level task force also suggested measures to ensure the comprehensive success of the BBBP scheme in Rajouri district.

The meeting decided to constitute a committee to conduct random checking of clinical establishments to enforce compliance with the regulations prohibiting sex determination tests. This proactive measure aims to prevent any illegal practices that perpetuate gender discrimination and undermine the objectives of the BBBP scheme.

Similarly, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive review of SAKHI One-Stop Centre

and District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) in a spate meeting.

At the outset, the DSWO, Wakeel Ahmed Bhatt informed the chair that OSC serves as a vital resource for women affected by various forms of violence, providing a range of services including medical aid, legal assistance, counseling, and temporary shelter.



While apprising about the functioning of the District Hub for Empowerment of Women, he informed that the initiative is meant to provide "one stop convergent support services for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition".

Expressing satisfaction with the operations of

the OSC and DHEW, the DC asked the concerned stakeholders to keep working with the added enthusiasm for the welfare of the women in the district.

The DC emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between SAKHI-One Stop Center and different Departments including ICDS, Social Welfare and Health to effectively address gender-based violence.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a meeting of the District Level Child Protection Committee, which works for the effective welfare and protection of children in distress.

The Deputy Commissioner sought a detailed report on the functioning of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and Child Welfare Committee (CWC). The concerned officers provided a briefing on their operations, highlighting key achievements. The meeting also witnessed

an in-depth and comprehensive discussion on the key points to enhance the functioning of the district-level child welfare committee.

The issue of child labor was also discussed threadbare and the Deputy Commissioner asked stakeholders to take proactive measures to curb child labor effectively. Emphasis was placed on enforcing existing laws and implementing strategies to address this critical issue, ensuring the protection and well-being of children in the district.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also discussed the cases for children in need of assistance in the sponsorship and Foster Care Approval Committee (SFCAC) meeting. As many as 78 cases were discussed in the meeting. The committee discussed individual cases and the DC asked to forward these cases to the Child Welfare Committee for further evaluation and approval.

Preparations for the

Intramural Competition kicks off in Kishtwar District

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 8

Youth Services & Sports Department today kicked off annual intramural competition here under the guidance of DYSSO, Jaffer H Sheikh. The initiative aims to promote sportsmanship and physical fitness among students while providing them a platform to showcase their talent.

Under the vigilant supervision of Principals and Headmasters, a variety of sporting events are being conducted within the premises of respective schools. Physical Education Masters, Physical Education Teachers, REK Teacher's, and NYCs, have collaborated to ensure the seamless organization of tournaments spanning different games.

Preparations for the

active involvement of the entire sports fraternity, with a focus on identifying activities that resonate with the students' interests. Teachers have played a pivotal role in imparting practical knowledge on planning, organizing, and administering play programs, thereby fostering leadership qualities among the participants.

Moreover, these intramural activities serve as a breeding ground for talent, enabling the physical staff to identify and nurture promising players across various disciplines. Such initiatives not only enhance the overall sporting culture within schools but also pave the way for participation in inter-school tournaments, where these budding athletes can further hone their skills and represent their institutions with pride.

GDC Samba hosts awareness lecture on Organ Donation to mark Red Cross Day

JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAY 8

Red Ribbon Club and First Aid Committee of Government Degree College Ramgarh organised a one-day awareness lecture on Organ Donation to mark Red Cross Day.

The awareness event was held in collaboration with the State Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO), Jammu & Kashmir, Superspeciality Hospital GMC Jammu functioning under the National Organ Transplant Program (NOTP), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI.

The program was conducted under the guidance and supervision of the Principal of the college Prof (Dr). Geetanjali Andotra. Speaking on the occasion, she motivated the students to be part of this noble cause of organ donation.



The resource person of the awareness program was Anshu Sharma (IEC, SOTTO), who gave a PPT presentation about the functions of SOTTO in J&K and different types of organ donation like liver, cornea, kidney, etc and different types of donors like deceased/dead donors. She emphasized that the need for organ donors has increased significantly over the years. She said that voluntary organ donation is the only way to meet the huge demand for

organs. She also focused on Brain Stem Death (BSD) wherein vital organs are taken only after the person is declared Brain dead. She added that people die due to the non-availability of organs for transplant so it is very important to donate organs. She highlighted the various aspects of organ donation which is a significant service to society and mankind. It is a unique opportunity for the donors to donate their organs to save precious lives.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Snobar, Convener, First Aid Committee and Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Red Ribbon Club. The welcome address and vote of thanks was presented by Prof. (Dr.) Shivali Panigotra, HoD, EVS.

All the faculty members and students attended the awareness lecture session and many among them also took the pledge 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' and received their certificates.

DDC Reasi encourages participation of local youth in development of Chnkha area

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 8

District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, visited Chnkha today and interacted with the local youth, urging them to actively participate in the development and promotion of the area as a tourism hub.

DDC Mahajan reiterated the administration's commitment to promote sustainable development in the region and called upon the youth to play a proactive role in realizing this vision. He highlighted the potential of Chnkha as a tourist destination and encouraged the youth to explore opportunities for



entrepreneurship in the tourism sector.

During the visit, DDC Mahajan inspected various mining blocks and directed the concerned

authorities to ensure that mining activities are carried out strictly within their demarcated areas, emphasizing on the importance of environ-

mental sustainability. Tehsildar Thakrakote Anil Magotra, team of Mining Department and other concerned officers were present.

GDC Marh celebrates World Red Cross Day

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Red Ribbon club of Government Degree College Marh celebrated World Red Cross Day by hosting an awareness event here on the college campus.

The College Principal Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, in his address, highlighted the importance of the day. "On this Day we pay tribute to the millions of volunteers and staff working alongside people in need of protection, assistance, healthcare, social aid and solidarity" she said. Prof. Madhavi Parasher (HOD Botany) briefed the students that the day is observed to highlight the humanitarian values and activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. "These associations play a crucial role in assisting and aiding people impacted by different natural disasters, armed conflicts, and different crises, everywhere," she added. The event was coordinated by Dr. Shakun Sharma (HOD Sociology) The occasion was graced by Prof. Imritaz Shahid (HOD Zoology, Prof. Asha (HOD Geography), Dr. Balwinder Saini (HOD Chemistry) and Ravi (PTI).

DRCS Kishtwar leads community collaboration to Mark Red Cross Day

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 8

The District Red Cross Society (DRCS) Kishtwar, in collaboration with the stakeholder Departments, on Wednesday orchestrated a remarkable commemoration of the Red Cross Day.

The event graced by the presence of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, alongside ADC Pawan Kotwal, ACR Kishtwar Idrees Lone, SDM Chatroo Naeem Ur Rehman and DSWO Kishtwar Tariq Parvez Qazi, among others, showcased a unified dedication towards humanitarian cause.

Member volunteers of the Red Cross Society, personnel from the Fire & Emergency Department, Traffic Police, DC office, Health Department, Social Welfare Department and NGO volunteers and media representatives congregated to honor the occasion.

During the event, officials underscored the pivotal role of the Red Cross Society in extending vital assistance during crises, whether stemming from natural disasters or human-induced emergencies. The Deputy Commissioner lauded the society's unwavering commitment



to fostering peace, safeguarding human dignity, and mitigating human suffering during exigencies. He extended heartfelt felicitations to the Red Cross team and urged the populace to collaborate with them during times of adversity.

In conjunction with the commemoration, a Blood Donation camp was orchestrated at District Hospital Kishtwar, engaging volunteers from the Red Cross Society alongside various other Social Welfare Organizations and NGOs. This initiative served as a poignant

reminder of the collective resolve to prioritize humanitarianism and solidarity within the community.

The Red Cross Day celebration in Kishtwar bore testament to the spirit of unity and compassion, as individuals from diverse backgrounds rallied together to champion the cause of humanity. Through collaborative efforts and unwavering dedication, the District Red Cross Society Kishtwar exemplifies a beacon of hope, embodying the ethos of service and altruism.

World Red Cross Day Series of celebration activities held across Doda District

JNEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 8

The World Red Cross Day celebration activities were held today across Doda District here under the aegis of District Red Cross Society and under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh, who is also President of the DRCS.

The celebration centered on the theme "Keep Humanity Alive" and included a mega student rally that started from the DC Office Complex.

The Deputy Commissioner, along with other district officers, flagged off the rally, which marched through the main market towards the old bus stand and returned to the new bus stand before concluding at the Government Boys Higher Secondary School here.

The rally featured students from the government and private schools, who carried banners and chanted slogans such as "Red Cross Zindabad" and "Rakt Daan Maha Daan."

Donation boxes designated by the District Red Cross Society were also carried by some students to collect contributions for humanitarian causes. The event culminated with the hoisting of the Red Cross flag and a pledge ceremony at the Government Boys Higher Secondary School, with chief guest, ADC Sudershan Kumar



and other district officials leading the activities.

Series of competitions, including a debate, a symposium, a painting competition, and a cultural program were also held, encouraging students to focus on the importance of humanity.

Meanwhile, an awareness Bike rally was taken out in Bhaderwah, which was led by ADC Sunil Kumar. The program saw participation from NGOs, NCC cadets and students from different schools.

The rally culminated at Seri Bazaar Bhaderwah, where officers, including Tehsildar Kamal, EO Ravi Saini, BMO Dr. Ashraf, BDO Akhil, and others,

delivered messages highlighting the importance of Red Cross Day and road safety. Helmets were distributed among the bikers in collaboration with NGO YAC to promote traffic safety.

Meanwhile, blood donation camps were held at GMC Doda and SDH Baderwah as part of the World Red Cross Day celebrations. DC Harvinder Singh inaugurated the blood donation camp at GMC Doda blood bank.

The camps aimed to promote blood donation and raise awareness about the role of the Red Cross in providing humanitarian aid during conflicts and disasters.

LS Elections-2024 Rajouri SVEEP team organises voters' awareness program at GHSS Gambhir Mughlan

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 8

The District Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Team organized an awareness programme at Government Higher Secondary School Gambhir Mughlan here today.

The programme aimed to raise awareness about the importance of voter participation and encourage eligible citizens to register as voters.

The SVEEP team discussed various aspects of the electoral process, including voter registration, the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), and the ethical conduct of elections.

The team also emphasized the role of young voters in shaping the future of democracy. The team members encouraged students to become active and responsible citizens by participating in the electoral process and making informed choices. The programme was attended by a large number of students and staff of the Higher Sec. School Gambhir Mughlan. They expressed their gratitude to the SVEEP team for providing valuable information and insights.

DIPR hosts Symposium on Nasha Mukht Bharat at GBHSS Reasi



JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 8

Cultural Unit, Department of Information and Public Relations Jammu on Wednesday organised a Symposium on "Nasha Mukht Bharat" here in Government Higher Secondary School Boys Reasi. The objective was to educate the next generation regarding the perils of Drug abuse and the role

of individuals in eradicating this menace from society. The students presented valuable information on the topic and also presented a colorful Cultural programme. Students were judged on parameters of Pronunciation, Modulation of Voice, Factual Representation, confidence etc. Vishawjeet Singh, Pritam Kumar & Anshu

Mali acted as Judges for the day. Anita Rani Teacher of the school hosted the event. A total number of 10 students participated in the competition. First position was bagged by Satvik, second position by Aditya Veer Singh and third position was secured by Vishal Thakur. Speaking on the occasion the school Principal Ashok Kernia educated

the students regarding the topic and appreciated the Department of Information & Public Relations for organising such a meaningful event in the school. Among others present were Staff members of the school and a large number of students. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Cultural Officer Nasir Ahmed Khan.

Fast Food Stall Udyami training program concludes at SBI RSETI Jammu



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

A Fast Food Stall Udyami Training Programme organised by SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (SBI-RSETI) Jammu concluded today here at Roop Nagar. A batch of 34 candidates from different parts of Jammu District participated in the training course. Assessment of the batch was also carried out by the EDP Assessor Rajeev Mahajan and Domain Assessor Nishu Sood from National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR). On this occasion, a small but impressive function was organized in which certificates of participation were distributed by Romesh Chander, Director SBI RSETI Jammu. The Director RSETI

interacted with all the candidates and guided them to take full advantages of the skill acquired at SBI RSETI Jammu. He also motivated the candidates to stand on their own by using the skill acquired at SBI RSETI. Romesh Chander also guided the candidates about Social Security Schemes like PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY etc. He also guided them about various loan schemes which are beneficial for candidates to open their self employment ventures. Director RSETI, assured every possible help in opening their ventures and to get credit linked by the banks under different loan schemes. At the end of the program, Vote of Thanks was delivered by Deepu Bala and M Shalu Sharma, Faculties, SBI RSETI Jammu.

NDMA expert team starts survey of Land Subsidence affected area Pernote



JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 8

A team of experts from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), deputed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has started a comprehensive on site survey of Land Subsidence affected area Pernote in Ramban District. Led by Chief Scientist Prof. D.P. Kanungo from CBRI, the technical expert committee, comprising Dipali Jindal and Ranu Chauhan from NDMA, Vivek Coelho from UNDP and Dr. Ravinder Singh from NIDM commenced its assessment from May 7, 2024. The team is conducting a thorough examination

of the reasons behind the land subsidence and the future threats in the area. Chief Scientist Prof. D.P. Kanungo highlighted that the committee would submit a comprehensive report to the ministry suggesting measures for the sustainable development of the area. The team will propose precautions to prevent future losses caused by mudflow slides. Additionally, the team is evaluating the feasibility of habitation and agricultural activities in the future. The experts advised against entering the affected area for agricultural or habitation purposes until it is declared safe and stabilized.

World Red Cross Day observed at Udhampur



JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 8

Like other parts of the country, World Red Cross Day was observed at District Head Quarter Udhampur. An informative symposium centered on this year's theme "Keeping Humanity Alive" was held in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex with Deputy Commissioner, Saloni Rai was the chief guest.

As many as 10 students drawn from different educational institutions of the District Udhampur participated and threw light on the given topic. While highlighting the role and functioning of red cross society in the district, the DC congratulated and motivated the participants to take part in all activities carried out by the District Red Cross Society from time to time for the betterment of needy people. She

urged the participants to volunteer themselves for the Red Cross which is a best platform for serving the needy people. Sunil Kumar of Government Higher Secondary School, Garhi clinched first position and Sandeep Singh of Government Higher Secondary School Boys bagged second position, while Meenakshi Devi of Government Girls Higher School Udhampur and Tanvi Verma of Govern-

ment Girls High school Garhi shared the third position. Vijay Kumar Senior Lecturer, Government Model Higher Secondary School Boys, Bodh Raj Senior Lecturer Govt Higher Secondary School Chirayi, Rinku Khanna, Teacher MS Gopal Mandir conducted the proceedings of the programme. Later, the chief guest gave away mementoes and certificates to the participants.

World Red Cross Day Multi Speciality mega health camp held at JNV Arnora (Ghat)

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 8

A one day multi speciality mega health camp was today held at JNV School Arnora (Ghat) in District Doda to mark the observance of World Red Cross Day and to pay tribute and homage to noted Social Activist Late Raja Anayatullah Khan and continue his mission.

The camp was organized by Social Workers Forum (NGO) in collaboration with District Administration, District Health Society and JNV School Arnora. The Camp was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh along with Chief Medical Officer Dr Om Kumar, CPO Manish Sharma, Principal JNV School Arnora, Kheem Chand, BMO Ghat Dr Abdul Gafoor and members of SWF Doda.

The camp provided an array of specialized medical services encompassing consultations by General Physician, Orthopaedics, Dermatology, Child Specialist, Ophthalmology, AYUSH OPD besides NCD screening, Hb testing and other diagnostic tests and essential medicines were rendered free of cost to all patients by the camp.

Earlier, an impressive function was organized by the NGO, where the speakers paid rich tributes to Late Raja Anayatullah Khan and recalled his dedi-



icated services towards society and his grateful contributions in the past successful camps besides the NGO members underscored the paramount importance of such camps in elevating the overall health & well being of the community.

The DC along with NGO members presented Post-humous Award to Late Khan, as a token of love and to recognise his laudable contribution in the field of social work. In his address, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the achievements of the SWF Doda for successfully organizing 19 camps in the past. The DC praised the services of the health fraternity towards the people and also praised the services of NGO, in organizing such a mega camp in the camp.

A huge footfall of patients, including students attended the Camp while the medical team examined more than 350 patients for different ailments. Moreover, free Sanitary Napkins were also distributed among 150 girl students of JNV Arnora (Ghat). The altruistic endeavour benefited a wide spectrum of individuals, particularly those from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. The 20th Multi-Specialty Mega Health Camp organized by SWF Doda is a testament to the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders in the community to address healthcare needs and contribute to the well-being of the residents of Doda District, which have been commended greatly by the local population.

LS Elections-2024 ECI establishes 4 special polling booths for Kashmiri Migrants in Delhi

JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

To facilitate Kashmiri Migrants, residing in Delhi, to cast their votes in person on the polling days during Lok Sabha elections on the seats across Jammu and Kashmir, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established special polling booths for the community at different locations in the capital.

These booths have been established at Kashmir Resident Commission, 5 PR Road New Delhi, Kashmir Kissan Ghar BR-2 Shalimar Bagh Delhi, Arwachin International Public School Pocket F Dilshad Garden, Delhi and GGSS Paprawat Najafgarh, Delhi. "The Election Commission of India, in a first, has instructed for providing free of cost to and fro transportation facility for the Kashmiri Migrants eligible to cast their ballot in these special booths", reads a communication received here today by the office of AERO/ARO, Migrants, New Delhi. The transport service will be provided to KMs from the camps to their respective polling stations and back to camps.

Lok Sabha Polls-2024

CEO calls for ramping up SVEEP activities to ensure highest voter turnout in Srinagar PC

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, today chaired a meeting here to oversee the readiness for smooth conduct of Lok Sabha Election-2024 in Srinagar district.

District Election Officer (DEO), Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Returning Officer (RO) for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, was present in the meeting among other participants. The CEO stressed on ensuring highest voter turnout in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections in Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC). He called for ramping up SVEEP activities in public places and at schools of the district to educate public about the significance and essence of casting their ballot. He laid stress on sending across message among women through Pink Polling Stations regarding the fact that they can efficiently manage any job. He emphasized on enhancing awareness among the masses with respect to special polling stations viz. Pink, PwD, Green and Urban, and directed the concerned to give wide publicity regarding facilities being provided at these polling stations for encouragement of the general public to vote and register larger voter turnout in the district. The CEO also directed for effective conduct of Election Commission of India's path-breaking home voting facility for citizens who are 85+ and Person with Disabilities (PwD)



to send clear message to citizens about the decisive step towards facilitating a more equitable and representative democracy, where every citizen's voice matters, regardless of physical limitations or age. P. K Pole directed for wide publicity of all election related activities including SVEEP awareness activities for encouragement of the general public to vote and register highest voter turnout in the district. He underscored unwavering dedication towards fostering inclusivity and sustainability in the electoral process. He said that the ECI believes that every citizen should have equal access to exercise their democratic right, and these polling stations represent a significant step towards achieving that goal. Reviewing the status of commissioning of EVMs and training of designated staff, Pole stressed

on ensuring comprehensive hands-on training aimed at familiarizing the poll staff with the operation and maintenance of EVMs. He also asked the AROs to ensure proper uploading of data on EMS. The CEO also reviewed the status of complaints received on C-Vigil App, MCC violations, MCMC, Single Window System, Shadow register of Candidates, Assured Minimum Facilities and Distribution and Collection Centres. He assessed the Transportation plan for EVMs, and instructed that the same may be transported in container vehicles fitted with GPS. He instructed the concerned to ensure complete distribution of Voter Information Slips among the voters. Earlier, District Election Officer, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, through a PowerPoint Presentation, presented the district profile and overall arrangements in place for free, fair and smooth conduct of elections in the district. He said that all ECI guidelines are being implemented in letter and spirit in the district and efforts are being made to ensure maximum participation of voters. He also briefed about the functioning of MCMC, deployment of SST, FST, VVT and teams, arrangements for senior citizens and PwDs voters in the district. Among others, the meeting was attended by AROs, Nodal Officers, Deputy District Election Officer, AEROs and others concerned.

| NORTHERN RAILWAY | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| TENDER NOTICE | | | | | | |
| Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railways, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India is inviting open Tender (Two Packet System) for Development of GCT at Baramulla and Awantipora Railway Station with details as under: | | | | | | |
| S. N. | Station and e-tender number | Code | EMD Required (In Rs.) | Tender form cost (In Rs.) | Period of contract | Date of closing |
| 1. | Baramulla (3-AC-GCT-BRMLFZR-24) | BRML | 3,39,32,900/- | 11,800/- | 35 years | 31.05.2024 |
| 2. | Awantipora (3-AC-GCT-ATPAFZR-24) | ATPA | 4,34,95,700/- | 11,800/- | 35 years | 30.05.2024 |
| For further details, please visit Railway's Website www.ireps.gov.in | | | | | | |
| No: 3-AC-GCT-BRMLFZR-24 Date: 08.05.2024 1399/24 | | | | | | |
| SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE | | | | | | |

| NORTHERN RAILWAY | | |
|---|------------------------|--|
| E-AUCTION NOTICE | | |
| The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division: | | |
| Catalogue No. | Auction Start | Name of work |
| EAZR-OH24-3 | 20.05.2024 at 11:00 AM | 1) Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights on exterior of Overhead of Water Tanks at Sujampur, Sahnewal, Bari Brahmna, Jammu Tawi, Pathankot, Amritsar, Jalandhar City, Baramulla Sopur, Budgam, Srinagar, Anantnag, Qazigund & Banihal Railway Station. 2) Allotment of contract for Commercial publicity rights through static media at Railway Station Amritsar and Level crossings adjoining to Nawan Shehar, Banga, Chhina, Verka, Jaintipura, Batala, Bhagatwala & Patti Railway Station. 3) Allotment of contract for Commercial publicity rights through static media & overhead of water tank at Makhlu, Nakodar & Samba Railway Station. |
| For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in | | |
| SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1381/24 | | |

GCW Gandhi Nagar hosts IGNOU Induction Program

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Government College for Women Gandhinagar, in collaboration with Regional Centre IGNOU and IGNOU Study Centres 1285 and 1232, successfully organized an induction program for its fresher students. This initiative aimed to equip students with valuable information about Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), including its diverse course offerings, admission procedures, and the array of student support services available.

Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director, IGNOU, addressed the gathering and offered insightful details about the university's unique educational approach and its day-to-day operations. Dr. Vikram Singh engaged the audience with a captivating virtual tour of IGNOU showcased on a large screen. He provided practical explanations on the admission process, assignment sub-



mission procedures, and access to study materials. Dr. Sandeep Gupta delved into the fundamentals of IGNOU study centres and fostered an interactive session with the students to address any questions or concerns they might have.

Dr. Rahul Sharma, Coordinator of IGNOU Study Centre 1285, expressed his gratitude to the esteemed guests from the Regional Centre, including Dr. Jai Prakash Verma (Regional Director), Dr. Vikram Singh, Dr. Sandeep Gupta (Assistant Regional

Director), and Dr. Neeraj Sharma (Coordinator of IGNOU Study Centre 1232). He further elaborated on the functioning of IGNOU and GCW Gandhinagar. This partnership opens doors for students to explore the vast range of academic programs offered by IGNOU. The informative and well-structured induction program empowered students to make informed decisions about their educational journeys. The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Suman Bala, Assistant Coordinator. Dr. Rahul Sharma presented a bouquet to the esteemed guests as a token of appreciation. Dr. Ashok Kumar, Prof. Abhinav Sharma, Prof. Rohit Gupta, Mr. Dinesh Khajuria, Ms. Padma, Mr. Deep, Mr. Sunil Sharma, and Mr. Shad also played a key role in organizing the successful induction program.

Indian Army conducts outreach medical drive for Gujjar, Bakkarwal Communities in Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 8

In a proactive effort to support remote communities and enhance healthcare accessibility, the Indian Army conducted an outreach medical drive in Dera Ki Gali (DKG), Rajouri district. This initiative specifically targeted the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities residing in these far-flung areas, providing vital medical assistance and advisories at their doorsteps.

The Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities, often leading a nomadic lifestyle, face unique challenges accessing healthcare services due to their remote locations and seasonal migrations. Understanding these challenges, the Indian Army organized a mobile medical camp to reach out to these communities directly.



During the outreach program, a team of dedicated medical professionals and support staff from the Indian Army

engaged with community members, offering essential healthcare services and expert advice. The medical drive aimed

to address immediate health concerns, offer preventive care measures, and provide guidance on health-related issues before the communities undertake their routine migration to the valley.

The initiative not only demonstrates the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare of all sections of society but also underscores the importance of proactive healthcare interventions in remote and underserved areas.

The success of this outreach medical drive highlights the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to foster stronger bonds with local communities and contribute positively to public health initiatives in the region.

RRC of GCW Gandhi Nagar organizes Poster Making Competition

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Red Ribbon/Red Cross Club, PSPS, Govt. College for Women, Gandhi Nagar Jammu, joins the Global Community in celebrating the profound impact of humanitarian efforts and the enduring spirit of compassion and joy.

This year theme, "I give with joy and the joy I give is a reward", reflects the essence of Red Cross Movements Mission to alleviate suffering and bring hope to those in the need. It highlights the transformative power of kindness and generosity, reminding us that even the simplest acts of compassion can bring immeasurable joy to the individuals and the communities facing adversity.

On this occasion, a poster making competition was organized in collaboration with Depart-



ment of Zoology, in which 40 students participated. The theme was "I give with joy and the joy I give is a reward". Arushi Sharma of 2nd Sem bagged first position, Anjali Verma of

2nd Sem second position and the third position was secured by Khushdeep Kour of 2nd Sem.

Prof. Surinder Singh Parihar, I/C Principal PSPS, GCW, Gandhi Nagar,

Jammu was the Guest of Honour.

Prof. Archana Bakshi, HOD, English, Prof. Anupama Pandotra, Zoology and Prof. Rakesh Singh, HOD, Chemistry, were the Judges.

Prof. Samriti Aggarwal, HOD, Department of Zoology and Convener, Red Cross/Red Ribbon Club and the committee members Prof. Shakun Mahajan, Dr. Shaista Ajaz, Dr. Raj Kumar Santhal, Prof. Manmeet Kour, Prof. Asha Devi, Prof. Varchakam Sharma, Prof. Meenakshi Sharma, Prof. Anita Kotwal, Prof. Archana Bhat were present during the program.

On 8th of May, 2024 All the three winners were given prizes by the Chief Guest of Red Cross Society at Mehraj Chand Mahajan Hall, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

Three day VET FEST 2K24 commences at Skuast-Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

The three-day annual veterinary festival, "Vet Fest-2K24," hosted by the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry at SKUAST-Jammu, R S Pura, commenced on May 8th, 2024. Dr. Nagendra Sharma, former Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, graced the occasion as the esteemed Chief Guest and inaugurated the event alongside Prof. B.N. Tripathi, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu, Dr. Rajesh Katoch, Dean, FVSc & AH; Dr S K Gupta, Registrar, SKUAST-Jammu and other esteemed statutory officers of the University.

Dr. Sharma along with other dignitaries inaugurated the VET FEST 2K24 by lighting the ceremonial lamp and launched specially designed Vet Fest 2K24 T-shirt and cups. They also inspected the fine arts and other events.

Dr. Nagendra Sharma, in his address, emphasized the pivotal role that events like Vet Fest-2K24 play in not only rejuvenating the minds and spirits of students and faculty but also in fostering a sense of camaraderie and belonging within the academic community. He underscored that SKUAST-Jammu has long been an epitome of creativity, talent, and innovation, values that are not only upheld but also further nurtured through such enriching events. Dr. Sharma reaffirmed that platforms like Vet Fest serve as catalysts for holistic growth, enabling participants to



explore their potential beyond the confines of traditional academic settings and encouraging them to embrace a spirit of exploration and experimentation.

Dr. Sharma is a renowned international scientist and educator, who held various leadership roles at different prestigious agricultural institutes in India like NDRI, IVRI and CIRG. SKUAST Jammu experienced significant infrastructure as well as human resource development, marking a period of substantial growth and expansion during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor.

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-J, Dr. B.N. Tripathi underscored that these events not only showcase students' remarkable talents but also affirm the University's dedication to preserving our rich cultural heritage. Moreover, he emphasized that such occasions foster teamwork, as students collaborate across disciplines and backgrounds, learning the value of cooperation and synergy. Dr. Tripathi further highlighted that these festivals provide a

platform for students to step out of their comfort zones, explore new interests, and unveil different facets of their personalities, contributing to their holistic development and growth. He further stated that improvement in veterinary facilities is need of the hour to control zoonotic diseases.

Prof. Rajesh Katoch, the Patron of the Organizing Committee and Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, welcomed the dignitaries and outlined the diverse array of events comprising Vet Fest 2K24. These include Literary events (Debate, Story Writing, Mad - Ad, Ship Wreck, Quiz and Youth Parliament), cultural events (Dance, Music, Theatre), Photography, Flower Decoration, besides various sports events (indoor and outdoor games viz. Badminton, Chess, Table Tennis, Carom, Cricket, Basketball, Volley Ball, Tug of War, 50 & 100 meter Races).

Dr S K Gupta, Registrar, SKUAST-Jammu and Dr Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean Students Welfare, SKUAST-J also shared their views

on the occasion.

The event witnessed the presence of several esteemed guests, including Dr. Rajinder Peshin, Director Education; Dr. Amrith Vaid, Director Extension; Dr S E H Rizvi, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences; Dr J S Soodan, Dean, Faculty of Dairy Technology; Dr Sanjay Khar, Director (Planning & Monitoring); Dr. M.S. Bhadwal, Controller of Examination; Dr Hema Tripathi, Associate Director Extension; HoDs and Veterinary faculty staff members. Non-teaching staffs also attended the function with full zeal and enthusiasm.

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Veterinary students from the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry (F.V. Sc & A.H.) will be actively engaged in a diverse array of competitions spanning sports, cultural showcases, literary endeavors, and fine arts exhibitions from the 8th to the 10th of May, 2024, as integral participants of the Fest.

Dr H.R Bhardwaj, Organizing Secretary of VET FEST 2K24 extended formal vote of thanks.

Ashok Sodhi Memorial T20 Cricket Tournament: KTLCC and JCC emerges victorious in Thrilling Matches

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Today Two cricket matches were played on the second day of Ashok Sodhi Memorial T20 Cricket Tournament, KT Lions Cricket Club (KTLCC) and Jaguar Cricket Club (JCC) performed brilliantly and won their respective matches. Now both the teams have reached the semi-finals which will be played on Thursday at the Parade Ground.

During first match Crime Branch Special Wing, Superintendent of Police (SP) Sandeep Mehta met the players of both the teams and congratulated them. Sandeep Mehta also congratulated Press Club



of Jammu for organizing Cricket Tournament in the Memory of photo Journalist Ashok Sodhi. He said that this type of sports competitions are very important for the youth. In the second match, Superintendent of Police (SP) City North,

Jammu Shivam Siddharth met both the teams and asked the youth to participate more in sports activities.

In the first match, Jammu Sports Veterans posted a total of 168 runs, with Rahul Datta top-scoring. However,

KT Lions chased down the target in just 16.4 overs, losing only two wickets in the process. Vikas Lakhotra was the star of the show, scoring 61 runs and earning the Man of the Match award.

In the second match, Lions Cricket Club batted first and scored 171 runs, thanks to Nikhil's 53 runs. Nitin and Rahul took two wickets each. However, Jaguars Cricket Club emerged victorious, winning the match by two wickets. Gurmeet was the standout performer, scoring 39 runs and taking one wicket, while Dhoni contributed 20 runs and Marcus took two wickets. Gurmeet was declared the Man of the Match for his all-round performance.

Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital organizes a workshop at Aryans

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8TH

One day seminar cum demonstration on Infection Prevention & Control Education Program was organized by Aryans Institute of Nursing, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh in association with Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital, Mullanpur, Mohali at Aryans Campus. Ms Sneha, Infection Con-

trol Nurse, Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital was the Chief Guest. S. Jeen Mexima, Principal, Silver Oaks College of Nursing, Mohali & Ms Rajinder Kaur, Principal, Sri Guru Harkishan Sahib College of Nursing, Mohali were Guests of Honour. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group presided over.

Sneha elaborated that Infection prevention

and control (IPC) is an applied discipline that affects all patient care activities in healthcare settings. IPC, including prevention of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), is an essential component of healthcare quality and patient safety. Infection Prevention & Control is a practical sub-discipline of epidemiology that's relevant to every health worker and patient at



every healthcare interaction. Jeen Mexima & Rajinder Kaur mentioned that Infection prevention and control (IPC) is a scientific approach that aims to prevent healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and reduce the risk of microorganisms spreading to patients, health workers, and visitors. IPC is based on principles of epi-

miology, infectious disease, social science, and health system strengthening.

Nidhi Chopra, Principal; Mrs Kamlesh Rani Vice Principal, Aakriti Chauhan, Deeksha, Umar, Masroof, Mohsin, etc. were present. This seminar was attended by Aryans Nursing students including B. Sc. Nursing, GNM & ANM.

EDITORIAL

BJP's deafening silence in Kashmir

The political landscape of Kashmir is veiled in uncertainty as the region braces for upcoming Parliamentary elections, yet the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) maintains a puzzling silence regarding its stance. This enigmatic silence, particularly evident in the absence of clear support for candidates in crucial constituencies like the newly carved Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency, has left the party's supporters and voters in a state of bewilderment and utter confusion. The BJP's decision not to field candidates in the Kashmir Valley, including Anantnag-Rajouri, comes as a disappointment, especially for the Pahari community. Once finding resonance with the BJP following the granting of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, the community now finds itself adrift without a clear direction to cast its votes. Expectations of reciprocation from the BJP have turned into disillusionment as the party's silence persists. Moreover, this silence has not only confounded the Pahari community but also left Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmiri Pandits in a dilemma. The absence of BJP candidates has created a vacuum, leaving these communities unsure of whom to support without clear signals from the party's high command. The reluctance of the BJP to directly participate in these constituencies raises questions about its commitment to its nationalist agenda, particularly regarding the annulment of Articles 370 and 35A. By abstaining from contesting in the Valley, where ground realities have been shifting, the BJP seems to have missed an opportunity to assert its vision for the region. As the election dates draw near, the urgency for clarity from the BJP grows. The nationalist sentiment in Jammu and Kashmir eagerly awaits the party's announcement, hoping it will come sooner rather than later to mitigate the mounting confusion. It is imperative for the BJP to break its silence and openly declare its support for specific candidates or parties in the Kashmir Valley. Transparency in its stance will not only alleviate the prevailing confusion but also enable supporters to actively campaign for the selected candidates. The Pahari community, in particular, feels a sense of indebtedness to the BJP for the ST status granted to them. However, the lack of a BJP candidate in Anantnag-Rajouri has led them to seek alternative options, indicating a potential shift in their allegiance. The BJP's silence on its electoral strategy in Kashmir has plunged supporters and voters into a state of disarray. The party must swiftly address this ambiguity to uphold the trust of its supporters and ensure a coherent and decisive approach to the upcoming elections. Failure to do so risks further alienation and undermines its standing in the region.

Benevolent hearts: Dynamics of begging and household donations

SHAIVYA VERMA

Even though begging is not a crime it is legally prohibited in more than twenty States and Union Territories and can invite punishment for one year to 10 years and even beyond under special circumstances. The pros and cons of the existing laws are another debate. The study by CSIP showed a 14% increase in total 'cash' donations by Indian households from INR 23.7 thousand crores in 2020-21 to INR 27 thousand crores in 2021-22 of which 'persons engaged in Beggary' are one of the preferred recipients of household giving among 'religious organisations', 'non-religious organisations', 'family and friends', 'household staff', and 'supporting a cause or signing a petition'. They are the second highest recipient of household donations both in terms of overall market size and the proportion of households who made donations to them among other recipient groups in the study. The report further notes that the market

size and the average cash payments to the 'persons engaged in Beggary' have increased from 2020-21 to 2021-22. While 'persons engaged in Beggary' are one of the preferred recipients, households do not trust them with their money but with materials. Despite a high proportion of households who donated to 'persons engaged in Beggary' they received the lowest value of 'cash' donations from households (under INR 100). While 'persons engaged in Beggary' were least preferred for 'cash' donations as compared to other recipient groups in the study, a clear preference to donate 'in-kind' was noted for this recipient group. More than half of those donating to 'persons engaged in Beggary' donated 'in-kind' which is starkly different from 'in-kind' donations received by other recipient groups. Households are mostly driven by their intrinsic motivations when giving to the 'persons engaged

'persons engaged in Beggary' were in the range of smaller amounts 'under INR 100'. It was intriguing to find that the givers who are more empathetic to the 'persons engaged in Beggary' are the people who have a 'vulnerable' position in society and are mainly dependent on others for social and economic security. Older women and households from rural areas and from lower socio-economic categories are primary givers to 'persons engaged in Beggary'. More households from rural India donate to 'persons engaged in Beggary' than households from large towns. In fact, the proportion of households making offerings to 'persons engaged in Beggary' in rural India was higher than the national average of the proportion of households who gave to 'persons engaged in Beggary'. Similarly, 'giving' by lower socio-economic category (SEC D/E) to 'persons engaged in Beg-

gary' was higher than the national average. While about 53% of households from higher and middle socio-economic categories (SEC A, SEC B and SEC C) contributed, more than 65% of households contributed towards 'persons engaged in Beggary' from the lower socio-economic groups (SEC D/E). In terms of gender and age, older women between the ages of 46 to 60 years are the biggest and primary donation-makers to the 'persons engaged in Beggary'. Beggary in many forms has been in existence for ages. Due to the hardships faced, persons engaged in Beggary usually suffer from negativity, hopelessness, low self-esteem and stigma. In India, 'people engaged in Beggary' are often seen outside religious places.

The writer is Senior Research Manager at the Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy (CSIP), Ashoka University. Views expressed are personal

Global South's cultural diplomacy

CHAITANYA K PRASAD

As we inch closer to the second week of May, excitement for the forthcoming 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival is reaching a crescendo. The Cannes Film Festival, since its inception, has been hailed as the platform celebrating the joy and creativity of cinema, the high point of confluence of cultures, and talents, and an assembly of masters of storytelling. In recent years, its stage has increasingly spotlighted the cinematic voices of the Global South, a trend underscored by the burgeoning presence of films from Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Building on last year's diverse selection from Japan, China, and South Korea, Cannes in its 77th edition, from 14th to 25th May 2024, reaffirms its commitment to amplifying varied narratives and perspectives. This year's edition promises to continue this trajectory, featuring standout entries like "All We Imagine As Light" by Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia, "Boku No Ohisama (My Sunshine)" by the acclaimed Japanese filmmaker Hiroshi Okuyama, "Viet And Nam" by Vietnamese filmmaker Truong

Minh Quý, and "The Village Next to Paradise" by Somalian filmmaker Mo Harawe. These selections highlight the new creative talent spots for cinema. With the evolving world, there is a deeper significance highlighted by the recognition of cinema as a potent tool of soft power by countries in the Global South. Across the continents of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, nations have increasingly acknowledged the power of storytelling through cinema as a means to amplify their cultural influence and enhance their global standing. Over the past two years Cannes Film Festival has seen a dynamic shift in programming, from a European narrative to a more perceptive Southern inclusion and interconnection. In the borderless world that we live in today, the prominence of the Global South as a group has risen despite being dominated by multipolarity. Enhanced communication and the growing effects of globalisation have blurred geographical boundaries, ushering in a new era where technology plays a pivotal role in shaping interactions. This transition has reverberated across various realms, including the cinematic



sphere, where soft power finds expression on prestigious platforms. Cannes truly give the Global South a platform for creativity on the silver screen. Nomination and participation in prestigious festivals like Cannes are not merely accolades but recognition of the importance of soft power in the creative ecosystem. By showcasing their cinematic prowess and an amalgamation of their creative skills on a global stage, countries in the Global South seek to assert their cultural identity, foster cross-cultural dialogue, and bolster diplomatic ties. In an era where cultural diplomacy holds increasing sway, the Cannes Film Festival serves as a creative platform for nations to assert

their soft power through the medium of cinema. Through their cinematic endeavours, these filmmakers become cultural ambassadors, bridging divides and fostering mutual understanding between nations. At the helm of the 77th Cannes Film Festival jury stands Greta Gerwig, both an accomplished actor and a filmmaker. Gerwig's appointment signals a broader effort towards gender representation at Cannes, a realm historically dominated by male voices. Symbolising a step towards inclusivity and recognition of the invaluable contributions of women in shaping cinematic discourse. As the jury list for this year awaits announcement, antipa-

tion brews for a lineup that mirrors the festival's commitment to diversity, echoing last year's eclectic mix of talents from Argentina, Afghanistan, Morocco, Zambia, and beyond. Amidst the glitz and glamour, the Marché du Film emerges as a vital nexus for industry professionals, offering a platform for networking, deal-making, and creative exchange. With its finger firmly on the pulse of evolving industry dynamics, the Marché du Film embraces innovation and adaptation. Recognising the need to cater to the ever-changing landscape of filmmaking, it champions emerging trends, technologies, and voices, fostering a conducive environment for the flourishing growth of the global film industry. As over 14,000 industry professionals converge in Cannes annually to present and explore nearly 4,000 films and projects, the Marché du Film serves as a catalyst, urging professionals to elevate their business acumen and seize new opportunities. Indeed, Cannes itself is a reflection of society's evolution, a microcosm of shifting cultural paradigms and technological advancements. Embrac-

ing the ethos of change, the Festival de Cannes introduces innovative elements to its programming, staying at the vanguard of storytelling in the digital age. One of the nominations for this year's Immersive Competition includes 'Maya: The Birth of a Superhero', an XR experience created by Poulomi Basu, an Indian artist and CJ Clarke. The announcement of eight projects as part of the Immersive Competition heralds a bold foray into uncharted territory, encompassing location-based virtual reality, mixed reality experiences, projection mapping, and holographic works. Amid these shifts, India shines bright with the participation of Payal Kapadia, Sandhya Suri's "Santosh", FTII's "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know" and the screening of Shyam Benegal's "Manthan". As the global cinematic landscape continues to evolve, Cannes remains steadfast in its mission to celebrate the myriad voices that enrich the tapestry of world cinema. (The writer is former additional director general, DFF and Festival Director, IFFI; Views are personal)

Overcoming Bondage Of Thinking

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

This is a cruel fact. We are hopelessly tied down by our thinking, especially negative. What do you see on roads? Older folks are engrossed in thoughts. What happened? They realized that they were not so great after all. But the obstinate ego would not allow them to seek help where it is available. If a solution to a problem is to be found, it must be; this is their thinking. Sure, but how long would you meditate on it? There should be a time limit. No, that is why obsession is a very common problem. Other ages are no better. The younger ones are guilty of lusty thoughts. With the advent of cell phones and the internet, age is no longer a bar. What a shame when one is supposed to be in the 'brahmacharya' (celibacy) stage. As one gets older,

thoughts of earning the maximum amount of money capture the imagination. There is nothing wrong with it except our expectations should be based on reality. Otherwise, there will be a lot of pain. What is common to all ages is fear of different kinds. This is a real problem, which causes all kinds of mental diseases. This particular problem requires help at the highest level, that is from God, but will we turn to Him? Also common to all ages are hate, anger, enmity, etc. There is hardly any chance of relief when we think that we are the centre of the universe, even though there are eight billion of us. If that were true, there would be eight billion centres of the universe. See, how silly such thinking is. This is what is the basis of our thought process. The



frog mentality of thinking one's limited knowledge is everything leads many to dismiss spiritual practices as simplistic, when in fact they are meant to be easily accessible to all. Let us get to the bottom of this all-pervasive problem. What is this mind? It is a faculty given to us for thinking, willing and feeling. It is subtle, i.e. far more strong than the gross

body. The mind affects the body, as we all have experienced. When we are disturbed, our bodies get affected; our working is disturbed. Why has God given us a faculty, which can hurt us so much? He had to give us free will, which can bring bliss, as indicated by Lord Krishna, 'A person, having consciousness, unattached to external sense objects,

enjoys that happiness within, which is extraordinary. He who, with consciousness united to Brahman, finds eternal joy. God's kindness lies in our return to Him, part of the Cosmic Design, where independence is limited, and control rests with God. So we must turn to God to control our uncontrolled and negative thinking. Lord Krishna States, "Undoubtedly the mind is very difficult to control due to its fickle nature, but it can be brought under control by practice and by detachment from inappropriate sense objects." (6.35) This practice has to be with help from God. Otherwise, there will be partial success only. As we age, our focus shifts towards God, as our physical pleasures diminish, highlighting the purpose of the "Ashram"

system for spiritual growth in later years. Therefore, God has made provisions for unlimited mental enjoyment. But we have to seek shelter from God for that. We should not be turning to drinks, etc. for compensation to get over our woes, because they send us deeper into more suffering. Fear is a defence mechanism but only in the limited sense. It should alert us to take curative action. But if it overtakes our thinking, fear becomes a serious problem, as all mental diseases point to. The conclusion is: that we must turn to God with determination sooner than later. Then God will not only free us from the bondage of painful thinking but will also help us in all matters with His guidance and help. This is the way the System has been designed. (The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

Current election is between Ram Bhakts and Ramdrohis: Yogi

AGENCIES
KANPUR, MAY 8

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said with the completion of elections in three phases voting on half of the country's Lok Sabha seats have concluded and the only slogan echoing across the country are 'Modi government once again', which has left the opposition parties bewildered.

Addressing an election rally for the Akbarpur Lok Sabha seat organised at Patara Railway Station ground in Ghatampur, the CM said, "When they fail to comprehend anything, they resort to conspiracies against India. Statements from opposition parties indicate that these elections are between 'Ram Bhakts' and 'Ramdrohis'. Those who are 'Ram Bhakts' are also 'Rashtra Bhakts' of the nation." During this, he appealed to the public to vote in favour of BJP candidate Devendra Singh Bhole.

Yogi said that the mere mention of the name Akbarpur often evokes hesitation. "All of this will change. We must put an end to the signs of slavery and honour our heritage. This region needs to be integrated with the mainstream of development. To achieve this goal, active participation through voting in the ongoing



national campaign is essential," he said.

He said that it is an eternal truth that 'Ramdrohis' have always met their downfall. "The 2024 Lok Sabha elections will confirm this truth. This is not merely an election to form a government. On one hand, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the country is being established as a new Aatmanirbhar Bharat, while on the other hand, 'Ramdrohis' are working to divide us based on caste and regional identities," he said.

The CM said, "Terrorists are being glorified and mafias are encouraged. There is a conspiracy underway to grant the rights of Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Backward Castes to minorities." Attacking the opposition, he said that during the UPA government, SP and BSP were supporting Congress. "At that time, the Ranganath Mishra Committee had recom-

mafia has been eradicated and justice has been served. Their sympathy lies with the mafia and Ramdrohis," he said.

The CM said that the government is currently conducting a survey to assess the potential for cultivating sugarcane in the area. "If viable, plans are underway to set up a sugar and ethanol complex in the region. During the SP regime, only guns were manufactured here, but under the Kanpur Defence Corridor, cannons for the nation will be produced. When the cannons will kill terrorists at the border, the names of Kanpur and UP will resonate in everyone's minds," he said. He said that presently, the ammunition being produced here is reaching the entire world. "Only the BJP government can accomplish such tasks. Whether it's about free ration or free healthcare, from the birth of a daughter to her education and marriage arrangements, or providing security to daughters and businessmen, your vote is shaping the vision of a new India," he said.

Taking a dig at the Congress and INDI alliance, Yogi said, "Those who are responsible for dividing the country will work to divide you in future. We have to make the country self-reliant and developed under the leadership of PM Modi."

Anant Jeet best Indian in Baku on day one of Skeet qualifications

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

Indian skeet shooters had a tough day one of qualifications at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Baku, with Anant Jeet Singh Naruka in the men's event, returning as the best Indian on the show with a three-round total of 72 giving him 20th spot in the standings currently.

In women's skeet, all three Indians finished with identical scores of 69 to be in 13th, 15th and 19th spots respectively. Ganemat (25,22,22) began with a perfect 25 even as Raiza (22,22,25) ended with one while Maheshwari (22,23,24) could not get to it eventually, as the trio finished at least a couple of hits less than what they would have liked, going into the final day.

Georgia's Elizaveta Boiarshinova leads the



field with a 73 on the opening day and nothing less than two perfect rounds will get them into the top six, one gets the feeling.

The three women are also in an intense battle to pick up crucial ranking points ahead of the Paris Olympics cut-off date, to

not only grab one of the two available spots in the event but also to ensure an additional start as the mixed team skeet makes its Olympics debut.

Among the men, Sheeraz Sheikh shot 67, while Mairaj Ahmad Khan shot 63 to be way down the

pecking order.

Paris quota winner Anant Jeet Singh Naruka however, overcame an opening round 22 to return with two perfect rounds of 25 each to finish just three off the leader and will take a shot at the top six on Thursday.

Northamptonshire signs Siddharth Kaul for three-match deal

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

Northamptonshire has signed Siddharth Kaul for the next three Vitality County Championship fixtures. He replaces Australian seamer Chris Tremain, whose four-game stay has ended, at Northants.

The 33-year-old Kaul represented India in three T20 internationals and three One-Day internationals in 2018 including two wicketless appearances at Trent Bridge and Lord's against England. Most recently, Kaul represented Punjab in the Ranji Trophy, taking 15 wickets at a season average of 31.26. He has taken 286 first-class wickets at a rate of 26.44 overall, including 16 five-wicket hauls. "I'm very happy to be here to



represent Northamptonshire and very excited to help the team win games and push for promotion," Kaul said. "I'm confident that I will bring my positive mindset and experience to help my teammates win in any situation in the match." Northants head coach, John Sadler, added: "Sid has a lot of experience with the ball, he's played a lot of first-class cricket and is keen to make a big impact when he joins the squad. "He's finished his domestic season over in India where he picked up some good form so hopefully he continues that on with us." Kaul is available for selection immediately, and could feature in Northamptonshire's next game against Gloucestershire, at Wantage Road on May 10.

ICG conducts swift medical evacuation, saves fisherman's life

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, MAY 8

In a commendable display of promptness and efficiency, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) coordinated a crucial medical evacuation of a critically ill fisherman, Ajin (26 years old), hailing from Kolachal, Tamil Nadu.

The operation took place from the IFB Jazeera, located 40 nautical miles off Bepore on Wednesday.

The distress call originated from AD Fisheries, Bepore, reporting the medical emergency of Ajin, who was aboard the IFB Jazeera. The fisherman was in critical condition due to ingesting seawater into his lungs following a near-drowning incident.

Upon receiving the distress call, the Maritime Rescue Sub Centre (MRSC) in Bepore promptly alerted the Indian Coast Guard.

Despite the IFB Jazeera's successful rescue of Ajin from the sea, his health continued to deteriorate rapidly.

Recognising the gravity of the situation, the Indian Coast Guard swiftly launched an Advanced Light Helicopter with a medical team aboard from Kochi at 1500 hours. Additionally, Coast Guard ships Aryaman and C-404 responded to the distress call to assist.

The IFB Jazeera was swiftly located, and Ajin was airlifted to Kochi for immediate medical attention. Upon arrival, he was promptly transferred to a nearby hospital. Currently, Ajin is under observation, and his condition has stabilised.

This coordinated effort by the Indian Coast Guard underscores their commitment to saving lives at sea. Once again, they have demonstrated their motto, "Vayam Rakshama," meaning "We Protect," by successfully rescuing Ajin and ensuring his timely medical care.

Police summons Nadda, Malviya over alleged social media intimidation

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, MAY 8

In a significant development, Bengaluru Police has summoned BJP President JP Nadda and the party's IT cell head Amit Malviya concerning a contentious social media post believed to intimidate members of the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities against voting for a specific candidate, officials disclosed on Wednesday. Both Nadda and Malviya have been directed to participate in the investigation at the High Grounds police station in Bengaluru.

"Regarding this case, you are hereby summoned to appear before the designated investigating officer at 11 am at the High Grounds police station within seven days of receiving this notice," the summons stated.

The move follows the filing of a First Information Report (FIR) against Nadda, Malviya, and BJP's Karnataka unit chief Vijayendra Yediyurappa following a complaint lodged by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) with the Election Commission and local police on May 5, alleging violations of the model code of conduct.

According to a senior



police official, they face charges under sections of the Representation of People Act and section 505 (2) (Statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred, or ill-will between classes) of the Indian Penal Code.

In its complaint, the KPCC highlighted a video uploaded on the social media platform 'X' by the official account of Karnataka State BJP, purportedly operated by Malviya. The video, allegedly uploaded on instructions from Nadda and Vijayendra, depicted animated characters of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. It portrayed the SC, ST, and OBC communities as "eggs" in a nest, suggesting Rahul Gandhi planted a big egg labeled as the Muslim community. The video insinuated that

funds were being diverted to the Muslim community at the expense of the SC, ST, and OBC communities.

"The act of the accused persons is to wantonly provoke rioting and promote enmity between different religions and is prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony, apart from intimidating members of SC/ST communities not to vote for a particular candidate and causing enmity against members of SC/ST communities," the complaint alleged. This development has sparked widespread debate, with political analysts and civil society groups calling for a thorough investigation into the matter to uphold the sanctity of the electoral process and ensure the fair and free expression of democratic rights for all citizens.

UP: 4 gets lifer in 11-yr-old rape and murder case

AGENCIES
BULANDSHAHIR (UP), MAY 8

Four persons were sentenced to life imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 67,000 each by a local court in Bulandshahr on Wednesday in an 11-year-old rape and murder case, a prosecution officer said here. Public Prosecutor Veerpal Singh said that in the

year 2013 Taj Mohammad alias Taj, Krishna, Bijendra and Saddam enticed a girl in Diba area and gang raped her. "After rape the accused killed the victim. A case in this regard was lodged at Diba police station on February 6, 2013," he said. He said that after investigation the police filed a charge sheet against the accused in the court on June 2,

2013. "Total 10 witnesses testified before the court against the accused," he said.

The Public Prosecutor said that on the basis of testimony of the court of Additional District Judge (Fast Track Court) Harkesh Kumar held the accused guilty and sentenced Taj, Krishna, Bijendra and Saddam to life imprisonment," he said.

IPL 2024: Suryakumar Yadav reveals the secret behind the 'Supla' shot

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, MAY 8

Mumbai Indians batter Suryakumar Yadav broke down the arsenal of batting shots he has deployed throughout his career when he scored an unbeaten 102 off 51 deliveries which propelled the struggling Mumbai Indians side to secure a seven-wicket victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad at Wankhede Stadium.

From the iconic 'off-side scoop' to his popular 'Supla' shot, the 33-year-old showed a glimpse of a multi-dimensional shot-playing ability against SRH. Yadav shared the story behind the origins of the shots in his repertoire. Yadav's 'Supla' shot has become familiar with each and every inning that he has played, something he now revealed that he picked up playing tennis ball cricket in Mumbai.

"I suppose the name of the shot comes from the local tennis ball cricket that is played in Mumbai. And from there, when I started playing that shot because people have played a lot of it in tennis ball cricket, they started connecting with this shot and gave it a name. When the shot is played and is referred to as a 'Supla' shot, it feels good to hear," Suryakumar Yadav said To



JioCinema.

Yadav got into the details of how he perfected the shot while playing rubber ball cricket with his school friends while demonstrating how the shot is executed.

"The story behind the shot is beautiful. I used to play cricket on hard cement tracks with my school friends and there was a 20-metre boundary on the offside while the right side was about 90-100 metres. We used to play with rubber balls in the rainy season and make the ball wet before bowling it hard. They used to bowl from my knee to my head, so if you want to score runs while not get-

ting hit by the ball, that's where the shot comes from. Whenever people ask me if I have practiced this or not, I have used this shot so many times in rubber ball cricket that it's now in my muscle memory."

Hitting the 'Supla' shot is tricky, but Yadav has figured out when and how to use the shot when the situation demands it.

"I actually try to take the ball on the body when I play the 'Supla' shot. Whenever I stand and hit, I try to be in the line of the ball. If you miss the line of the ball, it's very difficult to play that shot... I try to take the ball in line with the body and time it...

There's no premeditation in this... Even if it's the first ball, if I want to use it, I'll do it because I go with the intent to bat, enjoy, and entertain as much as I can, as much as I have practiced. Even if it's the first ball, if it's in the arc, it will go. So, the fielder at the back is actually irrelevant for me. I don't see if he is there or not. If I want to play a shot, I have to play it."

Not every batting inning is flawless, but Suryakumar Yadav knows how to create magical moments, regardless. That is precisely what he did in 2020 while facing Jofra Archer, executing an incredible 'offside scoop' shot after taking a knock to the head.

"On the previous delivery, it hit me on my head and my head was spinning! After that, I thought I had to hit a different shot. I haven't used this shot again since."

Yadav also broke down other unique shots we have seen him use over the course of his IPL career, including the 'uppercut shot' and the 'jump shot'. Suryakumar Yadav has scored 334 runs with a strike rate of 176.71 through nine appearances in the IPL 2024 with his season-high of 102* runs in his last game against the Sunrisers Hyderabad.

NIT Srinagar hosts awareness program on new criminal laws

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday organised an awareness program on newly amended criminal laws, where experts explained various aspects of these laws, highlighting their importance.

The event was graced by the presence of Institute's Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman, while SP Hazratbal Hilal Khaliq, Dr. Yasir Latief Handoo and Dr. Saba Manzoor Ganai were the resource persons in the awareness programme.

The event was aimed to educate the students and faculty about the three newly amended laws including Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam.

In his opening remarks, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman said that the primary objective of the program is to empower both students and faculty with basic understanding of newly amended three criminal laws.

"Law enforcement agencies alone cannot ensure a just society; active participation and awareness among citizens are equally indispensable. That is why there is a need for such awareness programs for students on the campus," he said.

SP Hazratbal, Hilal Khaliq delivered a lecture on 'New Criminal Laws-A General Overview. Understanding the changes in criminal laws is really important for all of us, he



said.

"The new laws include provisions that ensure justice for crime victims and society at large, emphasizing the modernization of the investigation process through the use of technology and setting timelines for trials," SP Hazratbal said.

On the occasion, Dr. Saba Manzoor Ganai from School of Law, University of Kashmir, delivered the lecture on 'Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita'. It aims to give precedence to offences against women and children and offences against State.

"The law also introduces community service

as a punishment for petty offences. It changes to fines and punishments for various offences," Dr. Saba added. The third lecture on 'Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam was delivered by Dr. Yasir Latief Handoo, from School of Law, University of Kashmir.

"This law addresses various aspects of public security, including measures to combat organized crime, terrorism, and cyber threats. Special attention is being given to protecting vulnerable groups, including women and children, from exploitation and violence. This law replaces the Code of Criminal Pro-

cedure, 1973," he said.

Dr. Yasir further stated that Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, it is landmark legislation, this law aims to strengthen the evidentiary framework in criminal cases, ensuring fair trials and robust adjudication processes.

"It includes provisions to facilitate the testimony of women and marginalized communities, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights protected. This law replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872," he said.

A formal vote of thanks was presented by DR (Admin) Faisal Irshad Ganai. He extended heartfelt appreciation to all

participants and resource persons for their prompt attendance at the program.

"These awareness initiatives are imperative in the current times, ensuring both students and staff are well-informed about the occurrences within our nation," he said.

Ganai said that it is essential that we disseminate this information amongst ourselves and subsequently enlighten others. This stands as the primary objective of such programs, he added.

The event was attended by Dean Planning & Development, Dr. Yashwant Mehta, AR (Director's Office | Legal) Mohammad Hazik and AR (Special Secretary to Director) Shahid Hamid Najar, AR (Academic) Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, AR (S&P) Hakim Mohammad Amin and other ministerial staff of the institution.

Earlier on Tuesday, Dr. Jitendra Gujjar and Dr. Burhan flagged off and participated in NSS volunteers criminal law awareness rally from Fountain Park to Professor's Quarters. The students distributed the awareness posters among the students within the campus.

The three new criminal laws Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam were passed by Parliament in 2023 will come into effect from July 1, 2024. They will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860; Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 respectively.

JKP rescues 32 bovines, seizes 03 vehicles in three different cases in Nagrota Sub-division

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Sub Division Nagrota Police, Jammu rescued 32 cattle from the clutches of bovine smugglers in three different cases.

Today on 08.05.2024 in the wee hours team of Police Station Jhajar Kotli foiled 01 bovine smuggling bid in which total 11 bovines were rescued at naka Point Suketar from bovine smuggler who was taking these bovines towards Kashmir valley. Truck bearing registration No. JK02BR-1915 seized and accused person Namely Mohd Sadiq S/O Ab.Hamid R/O Kans Khassa Teh. & Distt Reasi got arrested.

In another two cases of bovine smuggling, team of Police Station Nagrota has foiled two bids of bovine smuggling at naka Bun Toll Plaza and rescued 21 bovines from two smugglers namely Arif Mush-taq S/O Mushtaq Ahmed R/O Panchgam Kulgam and one Unknown bovine smuggler fled away from



the spot after noticing the police party on road. Truck Canter bearing registration No. JK03K-3485 and Truck bearing registration No. JK13C-8175 seized by Nagrota Police.

No. 115/2024 at P/S Jhajar Kotli and FIR No.138/2024 & FIR No 139/2014 stands registered at P/S Nagrota under relevant sections of law. Further investigation of the cases are underway.

In these regard, case FIR

BK Pathak pays surprise visit to HS Katwalt, PS Katwalt, MS Sangli of Zone Kulwanta



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Surprise visit by Cluster Head / Principal HSS Chowki Jandrore, B.K .Pathak to H/ S Katwalt, PS Katwalt and MS Sangli of Zone Kulwanta today on 8/5/2024.

The Cluster Head inter-

acted with the public, staff and students of the Schools and gave instructions to HOs of High school Katwalt and MS Sangli to properly maintain/ complete the pending school record.

The cluster Head is satisfied with the academic and non academic performance of students of MS Sangli

The Cluster Head appreciated the work of teachers and HO of the school to impart quality education to students.

The public of Sangli also appreciated the work of teachers of School under the able guidance of HOI, Kuldeep Singh.

GDC R. S. Pura Commemorates World Red Cross Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

'World Red Cross Day' is also known as Red Crescent Day. It is celebrated on May 8 every year to mark the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, who is the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He is also a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. With an objective to educate students to protect life, health and to ensure respect for every human being, the Red Ribbon Club in collaboration with IQAC of GDC R. S. Pura celebrated World Red Cross Day by organising a First Aid Activity to save lives under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Rajni Bhagat, Principal of the college and guidance of Prof Neelam Kumari, Convener RRC. During this activity, students were apprised about the Do's and Don'ts in situations like injuries, bee stings, fire accidents and electric shock. They learnt about the importance of administering first aid immediately by using the materials in First Aid Box like



Cotton, Band Aid, Antiseptic Liquid, Medicines etc. The students of the college were shown a PPT to create awareness about the seven Principles and history of Red Cross Day. As youth are the future of our country, it's our responsibility to enrich their mind with beautiful experiences and promote the sense of safety. It was a lively fulfilling activity.

The College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Rajni Bhagat reiterated the importance of First Aid which promotes the sense of safety and security among students. She emphasised

that students with good knowledge of First Aid are likely to be more alert and active. In the end, a tribute was paid to the volunteers who support millions of people in times of conflict, natural disaster and crisis. The day was dedicated to the people who suffer from the shortage of food, natural calamities and war. The event was coordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, Member, RRC. The esteemed faculty members who's cooperation make the event successful were Prof. Priya Darshni, Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, and Ms. Zenab Ara Khan.

Thathri Development Front hails Crusade against corruption by DC Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Thathri Development Front, District Doda- Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao, along with its executive Members, in a press release issued here, have strongly hailed termination of two GRS (Gram Rozgar Sahayak) of Rural Development Department, posted in Jakyas Block of District Doda for their corrupt and unethical practices during the discharge of their legitimate & lawful duties on multiple occasions. The Members of the Front further termed the action of DC Doda-Mr. Harvinder Singh IAS as most spectacular as a bold step to curb the menace of corruption in Rural Development Department. The Members farther demanded that job cards in the entire District may be scrutinized so that only deserving and most poor persons can get the benefit of the scheme. The Members urged upon all the concerned to eulogize so that huge mess of corruption in all blocks gets a blow to cleanse the corrupt practices at the cost of poor and deserving people.

They further said that Rural agency in respect of developmental activities have got a very bad name and is being termed as den of corruption particularly when so called popular government is not in place. The bold action of D.C. Doda-Mr. Harvinder Singh IAS need be hailed by the government and all Deputy Commissioners may be encouraged to follow the path shown by Deputy Commissioner Doda so that death blow is given to the corruption.

Vodafone Idea Ltd | Vi becomes first in industry to achieve SOC 2 Type II Attestation; reinforcing commitment to customer trust, data security

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Leading telecom operator Vodafone Idea (Vi), today announced that it has achieved SOC 2 Type II attestation. Currently, the only telecom operator in India to successfully complete the SOC 2 Type II attestation, this marks Vi's commitment to maintaining highest standards of data security and safeguarding sensitive client information and their privacy, while mitigating Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks.

Awarded after a stringent evaluation process conducted by AICPA

(Association of International Certified Professional Accountants) registered independent CPA and VISTA InfoSec is based on the SOC 2 "Trust Service" for managing customer data on key parameters like security, availability, processing integrity, confidentiality, and privacy. The attestation demonstrates a company's ability to not only implement critical security policies but also prove compliance over an extended period.

Vi received SOC2 Type I attestation in 2022, which endorsed that the services provided by Vi to its customers are fully secure and compliant. Now with,

SOC2 Type 2 attestation, it confirms that the company has been consistently adhering to the security processes and measures over a duration of 6 to 12 months.

Commenting on this attestation, Mathan Kasilingam, CTSO, Vi said, "Our customers trust us with their most sensitive and confidential data. This attestation reaffirms that our security measures meet best-in-class standards, thereby providing our customers with added confidence that their data is in safe hands."

"SOC 2 compliance reflects our ongoing dedication to evolving our

security practices alongside the ever-changing threat landscape. The support and commitment provided by the Vi team was remarkable and commendable," added Narendra Sahoo, Founder & Director of VISTA InfoSec.

Vi remains steadfast in its mission to deliver innovative solutions while upholding the highest standards of integrity and security. With data security becoming increasingly critical in today's digital landscape, Vi consistently makes efforts to strengthen its security posture and validate its position as a trusted custodian of customer data.

Sports Indoor Arena, Yoga Centre inaugurated at St Francis HSS, Akhnoor

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

St Francis Higher Secondary School on Wednesday achieved another significant milestone in Akhnoor as they inaugurated their newly constructed Sports Indoor Arena and Yoga Centre. The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Rakesh Malhotra, Ex-Councillor and Founder of Shub Tilak Multispeciality Hospital, who served as the Chief Guest. SHO Tariq Ahmed was honored as the Guest of Honor, alongside DN Abrol, who joined as the Special Guest.

The inauguration

ceremony, held in the presence of Father T. S Jacob, Principal of St. Francis Higher Secondary School, Akhnoor, and Father Shajju, Manager of the school, marked a moment of pride and accomplishment for the institution. The newly constructed facilities are set to enhance the school's offerings, providing students with state-of-the-art amenities for sports and yoga activities.

"We are thrilled to witness the inauguration of the Sports Indoor Arena and Yoga Centre, which symbolizes our commitment to holistic education and the overall develop-

ment of our students," remarked Father T. S Jacob. "These facilities will not only foster physical fitness but also promote mental well-being among our students."

The event showcased the collective effort and dedication of the school administration, staff, and community members in realizing this project. The Sports Indoor Arena and Yoga Centre are poised to become hubs of activity, where students can engage in various sporting disciplines and yoga practices under expert guidance.

"We are grateful to our esteemed guests for grac-

ing this occasion and for their unwavering support," expressed Father Shajju. "The inauguration of these facilities marks a new chapter in the journey of St. Francis Higher Secondary School, reaffirming our commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals."

The inauguration ceremony concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a tour of the newly constructed facilities. As the school looks ahead, it remains dedicated to providing a conducive environment for academic excellence, personal growth, and physical well-being.

Kishtwar Idol Season-2.0 Unveils Spectacular Theatrical Audition ahead of Grand Finale

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 8

The enchanting melodies of Kishtwar Idol Season 2.0 reverberated through the hallowed halls of the Govt Degree College Auditorium as the quarter-final phase commenced with the theatrical auditions, here today. Amidst an aura of anticipation and fervor, 64 aspiring singers embarked on a journey towards the grand finale of Kishtwar Idol 2.0, each adorned with dreams of musical glory. The inaugural theatrical audition, graced by the gracious presence of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, alongside the Kishtwar Idol team, marked a momentous milestone in the musical odyssey of Kishtwar.

Dr. Yadav extended his heartfelt best wishes to the participants, lauding their passion and dedication to the art. He commended the relentless efforts of all stakeholders, including the Kishtwar Idol team and the District Information Department, whose collective endeavors have propelled this season towards unparalleled success, culminating in the



impending grand finale. Under the discerning gaze of esteemed jury members, Mool Raj Misher, Suresh Chauhan, Bhavna Dubey, Sanjeev Sharma and DySP Sajjad Khan, 32 contestants captivated audiences with their exceptional talent. Each note reverberated

with emotion and finesse, as the jury meticulously selected the cream of the crop, ensuring that only the most deserving candidates progressed to the next stage of the competition. The seamless orchestration of the theatrical audition owes much to the

meticulous planning and coordination spearheaded by the indefatigable team at Kishtwar Idol, under the sagacious guidance of District Information Officer Kishtwar, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar. Their unwavering commitment to excellence ensured that the event

unfolded with grace and precision, leaving an indelible mark on all who bore witness.

As the sun sets on the first day of theatrical auditions, anticipation mounts for the second day, where 32 more participants, having triumphed in ground auditions across various corners of district Kishtwar, will showcase their musical prowess.

With each performance, the stage is set for a symphony of talent to unfold, as the competition reaches new heights of excitement and intensity.

Looking ahead, the journey towards musical supremacy continues with the semi-final auditions, promising even greater displays of artistry and skill.

Kishtwar Idol Season 2 stands as a beacon of hope for aspiring singers, offering a platform for them to shine and fulfill their musical destinies. With expectations soaring high, the stage is set for two more Kishtwar Idols to emerge, their voices echoing across the valleys, uniting hearts and inspiring generations to come.

PDP, NC deceived Kashmiris, killed, blinded innocents: DPAP

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

In a scathing attack, DPAP slams NC and PDP for neglecting substantive issues and instead exploiting Kashmiris for personal gain. DPAP leaders, including Vice Chairman G.M. Saroori, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, Lok Sabha Candidate Amir Bhatt, and others, visited Budgam areas to campaign for DPAP, candidate Amir Bhatt. While addressing the public, Saroori questioned the legacy of NC and PDP in Kashmir, highlighting their lack of substantial contributions to the region.

He pointed out that during Ghulam Nabi Azad tenure as Chief Minister, development in terms of infrastructure, education, and healthcare was tangible. He challenged NC and PDP leaders to showcase their developmental achievements instead of relying solely on promises of autonomy and self-



rule. Furthermore, he warned against NC and PDP's potential alliances with BJP, suggesting that such collaborations could jeopardize the interests of Kashmiris, leading to the sale of votes. Meanwhile Amir Bhatt also reminded the collaboration between NC, PDP, and BJP, expressing concerns over a potential recurrence of such alliances. He questioned their silence on pressing Kashmiri issues, such as the high electricity fees. He pledged to address these concerns in Parliament, emphasizing DPAP's commitment to advocating for the real issues affecting Kashmiris. Salman Nizami criticized Farooq Abdullah's calls for sac-

rifice, questioning what sacrifices he and his family have made for Kashmiris. He pointed out that Abdullah's son and grandchildren have studied abroad, enjoying privileges while many Kashmiri youth face challenges like militancy and drug abuse. He further said, 'Farooq Abdullah should start from home. He sent his children and grandchildren abroad for a good life and education, while our common Kashmiris are forced into violence, stones, and even drugs. These parties have exploited Kashmiris for their vote bank. I urge people to vote for young leader Amir Bhatt, who will not exploit them and will ensure justice.'

World Red Cross Day celebrated at Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

On the occasion of World Red Cross Day, a Special Programme was organized on 8th May, 2024 at Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan Hall, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of the Founder of Red-Cross Movement Mr. Henry Dunant, the recipient of First Noble Peace Prize.

Shri Jugal Mahajan, Senior most Life Member and elected Member of the newly elected team of IRCS welcomed Shri B.R. Sharma, IAS, State Election Commissioner and Former Chief Secretary of J&K State, the Chief Guest, Dignitaries and Guests. He also shared his views about how and others used to volunteer themselves for helping the poor needy.

Shri Dinesh Gupta, Patron, IRCS and elected Chairman of IRCS, Jammu briefed about this very PIOUS International Humanitarian Organization known for helping, sick, wounded and the poor lot of Society. He also explained about New RedCross Rules passed by Parliament in 2017 and adopted on 27th May, 2022 by the present LG Govt. and J&K, UT Red Cross. Various Ways and means to make it relevant, vibrant and acceptable to the people of J&K as a First Responder were also discussed.

Prizes were also given by Distinguished Guests to the Winner students of Degree Colleges, Winners students from Schools who participated in different events on the Theme of the year.

Shri B.R. Sharma, IAS, State Election Commissioner greeted everyone for the World Red Cross Day which is very pious day today. In his address,



he highlighted the very importance of IRCS and said that there is always a need of more and more true team of Volunteers willing to undertake welfare activities selflessly and the New Red Cross Rules Passed by Parliament in 2017, adopted in J&K in 2022 are steps in right direction because the Government functionaries can't find much time as Red Cross is a full time job and the Administration as well as Key Functionaries of Civil Society must help each other in minimizing the sufferings of Humanity. He also said now a day's hardly we find good Volunteers and wherever whenever we get them, they must be encouraged by the administration and other well meaning people of the Society to work in coordinated manner which is the very important.

Other important persons who graced the occasion includes Dr. Tahir Choudhary, Mrs. Manju Singh, Sr. Manjit Singh, Chairman, Sr. Citizen Welfare Association, Sr. Balvinder Singh, Vice President, DGP, Naresh Maini, Kakroo Sahib, Prof. B.C.Shrama, Mr. Jagdish Sharma, Mr. Anil, Mr.Trsem, Ashok, RamPal and many more besides Ten Members elected team of IRCS, Jammu District.

RJL to support to Altaf Bukhari led Apni Party in Kashmir: Sanjay Saraf

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

Rashtriya Lok Janshakti (RLJ) Party on Wednesday announced to support the Altaf Bukhari led Apni Party in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections in Kashmir valley.

Addressing a press conference here today RLJ Kashmir head Sanjay Saraf said that "after deliberations with the party cadre it has been decided to support Apni Party candidates in the Parliament elections".

He said "even National Democratic Alliance is not contesting elections in Kashmir, a clear cut is there that without National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party the RLJ will support the Apni party".

He said the NC and

Vishal Khatri Sabha organizes 21st Bhandara at Utterveni

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Vishal Khatri Sabha today organized 21st Bhandara at Utterveni on Vaishakha Amavasya by President Devender Seth. Large number of people participated in the religious event.

Amavasya is new moon day in Hindu calendar. It is significant day as many rituals are performed only on Amavasya Tithi. Amavasya falling on weekday Monday is known as Somvati Amavasya and Amavasya falling on weekday Saturday is known as Shani Amavasya. All Amavasya days are appropriate to perform Shraddha rituals to appease ancestors. Amavasya day is also appropriate day to perform Kalasarpa Dosha puja. After payers and rituals, Seth prayed for peace in J&K and said that such events bring people closer to each other. He said Sabha is committed



to strengthen their resolve and continue to serve community regularly. Seth urged people to stay connected to their roots and continue to observe such rituals in a big way that is aimed at strengthening our culture and heritage. We in Jammu and Kashmir

are very much connected to roots and such rituals had always been our way of life, he asserted. He said historically rich Jammu has many temples, palaces, water bodies and buildings that if developed can become places of attrac-

tions for visitors from all over the country. He laid stress upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the bond of unity, harmony and peace for welfare of the Union Territory. Seth said that the society has to grow in unison and spirit of solidarity by isolating all those creating division, either due to ignorance or for vested interest. For this, he highlighted the crucial need of imbibing the spirit of selflessness and righteousness, cornerstone of every religion, saying unity and tranquility alone will help in isolating such forces. "We have to fight collectively to all those who promote hate, which is not in consonance of our pluralistic ethos", he said and urged the people, especially youth, to come forward and play their useful role in this regard. He said religious polarization is dangerous for the sensitive state like Jammu and Kashmir.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled, 02 bovines, 01 vehicle seized by JKP in Pouni Chak area of Jammu District



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Jammu police tightening noose against bovine smugglers under operation Kamdhenu Police party of PP Pounichak has foiled bovine smuggling bid in which 02 bovines were rescued and 01 vehicle Mahindra bearing registration number JK02CX 5738 seized from

Pounichak area. Accused Driver fled away from the spot taking advantage of darkness. In this regard, case FIR under relevant sections of law have been registered in PS Domana, further investigation of the case is in progress.

General public have appreciated the tough measures taken by police against Bovine smugglers.

CUJ organizes Online Session for B-Tech to M.S. in U.S.A.



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

A special session titled "An Inspiring Journey from B.Tech. to M.S. in the USA" was held online at the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (DoECE), Central University of Jammu under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Jain. Mr. Omkeshwar Shukla, currently based in Qualcomm USA, served as the special

speaker for the event. During the session, Mr. Shukla shared invaluable insights about his journey from completing his B.Tech. in India to pursuing an M.S. in the USA. He emphasized six pivotal pillars essential for this transition: CGPA, work experience, guidance from professors/mentors, purpose of statement (POS), important exams such as GRE/IELTS/TOEFL, expenses and loan requirements, and letters of recommendation (LOR)

from professors. By elaborating on the significance of each pillar, he provided valuable advice and guidance to students for their academic and professional pursuits. The event was attended by students and faculty members of the department of ECE at the Central University of Jammu, in the presence of Prof. Rakesh Kumar Jha HoD, ECE. Prof. Jha played a dynamic role in organizing and facilitating the event, ensuring its smooth execution.

Div Com Jammu chairs Civil Military Liaison meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today chaired the Civil Military Liaison meeting and discussed issues that need collective action and consensus among the stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Poonch, Rajouri, concerned Defense Estate Officers from Jammu and Udhampur. The representatives from 16 Corps



apprised the chair on the listed Agenda items. The Agenda items included issues of requisition, de-requisition and land transfer issues. Detailed deliberations were held on each agenda item. District wise mutation, compensation and other important issues

that require action from civil and Army authorities were also discussed. The Div Com directed the Deputy Commissioners and Defense Estates Officers to resolve the issues that require action at their end at the earliest for early disposal of the issues.

Apni Party felicitates MK Yogi in Jammu Office



JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Apni Party Wednesday felicitated prominent social activist, and leader of the migrant Kashmiri Pandits, M. K. Yogi here at the Party office in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

As per a press release, a meeting was organized under the leadership of General Secretary, Vijay Bakaya and Provincial President of Jammu, S. Manjit Singh was also present in the meeting with other leaders.

The meeting was organized by General Secretary Youth Wing/Spokesperson, Abhay Bakaya.

During this meeting, M.K. Yogi was felicitated by the Party leaders who accorded him a grand welcome into the Party days after he joined the Party at Srinagar office in presence of the Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari sahib.

Later, M. K. Yogi also

joined the meeting which was chaired by General Secretary of the Party, Vijay Bakaya.

In this meeting, a threedbare discussion regarding ongoing Parliamentary elections, and chalked out strategy for the polls to ensure the victory of the Party candidates on three parliamentary seats in Kashmir valley that includes Rajouri - Anantnag, Srinagar, and Baramulla.

The meeting was addressed by Vijay Bakaya, who explained how constituency wise, the voters can be approached and educated about the policy and agenda of the Party.

S. Manjit Singh also shared his insightful opinion regarding the poll strategy to ensure victory of the Party candidates.

The meeting was attended by Additional General Secretary, Arun Chibber, Provincial Vice President Jammu, Ex-MLA

Secretary/Incharge Membership Drive, Dr Rohit Gupta, Provincial President Youth Wing Vipul Bali, Provincial President, Jammu, Women Wing, Pavneet Kour, District Senior Vice President, Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, Provincial Vice President Youth Wing, Suhail Khajuria, District Publicity Secretary, Vishal Jyotishi, District President Jammu Youth Urban, Shivam Choudhary, Additional Coordinator Media, Sandeep Vaid, District Vice President, Youth Wing, Abhinav Gupta, Provincial Secretary, Youth Wing, Vivek Saproo, Vice President Women Wing, Neelam Gupta, District President Women Wing, Ritu Pandita, Shivani Koul, Sheetal Sharma, Shweta, Shikha, Chandji Bhat, Ashok Koul, Bhaushan Lal Pandita, Ashok Dhar, G.I. Pandita, Vijay Guruto, Nana Ji Wattal, and others.

Centre making efforts to snatch rights of people of J&K: alleges Mehbooba

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday alleged that efforts are being made by the government at the Centre to snatch the identity and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Delhi is issuing new decrees every day changing our law, state subject, domicile, and land status after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019", Mehbooba told media persons in central Kashmir's Chadoora area of Budgam district while campaigning for the party candidate.

She said after abrogating Article 370 everything has not been finished but the central

government is bent to snatch all authority and to evict the people from their lands.

The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister alleged that electricity is being provided to people of Jammu and Kashmir at high rates while it has been provided to other parts of the country at cheap rates and even free of cost.

"To participate in these elections became necessary so that the people could convey a message to the Central government that what they did in 2019 was unconstitutionally and logically illegal and not acceptable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir", the PDP president said.

Mehbooba urged the people to vote for the

party who will raise the issues of people of Jammu and Kashmir in the National Capital truthfully and without any fear.

Replying to a question, she said that PDP is living in the hearts of the people. "May be the people were angry with the PDP for some time, but people understand that PDP is the only party that remained in the government for a very short period and achieved many major things", the PDP President said.

"If one compares the three years regime of the late former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, who is also the founder of PDP, Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Rawalkote roads were opened which were never in the minds

of the politicians and people of Jammu and Kashmir". She said the talks were held with Pakistan during his tenure to ease the tension in the sub-continent.

"PDP is sustaining in the hearts of the people it is not easy to finish it", the former CM said.

Replying to another question, Mehbooba said that she don't want any quarrel with the National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah.

"I want the people to understand the present situation which is going in Jammu and Kashmir presently and exercise their vote in favour of such a party who will raise the issues of the people and narrate the truth in Delhi without any fear", she said.

Cyber Cell of J&K Police in Jammu recovered money amounting to Rs.1,55,000

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Cyber Cell of Jammu & Kashmir Police in District Police Jammu has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to combating cybercrime by successfully solving a case and recovering money amounting Rs. 1,55,000/

Brief facts of the case are that complainant lost his mobile phone and fraudster break his phone unlock pattern, changed his google account password and transferred an amount of Rs.1,55,000 from his account. The complainant lost Rs 1,55,000.

During the investigation, the Cyber Cell DPO Jammu, exhibited hectic efforts which ultimately led to the successful recovery of amount of Rs.1,55,000.The whole amount credited into the bank account of complainant.

District Police Jammu, equipped with advanced technology and skilled personnel, remains at the forefront in the fight against cybercriminals.

Dr Darakhshan addresses Imam Conference at Shrine of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi today chaired and addressed the Inam Conference at the Shrine Complex of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah (RA) on the second day of her tour to Rajouri. Earlier Dr Andrabi met many public delegations and talked to the cross section of the people including a delegation of Pahari Community and Gujjar & Bak erwal Welfare Forum. Dr Andrabi led the introduction of smart machinery initiative of Waqf Board at the famous Sufi shrine of Shahdara Sharief. Prominent Imams of the district participated in the Imam Conference. In her address Dr Andrabi said that the role of the Imams in creating awareness about Sufi teaching among the young genera-



tion is very significant. 'Religious preachers have an added responsibility of propagating peace, inclusivity & morality to the society. We have to repeatedly aware our youth about the hazards of divisive ideas, drug abuse, violence and

ploy of hatred", said Dr.Andrabi. She said that doctrines of inclusiveness, nationalism, humanity and Sufi spiritual thoughts can only lead us to a peaceful and progressive future and our Ulema and religious preachers have to play the

leading role in this context. Prayers for peace, prosperity and happiness of all were done at the conclusion of the Conference. Dr Andrabi was accompanied by Waqf Board officials and Administrator for Rajouri Abdul Qayoom Mir.

Water scarcity, erratic power supply hits Jammu region amid scorching heat: Kesri

JIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Amid the scorching heat, residents of various parts of Jammu are experiencing an acute shortage of drinking water. This was stated by Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri while addressing media persons during a press conference in Jammu today. Addressing media persons, Kesri accused the authorities concerned of being indifferent to their problems amid scorching heat. He said government had claimed that they would ensure proper electricity and drinking water supply during summer but it is just beginning and already there are crisis of water and power supply. No one is concerned to provide relief to people amid the scorching heat," he said. Like every year, this year too people are facing shortage of water, especially in areas like Janipur, Indira Colony, Muthi Sainik Colony, Bathinda, Narwal, Greater Kailash, Satwari, where there is shortage of water and electricity. Big cuts are also taking place when water comes, electricity gets switched off due to which people are not able to store water, added Kesri. Kesri demanded government that the way the government offers tankers in these areas every summer, water should be provided to these people through tankers so that their daily water needs can be fulfilled and people can get some relief because people need a lot of water in summers. They need water to drink, cooking, washing and bathing .These are the basic needs of every human being and it is the responsibility of the government to fulfill them. This is why the government is elected by the people so that it can provide some facility to the people and give some relief to the people, but on the contrary, as soon as the summer starts, there is a shortage of water in the city. The government should pay proper attention to this so that people can have immediate relief, added Kesri.

NC, PDP equally responsible for promoting gun-culture in J&K: GH Mir

JIN NEWS SERVICE
MENDHAR (POONCH), MAY 8

The Apni Party Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir Wednesday accused the National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) of pushing youth towards terrorism to fulfill their political ambition in Jammu and Kashmir.

Seeking an end to the gun-culture and making a plea to bring the younger generation towards the bright future, Mir said that the Apni Party has committed that it favours general amnesty for the detained youth so that they can return to their normal life.

Mir was addressing a public meeting that was organized in Mendhar Tehsil of Poonch District in Jammu Province.

The meeting was held following an impressive roadshow that was taken out by the Party leaders in which hundreds of people participated with large number of cavalcade of vehicles, and motorbikes that passed through different roads in Mendhar as a part of election campaign in favour of the Party candidate for Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas.

The Party's District President in Poonch, Ex-MLA Shah Mohammed

Tantray, and the District Committee members were also present on the occasion whereas the public meeting was organized by Vice President Youth Wing, Media Coordinator, and Spokesperson, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan.

While lauding the people for showing their enthusiasm and faith in the Party candidate, Ghulam Hassan Mir said that the people should come forward and vote in favour of Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahib, who is a local candidate.

He said that the Party has committed to implement welfare schemes for the people of Jammu as well as Kashmir i.e., 500 units of free electricity in Jammu region during summer season, and 300 units of free electricity during winter season.

He further said that the Party would enhance the widow/old age pension up to Rs 5000 from Rs 1000, will provide four cooking gas cylinders to each family per year under Ujjwala Scheme, and the enhancement of marriage assistance scheme up to Rs 1 lakhs for the girls from economically weaker sections.

Highlighting the welfare schemes to the people, he raised the question that the National Conference, and Peoples Democratic



Party have failed to bring out their roadmap for development and welfare of the people.

In place of bringing out their roadmap, he questioned the intention of Dr Farooq Abdullah, President of the National Conference, for raising an inflammatory slogan in Kashmir yesterday, that shows they have become demoralized in these elections, and want the youth to again adopt the gun-culture.

"The terrorism got wings in Jammu and Kashmir because of the policy of promoting terrorism by these local political parties although they themselves kept close relations with Delhi. On the other hand, the same parties continued

to create wedge between the people and the Govt of India for their political ambitions," he said, while asking the youth to come forward and vote support the Party candidate in the scheduled elections for Rajouri-Anantnag seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas.

Subsequently, he said that these parties showed the path of jails and graveyards to the youths of J&K for decades. However, the Apni Party opposed such policies.

While opposing the divisive policy of NC, he said that the Apni Party believes that the youth should adopt the path of development for their prosperous future.

He reminded the people that Delhi has

accepted the demands of the Govts in Jammu and Kashmir, but these parties were responsible for the turbulent period in the erstwhile State.

As the Party has gained support from the region, he said that the National Conference has been frustrated as they are fearing defeat in the ongoing Parliamentary elections. Hence, its Chief Dr Farooq Abdullah gave a provocative speech yesterday in Kashmir.

"Unfortunately, Dr Abdullah wants his children to continue to rule Jammu and Kashmir and on the other hand, they want the children of the general masses to suffer by adopting violent means that would destroy their

future. However, the Apni Party would not allow this to happen," he said.

"We believe the issues can be resolved by talking to the Govt of India," he said, while citing an example of peaceful situation that can be witnessed in Kashmir in the last several years in comparison to the rule of NC, and PDP in which hundreds of youths got killed and many sustained permanent disabilities.

He challenged the NC - PDP to showcase their roadmap that would bring employment, industrialization, peace, and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

"These parties always tried to create division between people, and regions by racking up controversial issues like self-rule, autonomy, emotionally exploited youth etc.

He also criticized them for their inability to provide electricity to the people of J&K, even as they were in rule, when they signed MoUs for hydroelectric projects.

"The NC, and PDP did nothing to generate employment, industrialization," he alleged.

Meanwhile, Zafar Iqbal Manhas said that he wants to get the detained youth released from the custody. These youths were detained during the

regime of National Conference, and PDP even as these youths were not armed.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir suffered most because of the dynastic rule by the NC, and PDP,

"As the people are not ready to believe them again, they have extended support to the Apni Party," he added.

Speaking in Pahari language, he assured that he would fight to ensure a Parliamentary seat for Pir -Panjal, Hill Development Council on the patron of Leh-Kargil, promotion of tourism, equitable development, policy for employment generation and infrastructural development.

Expressing gratitude to the people for expressing their support to him, he said that he is committed to bridge the gaps and differences between the communities, and the regions.

Earlier, District President, Poonch, Ex-MLA Shah Mohammed Tantray also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the welfare schemes of the Party.

He said that the Party is aimed to bring equal development in all the regions and end the discrimination regarding the distribution of funds, protection to the jobs, and land for locals.

Ex-Central Paramilitary Force Welfare Association appoints new office bearers

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

A meeting of the Ex. Central Paramilitary Force Welfare Association took place at R.S. Pura in Jammu. The meeting was chaired by V. K. Sharma, Chairman of the All India Confederation of Ex-CPM Force. Several crucial issues were discussed during the meeting.

The association advocated for the equalization of assistance and facilities nationwide, particularly concerning the provision of Rs. 8000 for the cremation of paramilitary personnel.

Participants sought exemption from GST and excise duty for para-



military force canteens, aiming to alleviate financial burdens on these establishments.

The association

pressed for the release of pending Dearness Allowance arrears, spanning approximately eighteen months, for all central

government employees.

This demand was formally submitted to the government by the office bearers of the Ex. Central

Paramilitary Force.

Additionally, during the meeting, a new committee of the Ex-Central Force Welfare Association was formed under the guidance of V.K. Sharma, former DIG and Chairman of the All India Confederation of Ex. C.P.M. Force.

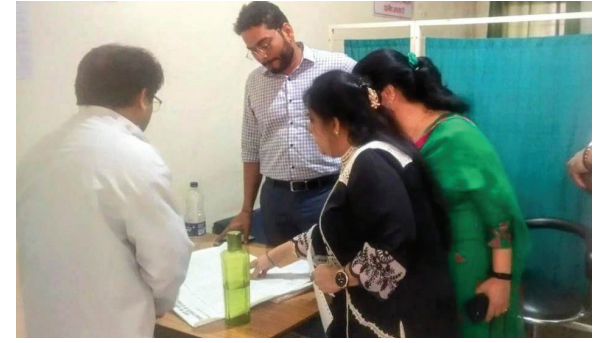
The newly elected committee members include Ashok Kumar Verma (Chairman, J&K CPMF), Harinder Mahajan (Chief Advisor), Harbans Lal Sharma (Vice President), Darshan Chouhan (General Secretary) and Nirmal Singh Maan (Ex. Comdt., CAF Chairman, Gurdaspur, Punjab).

Furthermore, a reso-

lution was passed during the meeting, electing S. Kuldeep Singh as the new President of the Ex. CPMW Association in Jammu and Kashmir.

Other attendees who unanimously supported this resolution include Noor Mohd. (General Secretary, District Samba), P.S. Sandhu (President, CPME Jalandhar, Punjab), Manbir Katoch (National Spokesman, Himachal Pradesh), M.L. Thakur (Chief Patron, Ex. CPMFW, Himachal Pradesh), Sajwal Shah (District Kupwara), Naseer Ahmad Khan (District Baramulla), Mohd. Ashraf Lone (District Bandipora), Farooq Ahmad (District Anantnag),

DC Jammu conducts surprise inspection of Government hospitals



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya today conducted a surprise inspection of Government Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu and Government Hospital Sarwal.

While many facilities were found satisfactory during the visits, the Deputy Commissioner noted some irregularities.

Irregularities with respect to attendance by some staff members were observed, while instructions were issued regard-

ing the maintenance of cleanliness and adherence to sanitary protocols in the hospitals.

The DC took serious note of reports that some doctors at Government Hospital Sarwal were prescribing branded medicines to patients instead of recommending generic names or salts of the medications.

Responding promptly, the DC issued explanation notices to the erring officials, seeking their response within a set period to address the identified issues.

Nehru, Cong wasted India's crucial time by implementing 'under par' policies: Kavinder



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Criticizing Pt Jawaharlal Nehru and the Congress party for doing no good to India, senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta said that 'under par' policies implemented by the Congress leadership during its over 55 years rule wasted country's crucial time leading to poverty, underdevelopment and rampant corruption.

The BJP stalwart leader was addressing party's Shakti Kendra Parmukhs and booth agents besides the activists, who worked with extreme dedication during run up to the election and on the polling day. He expressed gratitude to the BJP activists for showing grit and determination for ensuring the success of party in the Lok Sabha polls as fulfilling this

mission is the best which the citizens can do for the nation because no other party can serve the nation in such a perfect manner like the BJP Government under the realms of PM Narendra Modi.

He said that mistakes committed by Pt Jawaharlal Nehru are still haunting the country, and despite the passing of a number of decades, the government is finding it difficult to undo the wrongs committed in the past by the Congress leadership. He said that Article 370 was the colossal misdemeanor by Pandit Nehru, which was finally scrapped by the Modi Government. He said that to describe the mistakes by the Congress party, one needs a voluminous account as the list is endless, comprising gross mistakes. He said no other party or individual would have taken such direc-

tionless steps which the old grand party had taken leading to the emergence of scores of bottlenecks in the path of progress of the country.

Earlier District President Rekha Mahajan also thanked the party activists for showing exuberance and outstanding commitment to bring voters to polling booths and ensure people become aware of every single work accomplished by BJP and party's future plans for the welfare of masses and development of India in general and J&K in particular. Others present during the meeting include Vinay Gupta, Narinder Koki, Pushpinder Singh, Surjeet Singh Pappu, Ashok Khajuria, Sat Chowdhary, Bharat Bhushan, Rahul Kumar, Rachit Khosla and Sandeep Gupta.

Govt P G College, Rajouri celebrates World Red Cross Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Red Cross Club in collaboration with NCC Unit, Govt P G College, Rajouri organizes symposium to commemorate World Red Cross Day under the patronage of the Principal, Prof.(Dr.) Shamim A Azad.

In the inaugural speech, NCC Officer, Prof Salma Farooq underscored the importance of Red Cross Day and stated that the day serves as an opportunity to highlight the vital humanitarian values and activities of the Red Cross Unit. She further explained the role that this organization plays in providing aid and assistance to people affected by various natural disasters conflicts or other crises glob-



ally. By observing World Red Cross Day, individuals and communities can show their support for the tireless efforts of Red Cross to alleviate suffering and promote compassion, solidarity, and humanity during times of great need. A large number of students participated in the symposium and expressed their views on the theme "I give with Joy, and the joy I give is a reward". The event was attended by the members of Red Cross club, NCC Officers

and other students. Prof Rabia Kouser, Dr Divya Mahajan , Ms Ramniq Kour and Major Tanwir Ahmed interacted with the students and motivated them to be selfless while serving the Nation or while donating Blood.

Prof.(Dr.) Shamim A Azad appreciated the organizers and the students for celebrating the World Red Cross Day with great enthusiasm and administered the pledge to the students to be ready to serve the Nation.

Vikram Randhawa, Moulana Syed appeal to vote for BJP at Kargil

JI NEWS SERVICE
KARGIL, MAY 8

Ch. Vikram Randhawa, former MLC chaired a meeting of senior cadre of party at Kargil to ensure massive victory of party MP candidate Adv. Tashi Gyalsong.

Randhawa was accompanied by Hazi Inayat Ail Ex. Chairman Legislative Council and Moulana Syed Habib Hyder BJP Minority Morcha National Executive Member, from Lucknow.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa, while stressing to activate booth level workers for the massive victory of BJP's MP candidate in Lok Sabha elections, asked the party cadre to be actively engaged in canvassing at the ground level reaching up to every single voter. He said that the victory of BJP MP candidate is



very important in order to ensure the overall development of Ladakh Region.

Randhawa stressed upon the party cadre and the senior leaders to take the achievements of Modi government for the betterment of the region and its people. He said that the region was ignored on the major fronts for the preceding decades together and now the BJP under the leadership of PM Modi has done all the required development.

Moulana Syed Habib Hyder prompted the

party workers to take the mission of unprecedented development to the people. He said that the Modi government has worked for the welfare of all the regions and the religions working on the principle of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vishwas". He, on the occasion, appealed to the people of Kargil to vote for the development forgetting their personal preferences. He said that the people have to vote massively in favour of BJP candidate in the MP election and contribute in the progress of Ladakh.

Civil Defence, Jammu organizes One Day Awareness Program



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

One day awareness programme was held at NCC camp Nagrota, which was organized by Civil Defence, Jammu under the supervision of Dy. Controller Civil Defence Jammu. Awareness about the basic knowledge of First Aid, Fire fighting especially as per the advisory from NDMA for heat wave 2024, the NCC Cadets were make

aware about heat wave risk and reduction. They were also made aware of all possible ways to avoid heatstroke during summer season. The main aim of the awareness programme was to educate students with regard to preventive measures during summer season.

The programme was organized in the premises of the NCC Camp, Nagrota where 300 NCC cadets of 1st Girls Bn. have participated. Col. S.P Tiwari

Commandant 1st Girls NCC Bn. appreciated the role of Civil Defence organization and thanked the Civil Defence team for organizing such important awareness-cum-demonstration programme. Paramjit Kumar, Chief Warden Civil Defence, Jammu Sh. R. Vijay Magotra, Dy. Chief Warden Civil Defence, Jammu S.M. Anil Kumar S.M. Duvsh Kumar and other staff of the NCC Camp, Nagrota were present on the occasion.

Adv Dakhshish Sharma holds YWBS meeting at Chowki Chaura

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

The Jammu - Kashmir unit of the Youth World Brahmin Sangh organized a meeting at Choki Chaura under the chairmanship of advocate Dakhshish Sharma. In the meeting, former Sarpanch Choki Ravi Kumar, Sarpanch Jhoothal Gala Baldev Raj Sharma, Sarpanch Choura Romesh Sharma, Panch Rascal, Vishal Sharma, Mukesh Sharma, Suraj Prakash, Amit Sharma, Panch Prabhuh Dahiyal, Vikrant, Yash Paul, Ravi Sharma, Nikhil Sharma,



Rakesh Sharma, Rajinder Kumar, and many other socio-political people of the area were present. Addressing the gathering, Advocate Sharma emphasized that we all should work together for the welfare and betterment of Brahmins. Teams of Block Choki Chaura will

be formed soon. In which Suraj Prakash was elected President of Vishwa Brahmin Federation Block Choki Chaura and this time the birth anniversary of Lord Shri Parshuram is being celebrated with great pomp in the market located at Choki Chaura on 10th May.

GPW Jammu organizes seminar on topic "Communication Skill"



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

A seminar was organized in Govt. Polytechnic for women on the topic "Communication Skill" under the supervision of Er. Suket Gupta, Principal. Govt. Polytechnic for women, Jammu. Major (Retd.) Bhawna Devi, Social worker, Educationist, Motivational speaker and a renowned speaker was the resource person of the event.

While interacting with the students, she enlightens them with the Importance of Communication

Skills in an interactive way in today's scenario. Students showed great enthusiasm and took an active part and also learned the nuances of effective communication skill and how to improve the skills.

She also aware the students about various Effective Communications that involves delivering messages clearly, Concise, concrete, correct, coherent, complete and courteous. The program was organized by the NSS wing of the Institution under the guidance of Ms. Bhavna Arora, NSS Program Coordinator.

Serving humanity upholds Red Cross legacy: DC Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

World Red Cross Day was commemorated by organising a grand event by the District Red Cross Society here in Teachers' Bhawan. Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya graced the occasion as the chief guest.

The event featured a blood donation camp, drawing participation from Red Cross volunteers, students and individuals from diverse segments of society.

In his address, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who is also Chairman District Red Cross Society, underscored the evolving role of the Red Cross Society, emphasising its multifaceted contribution to society beyond providing first aid.

He called upon everyone to contribute to humanity's service in their respective capacities, emphasising the importance of sincere dedication to duty and

public welfare. He urged all to uphold and perpetuate the noble mission and legacy of the Red Cross.

Addressing the gathering, Executive Secretary of District Red Cross Society Ansuya Jamwal (ADC Jammu) highlighted the array of awareness activities leading up to World Red Cross Day, including donation drives and sessions on personal and menstrual hygiene for schoolgirls as well as awareness initiatives for eradication of drug abuse. She outlined the forthcoming plans for the District Red Cross Society.

The event also featured vibrant cultural performances by students and specially abled children, adding to the celebratory atmosphere.

Among the dignitaries present were SDM Jammu South Atul Dutt Sharma, SP Jammu South, JD School Education Jammu, along with various district officers.

DRCS Reasi Celebrates World Red Cross Day with Theme "Keeping Humanity Alive"

JJNEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 8

The District Red Cross Society Reasi today celebrated World Red Cross Day with the theme "Keeping Humanity Alive" in the Auditorium of the District Administrative Complex.

Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan attended the event as Chief Guest, in the presence of Rakesh Wazir (Chairman, DRCS), ADC Kul Bhushan Khajuria, ACR Anshumali Sharma, other District Officers and District Branch Managing Committee Members.

The programme started with the hoisting of the Red Cross Flag followed by a Symposium on the theme "Keeping Humanity Alive". Five students from College/Schools spoke on the theme. Patriotic song was also presented.

In his address, District Development Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, emphasized the crucial role of the Red Cross in assisting and aiding people affected by natural disasters, armed conflicts, and other crisis worldwide. He stressed the need to form a team of volunteers who can work on the ground during emergencies. He also encouraged students to become volunteers and contribute to relief efforts in the event of natural disasters. Further he emphasized the need



of attendants "Sarai" for patients of District Hospital Reasi.

Rakesh Wazir (Chairman, DRCS) highlighted the role of District Red Cross Society, Reasi in helping poor & needy people. He stressed on increasing the resources of the District Red Cross Society and involving maximum people in the Red Cross Movement. He also appealed to the General Public to donate generously towards the Red Cross

Society for the welfare of very poor people.

Four Officers of different departments viz Chief Education Officer, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, two Lecturers and other donors were felicitated with appreciation certificates by the District Development Commissioner for their generous contribution towards the District Red Cross Society. Prizes were also given away to participating students.

Prominent among others who were present on the occasion include District Officers, District Branch Managing Committee Members, District Red Cross Society, Reasi, Prominent citizens, Heads, Teachers and students of various Educational institutions. Vote of thanks presented by Sham Lal Kesari (Vice-Chairman, DRCS) Reasi. Programme concluded with the recitation of the National Anthem.

World Red Cross Day celebrated at Samba

JJNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAY 8

The District Red Cross Committee Samba today organized a function at Samba Fort to celebrate World Red Cross Day.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Samba, Abhishek Sharma was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The celebration centered on the theme, "Keeping humanity alive" and a session highlighting the importance of CPR as a life saving measure for the victims of cardiac arrest was also organised. It was followed by demonstration on steps of Adult CPR and Child CPR including the management for choking



in case of adults and children.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the World Red Cross Day is being observed every year with an aim to reinvent

the passion of mutual help among the citizens.

The DC stressed upon the concerned to intensify the efforts to conduct different welfare programmes including blood donation

camp and ensure proper utilization of funds for the weaker sections of the society especially poor, destitute, orphan and widows.

He urged upon the participants to volunteer themselves for the Red Cross which is a best platform to serve the needy people. He also highlighted the need for motivation of the people for participation in the Red Cross activities and appreciated the volunteers for serving the people in need.

Among others, DSWO Samba, Mohammad Nawaz, Doctors, Volunteers of District Red Cross Committee; employees and other concerned were present in the function.

ACD assesses plastic management, community needs in Inderwal, Mughal Maidan Blocks

JJNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 8

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kishtwar, Phulail Singh today conducted a comprehensive assessment of plastic management units in Inderwal and Mughal Maidan Blocks.

During the assessment, the ACD directed Block Development Officers

(BDOs) to ensure effective implementation of plastic management strategies, with emphasis on establishing robust forward and backward linkages.

The BDOs were further tasked with optimizing door-to-door collection mechanisms to streamline plastic waste disposal processes effectively.

Additionally, the ACD inspected the recent fire

incident site that resulted in the destruction of a Panchayat Ghar in Chartroo A. The visit highlights the administration's proactive stance towards addressing community emergencies and ensuring swift response measures.

Furthermore, the progress of work on under execution development projects including the

construction of Panchayat Ghar in Mulchitter was assessed, signaling the administration's commitment to bolster local governance infrastructure.

In a demonstration of the administration's people-centric approach, grievances voiced by the public were attentively noted during interactions in Mulchitter and Mughal Maidan.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024

"SUVIDHA" app embodies ECI's commitment towards fostering transparency, efficiency in polling process: CEO

JJNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

As a sequel to measures being initiated towards facilitating a smooth and transparent election process, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched "Suvidha" application, a platform designed to streamline the application process for various permissions required during election campaigns for candidates and political parties participating in the upcoming 2024 elections.

The portal serves as a one-stop solution, empowering the candidates and political parties to apply for and obtain permissions efficiently and conveniently. With a user-friendly interface and robust features, the App simplifies the process, ensuring that all necessary per-

missions are acquired in a timely manner, thereby enabling seamless campaign activities. The different permissions available on Suvidha platform included "Meetings: Candidates and political parties can request permissions for holding meetings with constituents, allowing them to engage with voters directly and discuss their vision and policies, Rallies: Permission for organizing rallies, a crucial aspect of election campaigns for reaching out to a wider audience and garnering support, can be easily sought through the Suvidha, Vehicles: The app facilitates the application process for permissions related to the use of vehicles during campaign activities, ensuring compliance with regulations governing vehicular movement, Temporary

Election Office: Candidates and political parties can apply for permissions to set up temporary election offices, providing them with a designated space to coordinate campaign efforts and interact with supporters, Loudspeakers: Permissions for the use of loudspeakers during campaign events can be obtained through the Suvidha, allowing candidates to amplify their message effectively while adhering to noise pollution regulations and Helicopters and Helipads: For candidates seeking to use aerial transportation for broader outreach, the Suvidha facilitates the application process for permissions pertaining to helicopters and helipads, ensuring safe and compliant operations".

The App embodies the commitment to foster

transparency, efficiency, and fairness in the electoral process. By digitizing and streamlining the permissions process, the aim is to empower candidates and political parties, while also facilitating smoother interactions between stakeholders and election authorities. This app has provided a uniform platform for all the candidates where permissions are given on first come first serve basis and equal opportunity is given to all the contesting candidates.

Further, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Pandurang K. Pole, has urged upon the candidates and political parties participating in the 2024 elections to utilize these services. For further information, the candidates and political parties can visit the portal at <https://suvidha.eci.gov.in>.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024: RO Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency refutes allegations on EVMs

JJNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

The Returning Officer (RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency has strongly refuted the allegation on the functioning of EVMs levelled by a senior Political functionary while addressing a public meeting in Srinagar recently.

In a statement issued here, the RO said that use of EVMs and VVPATs in all the elections conducted by ECI including 2024 has been testified and verified by not only the ECI, general public but also the Supreme Court India.

He said that the literature available in the public domain on EVM including the latest updated FAQs (85 Questions) issued by ECI

answers all reasonable and legitimate aspects of the use of EVMs adequately and comprehensively. He added the technical security features along with administrative safeguards defined by ECI, together make EVMs non temperable, leaving nothing to chance, whether in manufacturing, storage, transportation or during use in elections.

The RO said that various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India have examined EVM related matters threadbare and have concluded them by constantly reposing their faith on ECI EVMs. Even recently the Apex Court on 26th April, 2024 in its verdict have dismissed all the pleas seeking complete verification of the Electron-

ic Voting Machines (EVMs) with the Voter-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips and has instead strengthened the integrity of the election process with two additional directions which are being adhered to.

The Apex Court, he asserted, has held that the microcontrollers separately programmed by manufacturers in EVMs are "agnostic," for they do not recognise political parties or candidates but only the buttons pressed by voters and if any unauthorised attempt to access the microcontroller or memory of the EVM is made, the Unauthorised Access Detection Mechanism (UADM) disables it permanently.

Accordingly, all the writ petitions/pending applica-

tions, including the applications for intervention were disposed of in the above terms.

The RO further added that the Election Commission of India have addressed all queries and detailed material including updated FAQs, EVM Manual, Powerpoint presentation on EVM, Status paper on EVM, legal backing of the EVM ecosystem and the judicial validation through various judgments of Supreme Court and various High Courts are available over a period of last 40 years. He appealed to all sections of society not to believe in such allegations on EVMs made time and again by anyone as these are always found devoid of merit, rationality and logic.

JJNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 8

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas, today chaired the meeting of District Level Committee on the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) here in the Conference Hall of the DC office complex.

Dr. Minhas reviewed the progress made in implementing various components of HADP projects by the Agriculture and allied departments.

The committee also held detailed deliberations on selection of beneficiaries for different components of stakeholder departments.

After thorough scrutiny, 1590 applications were approved, including 126 for Sheep Husbandry schemes, 19 for Horticulture, 44 for Animal Husbandry schemes, 18 for Sericulture schemes, and 1383 for Agricultural schemes.

Highlighting the significance of the HADP initiative, Dr. Minhas stated that it would play a crucial role in fostering a sustainable



and profitable agricultural ecosystem. "The program aims to equip farmers with the necessary knowledge and tools to enhance productivity and profitability while contributing to the overall growth of the agriculture sector," he added.

Dr. Minhas urged stakeholder departments to work closely for the successful implementation of various initiatives at the district level. He also emphasized the impor-

ance of reaching out to farmers in remote areas, providing them with information on the latest agricultural technologies, and ensuring the effective execution of different schemes at the grassroots level. The meeting was attended by various officials including CPO, ACD, CAO, CHO, CSHO, CAHO, DDM NABARD, AD Fisheries, Dy Registrar Cooperatives, and other concerned officers.

Implementation of PM-Kisan reviewed in District Ramban



JJNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 8

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ramban, Roshan Lal today reviewed the implementation of the PM-Kisan scheme in the District.

The ADDC asked ACR

and Chief Agriculture Officer to ensure clearance of pending cases of genuine beneficiaries, within earliest possible timelines. He instructed all the non-traceable cases to be verified and list be prepared by the Agriculture department.

He stressed on speedy

verification of beneficiaries and bulk clearance of verification of eligible beneficiaries by banks at an earliest.

The meeting was attended by ACR Ramban Harpal Singh; Chief Agriculture officer Ram Gopal Sharma, LDM and other concerned officials.

Power shutdown

JJNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Upper Barnai, Lower Muthi, Paloura, JK Colony, Chandan Vihar, PHE Roop Mahar, MES Rajouri Lines, Patoli, BSF Paloura and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 10, 12 and 14 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Jerda and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 10 and 12 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Mahaal and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 9, 11 and 13 from 6 am to 10 am.

DC Budgam takes stock of Hajj-2024 arrangements at Srinagar Airport

JJNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MAY 8

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo along with SSP Budgam, Nikhil Borkar today visited Srinagar International Airport Humhama to take stock of the arrangements put in place in connection with smooth departure of Hajj Pilgrims 2024 commencing from 9th of this month.

During the visit, the DC took stock of facilities including availability of clean drinking water, medical facilities, refreshment, volunteer services, and traffic management in and outside of airport premises besides immigration check facilities and baggage carrying facilities.

The DC was accompanied by SSP Budgam, Nikhil Borkar, Director Airport Authority Srinagar Javed Anjum, Commandant CISF Dharmender Yadav, ADDC Budgam, CPO Budgam and other officers and officials of various other departments.