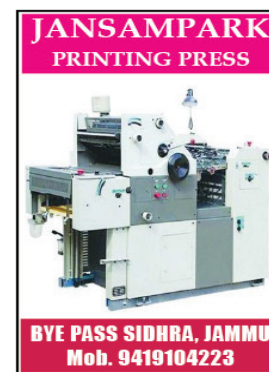


# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## Amid unprecedented security setup, Srinagar LS constituency goes to polls today

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 12

The stage is set for the prestigious Srinagar Parliamentary constituency which goes to polls on Monday amid unprecedented security arrangements put in place.

A total of 17,47,810 lakh voters including 8,75,938 male and 8,71,808 female voters besides 64 third gender electorates are eligible to exercise their franchise at 2,135 polling stations across the five districts of Srinagar, Pulwama, Budgam, Ganderbal, and Shopian.

There are around 11682 Persons with Disability and 705 persons above the age of 100 years who will also be

exercising their franchise, read a communiqué received from the office of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K.

A total of 24 candidates are in the fray and among them the prominent ones are National Conference Candidate Aga Syed Rohulla Mehdi, Peoples Democratic Party youth leader Waheed Ur-Rehman Parra, and Apni Party's Ashraf Mir who are contesting from the Srinagar parliamentary seat.

The seat is dominated by the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference party, which has won 10 out of the 13 Lok Sabha elections. The only national party to ever win the Lok Sabha elections in Srinagar is Congress,



which emerged victorious in the 1996 elections.

The election staff including Presiding Officers has been stationed in every polling station. In total, more than

8,500 polling staff, including reserves, will be deployed on duty on the polling day.

The voting will take place from 7.00 AM to 6.00 PM and before that, there will

be a mock poll in the polling stations in the presence of the polling agents. Also, the voting will continue even after 6.00 PM, if the voter's queue is still there in the Polling Station premises to exercise their right to vote.

There will be 20 polling booths managed by women (also called as pink polling stations), 18 polling booths manned by specially-abled persons, and 17 by youths.

All polling stations in phase 4 will have CCTV cameras for live webcasting to the control rooms established at the District and CEO offices. Few polling stations fall in communication shadow areas. Suitable alternate arrangements by

providing Satellite Phones, Wireless sets, and Special Runners have been put in place around a few polling stations that fall in communication shadow areas.

A three-tier security arrangement has been formulated outside every polling station to prevent any attempt to sabotage the polling process.

The security forces will be also manning the roads and bylanes leading to the polling station to scuttle any mischievous attempt by the anti-national elements.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir Zone) V K Birdhi said that all security measures for the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha elections

for Srinagar Parliamentary constituency scheduled for tomorrow have already been completed.

"We have already formulated a comprehensive security arrangement for the polling stations, locations, distribution centres and strong rooms under the prescribed security guidelines of ECI for the Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency", Birdhi told media in Srinagar on Sunday.

He said "A safe and secure environment has been established for the people so that they can come out to poll their franchise in a big way".

He also highlighted the deployment of paramilitary forces, checkpoints, as

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## PoJK part of India and will take it back: Amit Shah

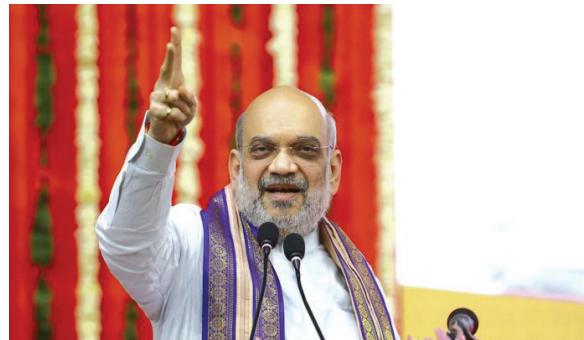
**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KAUSHAMBI (UP), MAY 12

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday lashed out at Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar and NC Chief Farooq Abdullah for their remarks over Pakistan and said that Pak-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) is part of India and it will be taken.

While addressing an election rally in support of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Vinod Sonkar, the Home Minister said, "Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar and INDI alliance leader Farooq Abdullah are asking to respect Pakistan as it has an atom bomb. Why should we respect Pakistan?"

He said, "Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is saying don't demand PoJK. Rahul Baba, if you want to be scared of atom bombs, then remain scared. We are not scared. PoJK is a part of India, and we will take it back."

Shah said that Kashmir is part of India. "Congress president Kharge says what people from Rajas-



than and Uttar Pradesh have to do with Kashmir. Probably he doesn't know that every child of Kaushambi is ready to sacrifice his life for Kashmir," he said.

He said that for 70 years, Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP), and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) kept Article 370 in Kashmir like their children. "You made Modi ji PM for the second term. Article 370 was abrogated on August 5, 2019, terrorism was eradicated, and Modi ji made Kashmir an integral part of India," he said.

The Home Minister said there are two shehzadas, Akhilesh and Rahul, who claim to bring back Article 370 if they come to power. "The people of Kaushambi

should decide whether Article 370 should be brought back or not? Modi ji ended terrorism and Naxalism in the country, and he had done the job of securing the country," he said.

Raking up the issue of Ram temple, he said, "For 70 years, the people of SP, BSP, and Congress kept the issue of Ram temple on the back burner. When Modi ji became PM for the second term, the case was won, Bhoomi Pujan was performed, and the consecration ceremony was performed on January 22 with Jai Shri Ram within five years."

Shah said that for the consecration ceremony, an invitation was

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Congress' tally will be less than Shehzada's age: Modi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
HOWRAH/BARRACKPORE/  
CHINSURAH/ARAMBAGH, MAY 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lambasted West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress, alleging the Mamata Banerjee-led party has made "corruption a full-time industry in the state".

Wooing the people in a series of election rallies in the eastern state, Modi said their vote will not only help form a government at the Centre, but also shape the future of West Bengal.

Modi also took a swipe at the Congress and its 53-year-old leader Rahul Gandhi, commenting that the number of seats of the grand old party would fall short of the present age of its leader in the ongoing LS polls.

While not mentioning Gandhi by name, Modi said: "This time the Congress would get fewer seats than the age of its Shehzada (Rahul Gandhi)."

In rally after rally during the polls campaign, Modi has repeatedly claimed the Congress would perform poorly, and last week even went on



to say the grand old party's tally in the ongoing elections would be at an "all-time low".

The Prime Minister, who made a scathing attack on the Trinamool, said, "TMC's full-time business is scams."

"Be it the Left, Congress or any other party of the INDI Alliance, corruption is their common character. Most of the INDI Alliance parties secretly do scams, but TMC runs an open industry of scams."

Modi described the TMC as the "combination of Congress' corruption, nepotism, appeasement and Left's tyranny and anarchy... if we

combine all of these, then we get TMC alone."

Modi said: "The TMC is looting Bengal, it's a great sin. Teachers' recruitment scam, Ponzi scam, coal scam, chit fund scam, ration scam... what a long list it is," he said adding that the ruling party even did not spare the farmers as the party looted farmers in the mandis."

In blitz poll campaign in West Bengal during the day, Modi Addressed four rallies at Barrackpore, Chinsurah, Arambagh and Purshura covering six constituencies in support of BJP candidates.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Rains lash Kashmir valley, more rain in offing: MeT

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 12

Kashmir valley lashed by rains, while Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Sunday predicted intermittent light to moderate rain on plains and snow over higher reaches during the next 24 hours.

Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir experienced light rainfall disrupting normal activities on Sunday, and it was still raining at most weather stations of the valley when this report was filed.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Voters will end domination of National Conference, PDP in Kashmir: BJP



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

The BJP may not be contesting any of the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir but the party is confident that the elections in the Valley will end the domination of the National Conference and People's Democratic Party in the region.

A day before Srinagar goes to the polls, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh claimed on Monday that the Narendra Modi government's development initiatives following the abrogation of Article 370 coupled with peace in the region have ensured that people are looking beyond family-run parties like the two regional outfits besides the Congress.

"These parties are responsible for all the turmoil Jammu and Kashmir went through right from the 90s when terrorism erupted and lakhs of Kashmiri Pandits had to flee their homes."

"People know that be it the PDP, CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## MHA directs CAPFs to adopt BSF's 'beehives on border fence' model across country

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

The Union home ministry has directed all central paramilitary and allied forces to replicate a 'beehives on border fence' bee-keeping model initiated by a BSF unit in West Bengal to boost employment opportunities for the

locals and create a goodwill with them for strengthening security.

Official sources said that the decision was made during a meeting on "scientific beekeeping and honey mission" that was chaired by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla at his office at North Block here in April.

The model devised and imple-

mented by the 32nd battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF) deployed to guard the India-Bangladesh international border in West Bengal's Nadia district was "lauded" during the meeting and a direction was issued to all the central armed police forces (CAPFs) to adopt it in their respective areas of responsibility, a senior CAPF

officer said.

The other border guarding forces, such as the Sashastra Seema Bal (Nepal and Bhutan borders) and the Indo Tibetan Border Police (China LAC), CAPFs like the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and other forces like Assam Rifles, the

National Security Guard (NSG) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) do not have fences to guard but the model can be utilised by them as per their nature of duties, the officer said.

These forces, about 12 lakh in combined strength, are deployed for a variety of internal

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Army Chief visits command hospital in Udhampur

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 12

Army Chief General Manoj Pandey visited the Northern Command Hospital based at Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Northern Command on Sunday posted on 'X', "General Manoj Pandey #COAS and Archana Pandey, President #AWWA visited Command Hospital #Udhampur."

"This new state of the art infrastructure, with 650-bed facility, stands as a beacon of

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



## Terrorist associate arrested with arms, ammunition in Bandipora: Police

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 12

Security forces in a joint operation arrested a terrorist association along with arms and ammunition in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district on Sunday.

Police said in a joint operation, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) arrested a terrorist

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Arms, Ammunition recovered from terrorist hideout in Reasi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 12

Security forces on Sunday unearthed a terrorist hideout in a forest area in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, recovering a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including nine Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and three pistols, officials said.

The hideout was unearthed by the joint troops of Rashtriya Rifles and police during search and cordon operation in Kot Budhan forest in Mahore area this morning, the officials said.

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## Migrant Kashmiri Pandits, Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj extend support to Apni Party candidates

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 13

The migrant Kashmiri Pandits and Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj have extended their support to Apni Party and its candidates contesting from Parliamentary seats, Srinagar Shri. Mohammed Ashraf Mir, and Rajouri - Anantnag, Shri Zafar Iqbal Manhas.

As a part of the election campaign, the Migrant Cell of the Party held series of meetings and worked tirelessly among the migrant Kashmiri Pandits informing them about the policy and agenda of the Party, especially regarding the honorable return and rehabilitation of migrant Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir.

These election campaigns were led by General Secretary of the Party, Shri. Vijay Bakaya Ji, Provincial President of the Party, S. Manjit Singh, Additional General Secretary, Arun Chibber, Provincial Vice President, Jammu, Ex-MLA Faqir Nath, Provincial Secretary / Membership Drive, Dr Rohit Gupta, Provincial President Jammu, Women



Wing, Pavneet Kour, prominent social activist, and senior leader of the Party, M.K. Yogi, Provincial Secretary Minority, Nana Ji Wattal, and others.

On the other hand, the youth campaigning team was headed by General

Secretary of the Youth Wing and Spokesperson of the Party, Abhay Bakaya, and senior youth wing leader, Muktesh Yogi.

The campaigning was held at head office Gandhi Nagar, Jagti Township,

Barnai, Bohri, Vikas Lane, Talab Tillo, Patoli Brahmana, TRT Nagrota, Muthi, Adarsh Nagar Bantalab, Khanpur in Nagrota, Subash Nagar, Kangra Fort Barnai, Durga Nagar, Datta Colony and door to door campaigning at

migrant camps and various non-camps.

In these meetings, Vijay Bakaya and M. K. Yogi appealed to the KP community to amass votes in favour of Apni Party Parliamentary candidates whose election symbol is "BAT."

Those who arranged the meetings at various places and accompanied us for door-to-door meeting are District Senior Vice President Jammu, Vaibhav Mattoo, Publicity Secretary, Vishal Jyotshi, Provincial Secretary KP wing, Vivek Sapru, TRT Nagrota, Chand Ji Bhat, Ashok Koul, Chand Ji Khair, Jai Krishan Pandita, Ashok Bhawnoo, Hira Lal Bhat, Bal Krishan Bhat, Virender Sathoo, Pran Ji, Chand Ji Raina, Dr O.N. Safaya, G. L. Pandita, Krishan Lal Koul, Pyare Lal Mawa, P K Dembi, Pyare Lal Pandita, Rajesh Labroo, Rattan Lal Bhat, Rattan Lal Koul, Shuban Krishan Bhat, Raj Nath Bhat, Bansilal Raina, Santosh Khar, Subash Kachroo, Ashok Kumar Koul, Bansilal Bhat, Nazir Ahmed Lone, president political migrants, social activist Bittu Ji Bhat, Ashwani Bhat and others.

## DPAP will ensure justice to all communities, defeat those sowing discord; Azad



JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR MAY 12

Chairman DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad stressed the importance of solidarity among the Gujjar, Kashmiri and Pahari communities. He criticized both the NC and PDP for exacerbating divisions within these groups, despite their shared heritage and religion. While addressing the road shows despite rain in Kulgam districts, Azad condemned the divisive tactics aimed at segregating Kashmiris along ethnic lines, noting the parallels with historical divisions between Muslims and Hindus. He urged the electorate to support a party committed to fostering unity and rejecting discrimination. He cautioned against the exploitation of people by those seeking to sow discord between Kashmiris and non-Kashmiris, vowing to ensure justice for all communities. He said, 'I'm deeply pained to witness how they initially divided people based on religion, sowing discord between Hindus and Muslims. And now, they're further fragmenting communities of the same faith. They've become the biggest adver-

saries of these people. If they truly cared, they would unite all communities and prioritize the well-being of everyone, regardless of caste or creed. During my tenure as chief minister, I never discriminated against anyone be it Hindus or Muslims, Paharis, Gujjars, or Kashmiris. It breaks my heart to see these parties, failing in their development efforts, resorting to dividing people. I will never tolerate such actions, neither within my party nor my government. Our commitment remains steadfast to work tirelessly for the betterment of all. Azad vowed to champion the concerns of the people. Highlighting a concerning trend, he noted the absence of any substantial contribution from MPs of NC or PDP following his retirement. He emphasized the importance of elected representatives actively engaging in parliamentary debates to address the needs of their constituents. He lamented the silent demeanor of NC and PDP MPs, likening them to mute spectators in Parliament. He urged politicians not to deceive the public, emphasizing the responsibility of elected officials to advocate for

the interests of those they represent. Azad expressed dismay over the exploitation of innocent voters who place their trust in leaders only to be let down later. He emphasized the importance of parliamentary performance, citing his own track record as an example. He questioned the necessity of bringing candidates from other districts to contest seats in South Kashmir, suggesting it reflects a failure on the part of NC MPs to effectively represent their constituents. He stated that if they had raised public issues, there would have been no need for such actions. He further stated that it's imperative to reinstate the Roshni scheme, restore statehood, initiate power projects, provide free electricity, ensure land and job protection, and usher in an era of development. He urged the public to support his party in achieving these objectives. Among others who were present on the occasion were Mohd Amin Bhatt Provincial President Kashmir, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Adv Saleem Parray candidate, Shafiq Shabnam, Shuby Jaan, Zamir Mir and others.

## NC's very creation meant for providing justice to poor and underprivileged class of society: Mian Altaf

JNEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MAY 12

Mian Altaf Ahmed, former minister and NC candidate from Anantnag- Rajouri Parliamentary constituency on Sunday said that the very creation of National Conference was meant for providing justice to poor, scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and other underprivileged section of society and looking into the track record of this 'aboriginal' party of J&K, no one can deny that it always remained steadfast in providing succor to the needy.

The NC leader was addressing a public meeting here at Dhangri in Rajouri district. In the meeting, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC, Jammu, Ch Liaquat, DDC Chairman Rajouri Naseem Liaquat, Manzoor Malik, DDC Dhangri Th Rameshwar Singh, Vijay Lochan, Th. Yashu Varhdan Singh, Rakesh Singh



Raka, Deeraj Sharma and Joginder Singh.

Mian Altaf Ahmed categorically said that National Conference is the party of poor, weaker sections, farmers and underprivileged sections of society which always stood for their rights and cause. He said that people have by now understood well

that no other party can ensure their welfare like the National Conference and therefore NC's wave is being witnessed not only in Anantnag- Rajouri parliamentary constituency but all across the Jammu and Kashmir leading to restlessness among its opponents.

Main Altaf said that

those sitting at helm these days are indifferent towards the poor strata of the society as under their rule inflation is touching the ceiling, jobs have vanished, no policy for youth, handful of recruitment processes have been entangled in corruption cases, industry is on crutches, and peace for which the incumbents are trumpeting from each forum is also in tatters as terrorism graph is up again especially in Poonch, Rajouri and other districts of Jammu region.

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, JKNC, said that Land to the Tiller brought in by Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Mohd Abdullah was the testimony to the fact that his party truly believed in philanthropy and took every possible step to ensure justice to downtrodden society.

Rattan Lal Gupta appealed to the people of Anantnag Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency

to support and vote Mian Altaf Ahmed in order to protect and safe the future of their coming generations.

Naseem Liaquat DDC Chairman Rajouri also sought people's support in the election claiming that only NC has the will and power to mitigate the problems of the people and provide good governance as party in power has given a dismal performance by neglecting the aspirations of the masses.

Earlier, at the outset of the meeting, Th Rameshwar Singh, DDC Dhangri apprised senior functionaries of the party about the hardships being faced by general public in absence of basic amenities.

Others present included Bansilal Sharma Block President Dhangri, Ch Tufail Ahmed, Block President, Parvez Jat Block President, Ch Ismail Block President Doongi and panches and sarpanches etc.

## Such accomplishments fortify varsity's int'l standing: VC

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 12

The University of Kashmir (KU) Sunday announced that its research scholar from the Department of Botany, Showkat Ahmad Gojery, has secured a prestigious fellowship at one of the world's top-ranking institutes ETH Zurich, Switzerland.

ETH (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule) or Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, has a QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) world ranking of 7 and THE (Times Higher Education) world university ranking of 8.

"His research area largely focuses on understanding how Himalayan plants adapt and respond to the challenges posed by climate change," an official spokesperson said in a statement issued here.

KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan, congratulated

Showkat Ahmad and his supervisor and appreciated their endeavours.

She emphasised the significance of such accomplishments in fortifying the international standing of the University of Kashmir.

"Such achievements play a pivotal role in strengthening the international interface of the university and our ongoing efforts to encourage greater international collaboration will attract more talent to the campus," she said, adding that the varsity through the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) is in the process of having more international students on the campus in due course of time.

Showkat Ahmad is currently working for his PhD programme under the supervision of Prof Manzoor A Shah. Previously, in 2021 Showkat earned another distinguished fellowship from Michigan

State University, USA, where he worked for 6 months on local adaptations.

Based on his work, he was selected for two prestigious international workshops - one hosted in Morocco by the University of Paris-Saclay, France, organised by InvaCost, and another in Charles Darwin University, Australia, organised by the Society for Ecological Restoration.

Showkat Ahmad Gojery is now a member of these two international scientific organisations, InvaCost and SER," the statement read.

After having carried out extensive field studies and transplant experiments in the Kashmir Himalaya along elevational gradients, Showkat is soon joining Dr Jake Alexander's group at ETH Zurich, Switzerland for genomic level studies, the spokesperson said.

## 58 Hajj pilgrims leave Kishtwar, move towards Srinagar

JNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MAY 12

The emotional scenes unfolded here at Islamia Faridia Educational & Research Institute Kishtwar, the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Vice Chairman G.M Saroori also participated.

Saroori addressed the Hajj pilgrims and congratulated them for getting the opportunity to perform the holy Hajj. He also wished them a safe and secure pilgrimage and appealed to them to pray for peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and the whole nation. Saroori advised them to perform Hajj appropriately and very carefully.

Later, G.M. Saroori arranged a breakfast at Mughalmaidan Chatroo for Hajj pilgrims. The students of Madrasa Mughalmaidan also recited heart-touching naat to make the event beautiful. This event was a success and a fulfilling farewell for the Hajj pilgrims. To make the farewell event historical

a beautiful Mehfil-e-Naat was also organized here at Islamia Faridia Educational & Research Institute Kishtwar, the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Vice Chairman G.M Saroori also participated.

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JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 12

Natrang presented Hindi play 'Tauba-Tauba' here today under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'. The play has been written by Rajinder Kumar Sharma and directed by Neeraj Kant. Coated with humor, the play presented some debatable issues which are faced by many theatre groups because of lack of commitment of a few artists which spoil the whole performance. But still it was more inclined towards comedy than being didactic.

The play opens at the home of one 'Anokhe Lal' who has converted it as rehearsal space as he is the director of the play which is scheduled to be staged within a few days. The drama erupts

as the play proceeds as it appears that no one is serious in doing rehearsal other than the director. The artists who used to plead for a single entry in the play have turned pricy now and come up with different excuses to skip rehearsals. At the top of it, the newly appointed servant adds to the confusion as he comes up with a new problem every time he enters the room. 'Anokhe Lal' was very much worried about the performance of the play as nothing was going right, actors were forgetting the lines, people were coming late in the rehearsal and on the top of it, the tickets of the show have already been sold. The ultimate crisis occur when the director comes to know that the actor who was doing the role of father of hero is not doing the play as he has to

go out of station for some personal work. Shattered by this untoward news, he decides to prepare his newly appointed servant to do the character of father in the play, who reluctantly agrees but real trouble erupts when the real father of 'Anokhe Lal' arrives to whom the servant introduced himself as the father of 'Anokhe Lal' on which both the servant and Anokhe Lal received a thorough beating from the real father.

Natrang actors who performed in the play included Mihir Gujral, Aadesh Dhar, Vandana Thakur, Kushal Bhat, Sanket Bhagat and Vishal Sharma. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant Sharma and the sound was rendered by Priya Kumari. The presentations were done by Payal Khanna.

# Booth agents of Jammu North Constituency felicitated for their dedicated work

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 12

JKPCC Working President and Congress contesting candidate from Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary seat Raman Bhalla today felicitated Booth agents of Jammu North constituency in an impressive programme at Paloura organized by Hari Singh Chib Vice President, JKPCC and Uday Bhanu Chib IYC National General Secretary accompanied by Mula Ram Former Minister and JKPCC Sr Vice President and Senior Congress leaders. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Bittu Rampal, Raj Dev Singh, Som Nath, Uttam Singh Chib, Surinder Kumar, Hoshiwar Singh, H S Baggi, Fakir Chand, Ramesh Singh Parshotam Singh, Karan, Rishu, Dev Raj, Rajpal, Chandermohan, Bal Krishan, Rahul Padha, Jagdish Kumar, Kamal Singh, Kaka Ram, Billa Rajkumar, Gama, Darshan Singh, Summy, Manas Gandhi, Kailash, Krishan, Pummy, Veena Devi, Billa, Dharmendra Singh, Gurdass, Ram Singh, Gama, Rattan Chand besides others.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that the BJP government at the Centre had "failed in every field" and claimed if the Congress wins, the INDIA bloc will form the government at the Centre in 2024. Targeting the Centre, Bhalla said, "It has failed in every field, be it inflation, unemployment, farmers, youth all are suffering." Taking a dig at BJP's claims in J&K, he claimed there is a lot of acrimony against BJP in J&K. He said that the BJP is hoping that it will come into power "in the name of religion and religious polarization, but people have understood them". "The poor people are suffering from an unprecedented price rise and the throttling of their voice and fundamental rights with the misuse of



power. The poor, youth, backward classes, Dalits and minorities are being subjected to the worst ever cruelty. As a political party, it's the biggest sin to desert the cause of the people when they are suffering the worst nightmare in their life," Bhalla said. Every Indian is aware of unprecedented unemployment, rising disparity in society, misuse of power and subjugation of the democratic institutions as never before, untold suffering of the farmers and farm-labourers, and unabated crack-down on the voices of dissent, is fanning hatred and creating divide among communities," he added.

Bhalla said the BJP is in an extreme state of panic as it can sense defeat in the Lok Sabha polls. He accused Party of dividing people on ethnic, linguistic and regional lines. The closer the Lok Sabha polls come, the frustration and hopelessness of the BJP and its subsidiaries in Jammu and Kashmir is becoming visible," he said. "Having done nothing, they are now eyeing gains from dividing people on ethnic, linguistic and regional lines," he said, adding that the BJP knows that its "lies are not swaying people". However, any misstep at

this juncture will have far-reaching implications that will be borne by our future generations, Bhalla said. "Ask yourselves what have you got since the BJP came to power in New Delhi. They denuded us of our identity, our unique character. They snatched our rights, and our land resources. The ration quota was decreased and it's also being withheld now." Beneficiaries of social welfare schemes are being made to beg whatever little monetary help they used to get. Horticulture, agriculture and handicrafts sectors are bleeding," Bhalla said.

Bhalla said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to retain power at any cost. They have spread hate for political gains. Congress is committed to deliver justice to all. Out manifesto also aims to give justice and empower women, youth, farmers, workers and deprived sections. Congress and INDIA Block are committed to protect the Constitution. He said while what happened in Surat and Indore show the Constitution is in danger, the way force was applied on candidates in Gandhinagar to withdraw should alert us to the lurking peril. Bhalla termed the Constitution as a "life-giv-

er" and said as long as the Constitution remains safe, "our honour, self-respect and rights will remain safe." He said, "The way the people of country are continuously coming forward to support us after our direct appeal has given new strength to our fight against the BJP in saving the Constitution and reservation." He said with the people coming forward against BJP Govt, there is a new enthusiasm in our struggle for social justice. It seems that our strength has increased manifold. As long as the Constitution remains safe, our honour, self-respect and rights will remain safe," He urged people to "unite and pledge to vote" for their own welfare and ensure victory for the candidates of INDIA bloc.

Mula Ram Former Minister and JKPCC Sr Vice President in his address said that Congress would continue to stand for the legal and genuine rights of the people of the Union territory. "Our agenda is pro-people and we will ensure the people of Jammu and Kashmir are empowered with socioeconomic rights," he said. "We all know that whole J&K was overlooked by BJP Govt. The region has an immense economic crisis with poor

job opportunities for the local educated youth. Congress knows its potential and challenges," he said. He said that Jammu and Kashmir has suffered immensely during the recent years and all eyes were now upon the secular and credible options to correct the wrongs committed in governance. Congress is committed to work for the welfare of the people of J&K. Maintaining that religion was a matter of personal faith, Hari Singh Chib Vice President JKPCC said that everybody believed in God and had faith in him. Religion and politics must be kept separate, he said, accusing BJP of trying to mix the two. When things get mixed up, it becomes difficult to make a choice between the right and the wrong, he added. Questioning the BJP's claims of nationalism and patriotism, Hari Singh challenged the party leaders to name a single sacrifice any of its party leaders had made during the freedom struggle or after the country became independent. While the BJP's forebears would take employment with the British, he said, Congress leaders and workers like Pandit Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi went to jail. Uday Bhanu Chib IYC National General Secretary said that feedback from the ground suggests that our appeal has penetrated with the masses and found resonance in their core concerns, compelling the top leaders to prioritize this along with prices and unemployment. After walking 4000 km from Kanyakumari to Kashmir on the Bharat Jodo Yatra and travelling 6,600 km from Manipur to Mumbai on Nyay Yatra, Rahul Gandhi has now embarked on Samvidhan Bachao Yatra. Congress is the party of Indian constitutionalism and Indian nationalism. We will protect its principles, its values, and its basic structure till our dying breath, added Chib."

# Apni Party intensifies election campaign in Nowshera in support of Zafar Iqbal Manhas

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NOWSHERA (RAJOURI)

Intensifying their election campaign in favour of the Apni Party candidate for Rajouri - Anantnag parliamentary seat, the Party leaders today held separate meetings in different areas of Nowshera to garner support in favour of the Party candidate.

The campaign was led by Provincial President of the Party, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh in which large numbers of people participated.

These two meetings were organized by Incharge Nowshera Constituency, Vicky Sudan at Bareri and the second meeting was held at Chowki Panchayat in Nowshera that was organized by Jalaj Choudhary.

Expressing gratitude to the people for their enthusiasm towards the Party's policy and its candidate, Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahib; the Former Minister S. Manjit Singh said that he was overwhelmed by the response received in Nowshera in Rajouri District from the people from different walks of life.

He said that the Party wants to bring change in the lives of the people and to uplift their living standard by providing them equal opportunity.

He said that the under-developed, and poor infrastructural development in the educational and health sector across the Pir Panjal Region because of the National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

"These parties exploited the people emotionally to get votes. Once they formed the Govts in the past, no heed was given to the demands of the people and hence, these areas remained neglected for decades," he said, while urging the people to vote and support Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahib for a change in their living



standard and the development of the region.

He also raised the issue of drug addiction, and its smuggling that has spread addiction among the youth and played with the future generation.

"Our aim is to protect the youth and give them a bright future to strengthen the growth of Jammu and Kashmir. The educated youth are the strength of the society and therefore, we shall work to eradicate the drug menace from the society and guide the youth towards a bright future," he said.

He also assured that the Party wants to develop the tourism sector in Pir Panjal that would help in boosting the local economy and would generate employment at the local level.

"The employment generation at the local level will also help in putting an end to the migration of the educated youth outside their native villages in search of work / jobs," he added.

He said that the Party is committed to develop Rajouri and its remote villages by providing them basic amenities at their doorstep. Besides, the prime aim is also to provide the health and educational facilities that lack proper infrastructure.

Referring to the commitment and manifesto of the Party if Zafar Iqbal Manhas is voted to the Lok Sabha from Rajouri - Anantnag seat, he said that the Party wants that

the Pir-Panjal Region should get a separate Parliamentary seat.

"We will do our best so that a separate Parliamentary seat is given to the region which has remained neglected for the last seven decades. The representatives, who were elected in the past to the Lok Sabha, hardly cared for the region and its people," he said.

He further informed the people that the Party is committed to explore the tourism sector, and timely completion of the Jammu-Poonch railway line projects, construction of two tunnels at Peer Ki Gali and Dera Ki Gali on the famous Mughal Road that connects the region with the Kashmir valley as an alternative route.

He said that the operationalization of the Mughal Road would help to boost the economic activities, would help ease movement of students, and patients from the region to the premier hospitals in Srinagar for their advanced treatment because it is the shortest route.

The meeting was also attended by SC Wing Coordinator, Bodh Raj Bhagat, District President of Rajouri Rural, Bushan Uppal, State Vice President, Youth Wing, Vishal Naraina, Provincial President of the Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, District President of Youth, Samba, Mangat Ram, Block President, Bari Brahmana, Irshan Choudhary, and others.

# Prevalence of undiagnosed and untreated hypertension still remains a major public health issue: Dr Sushil

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 12

While spearheading his campaign towards the prevention cardiac ailments Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac Awareness cum Health Check up camp at Hari Prabhu Sanstha, Nagrota Gurjoo area of Billawar District, Kathua with main focus on enlightening rural masses about the increasing prevalence of hypertension and thereby contributing to the already overburdened healthcare systems and henceforth increasing both morbidity and mortality. More than 250 people were screened, evaluated, diagnosed for various health ailments. Blood Sugar, ECG and Eye Sight tests were done and free medicine also given as per the requirements.

While interacting with the People Dr Sushil stated that Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as heart diseases, stroke, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases are the leading causes for morbidity and mortality worldwide, with three-fourth of deaths occurring in the low and middle-income countries



after the age of 60. Among them, hypertension is the leading cause of mortality and is ranked third as the risk factor of healthy years of life lost due to morbidity or pre-mature death. Hypertension is a major risk factor for cardiovascular diseases (CVD), particularly ischemic heart disease and stroke. In the recent years, the burden of hypertension has increased. More than 35% of the adult population are affected by hypertension in the Asian region thereby becoming a serious public health concern.

He elaborated that Socio-economic and lifestyle factors seemed to contribute significantly to the urban-rural gap in undiagnosed, untreated and undertreated hypertension in India among older adults. There is an urgent need of creating awareness programmes for the early identification

of hypertensive cases and regular treatment, particularly in under-served rural India. Interventions should be made targeting specific population groups to tackle inequality in healthcare utilization. That although awareness and treatment rates of hypertension have significantly improved in recent years, prevalence of undiagnosed and untreated hypertension still remains a major public health issue plaguing the developing societies. The low- and middle-income countries have a higher rate of undiagnosed, uncontrolled and untreated hypertension than in the developed countries. Lack of knowledge, detection and treatment of hypertension contribute to higher risk of stroke, younger age of onset and larger proportion of intracerebral haemorrhage in lower-income countries He added that

Optimal management strategies are likely to differ for patient types. Healthy Lifestyles influence adherence to medication as well as a patient's beliefs and involvement with behaviors including food, beverages, physical activity, healthy weight, salt, alcohol consumption and smoking. He said

Management Committee of the Hari Prabhu Sanstha I.D Soni, Sansar Chand, Jagmohan Gupta, Kuldeep Gupta, Dev Gupta, Subhash Gupta, K L Gupta, P N Jalla and Anil Sharma appreciated the selfless efforts of Dr. Sushil and his team in extending quality healthcare in such a remote area of Jammu province and expressed hope that such outreach programme could be a regular feature in this village. Prof R D Sharma (former Vice Chancellor Jammu University) also graced the occasion.

Others who were part of this Camp include Dr Yashwant Sharma and Dr Ankur Goel (Ophthalmologist). Paramedics and Volunteers includes Rajkumar, Ranjeet Thakur, Vishal Padha, Nirvair Singh Bali, Rajinder Singh, Rahul Vaid, Rohit Nayyar, Paramveer Singh and Vikas Kumar.

# OBC Organizations of Jammu holds day backward classes conference at Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, MAY 12

All the O.B.C. Organizations of Jammu Viz. All Jammu and Kashmir O.B.C. Mahasabha. All India Backward classes federation president's of mandal Commission identified Socially and Educationally Backward classes and intellectuals of O.B .C. Samaj today jointly held a One day backward classes conference at Anantnag City under the chairmanship of Jenab Gulam Hassan Sheergojri and Bansilal Choudhary, Convener OBC Mahasabha, Mohan Lal Pawar, Gen. sect. OBC Mahasabha, Abdul Qadir, Gen. sect. OBC Mahasabha were the special guests from Jammu region. Regarding the murder of JK-UT O.B.C. masses identified by Mandal Commission who have 42% population at Present keeping in View 32% as per census 1931 by implementing only 8% in JK-UT Govt. services instead of 27% with the induction of 13 new communities out of 16 Which were Not identified by Mandal Commission-1978 and not by kaka-kalelkar Commission-1955 and not by JK-UT Backward classes Com-



mission 1997 as these 13 Communities were Unable to fulfil the parameters set by Hon'ble Supreme Court which giving the Judgment on 16/11/1992 on Mandal Commission report Which are enshrined in its Judgment in paragraph 16,247 and 652 of A.I.R 1993-94. These 13 Communities are Acharya Brahmins, Dub duby Brahmins, ZARGAR (SUNAR), west Pakistan refugees [including upper castes ] JAT, Saini, Padri tribes Christians, Bojru, De Count Ghirth Bhatti etc.

In the Conference Matters were also discussed.

The discrimination attitude of the Present B.J. P. Modi Govt. regarding the Nil representation in the Present socially and Educationally Backward classes Commission-2020. This NON-OBC representation Backward classes Commission in Working

against the Mandal Commission identified backward classes (OBC) .

The Methods adopted by the Social welfare Dept. of JK-UT Govt regarding the Counting (Survey) of JK-UT O.B.C. population is totally illegal and not acceptable to JK-UT O.B.C. Masses NON of representatives of Revenue Dept. has Visited Door to Door of houses of JK-UT Masses.

The O.B.C mass survey of Jammu and Kashmir should be done by the Census Dept. for which this Dept. has been made.

The Vertical Reservation is only meant for Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe and Other Backward Classes (OBC) Under Article 15(4), 15(5), 16 (4) and 16(5) and 10%. E.W.S (other than S/C, S/T and OBC ,s) Under Article 15(6) and 16 (6) But Vertical Reservation in the Name of "BACKWARD

AREA" as R.B . A - 10%. and

A . L. C + I.B- 4% are Unconstitutional and illegal . It is only Made to give to Undue benefits of S.E.B.C's reservation to upper Castes for whom 10% (E.W.S) is meant.

The Present JK-UT Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission 2020 has Neglected Most of the deprived Communities who have Submitted their representations to the Commission for Inclusion in B/C Limits.

Caste Basis Census . Hostel Facility for OBC Students .

The dignitaries who spoke in the conference MohdSadiq Ronga, Abdul Rashid Bhagat , Shahid Teeli , Bashir Ahmad Najar , Abdul Samad Kumar , Sabdul Gani Hajam , Bashir Ahmad Hajam ,Ghulam NabilD-hobi , Ali Mohd Kumar , Ghulam Hssan Hajam , Basit Ahmad Sheergojri , Mudasir ahmad Sheergojri, Ghulam Qadir Sheergojri, Ghulam Mohamamad Wagay, Nadeem Mohd, Bashir Ahmad Bhati-Hanji, Mohd Younis Bhati-Hanji, Kafeel Bhati-Hanji, Mushtaq Ahmad Mochi.

# PM Modi's strong leadership heralds peace in Kashmir: Rana

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
DINANAGAR PUNJAB, MAY 12

Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today described peace in the Valley as one of the major milestones of the strong leadership under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that Pakistan sponsored terrorism and its ecosystem is on its last breath across Jammu and Kashmir.



"Strong and stern action in tackling terrorism with iron fists has send across a loud message to terror regime not to fuel violence in the border belts of the state of Punjab and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir", Mr Rana said while addressing an election rally in support of the BJP candidate from Gurdaspur Parliamentary Constituency Mr Dinesh Singh Babbu along with Mrs Renu Kashyap former MLA Dinanagar and DDC Vice Chairman Jammu Mr. Suraj Singh.

Devender Rana said that together with free hand to security forces in combating terrorism, the Modi government has unfolded socio-economic development for lasting peace in the Valley and initiated a comprehensive strategy to promote inclusive growth and empowerment in the Union Territory. Through proactive governance, Prime Minister Modi's administration has ushered in an era of hope and reconciliation, paving the way for progress and prosperity besides instilling a sense of security among millions that has manifested in record tourism in both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Rana said the terror monster is facing its final reckoning, due to unwavering resolve and decisive leadership of the Prime and through resolute and decisive actions, the security forces have dealt a decisive blow to terrorist elements, restoring peace and stability to

the region and paving the way for a brighter future for its people.

He said the double engine administration has empowered the local institutions, especially during the past nearly five years that has fostered a sense of belonging among the people, strengthening the foundations of democracy and governance in the region. As J&K is embracing a new dawn of peace and prosperity, the strong leadership at the Centre stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration for the nation, he added. Rana said that those finding political investment in disturbed conditions in Punjab and J&K stand isolated on the face of determination of people and coordinated efforts

of the security forces in foiling the terror machinations. These elements are now desperately trying to garner support from Pakistan masters, in terms of open political support being extended by some discarded politicians, to impact the mega democratic process in the world's largest democracy. All these machinations are going to prove counterproductive as the politically matured people see through the game plan of the enemies of nation, he said, hoping the electors will give a befitting reply to them by mandating the BJP led NDA to over four hundred seats. The third term in office under Modiji will prove transformative for the country in a big way, he added.

## Anjuman Sharie Shian J&K delegation calls on LG



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 12

A delegation of Anjuman Sharie Shian J&K led by Sh Aga Syed Mujtaba Abbas today called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

The delegation sought the intervention of the Lt Governor for resump-

tion of the procession of Youm-e-Ashooraa, the 10th day of Muharram, on the traditional route. The delegation also discussed about the facilities at Shia's sacred places with the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor assured appropriate action on the issues projected by the delegation.

## Lok Sabha Elections 2024 General Observer reviews Election readiness for Kashmiri Migrants in Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, MAY 12

General Observer for the Parliamentary Constituency Srinagar, Neelesh Gatne along with Assistant Returning Officer (ARO)-Migrants Udhampur, Tanveer Ul Majid Wani and Zonal Officer (ZO) for Migrants, visited Udhampur district to assess the election preparedness for Kashmiri Migrants scheduled for May 13th, 2024.

During the visit, they took stock of the arrangements made at Special Polling Station Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Udhampur. The observer also inspected strong room and counting centre.

Later, the observer visited migrant habitations at Garhi and Jakheni and interacted with the migrant electors and enquired from them about various facilities being provided by the ECI.



Representatives of J&K Music Artists Federation Srinagar called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan. Subsequently, a delegation of residents of Khimber village, Srinagar also met the Lt Governor at Raj Bhawan.



Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today. Sheikh Inayat Ullah, CEO Move Beyond (incubated startup of NIT Srinagar) and Chief Consultant, Global Youth Outreach and Employability Program also met the Lt Governor. He briefed the Lt Governor on the youth outreach initiatives of his startup.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### Amid unprecedented...

well as Special Security District (SSD) and Field Security District (FSD) personnel. Meanwhile, the polling staff along with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and other poll materials were dispatched to their concerned polling stations under adequate security arrangements on Sunday.

### PoJK part of India...

sent to all, including Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Dimple Yadav, and Akhilesh Yadav, but none of them attended the event. "They did not attend the event because they were scared of their vote bank. We BJP people are not scared of vote bank. Not only Ram temple, Modi ji rejuvenated the darbaar of Baba Vishwanath, which was demolished by Aurangzeb. The Somnath temple is made of gold. Modi ji is decorating all centres of faith," he said.

He said that the leaders of INDI alliance are contesting elections against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Although there is no chance of winning, assume that if they win, who will be the Prime Minister. Can Sharad Pawar, Mamta Banerjee, Uddhav Thackeray, Stalin, or Rahul Gandhi become the PM? When asked, one of their leaders said that PM's will be made turn by turn. Rahul Baba, it is not a grocery store; it is India, where things don't work like this," he said.

The Union Minister attacked SP chief Akhilesh Yadav for misleading people on vaccines during Corona period. "When Modi ji started the vaccination drive, Akhilesh said Modi's vaccine doesn't take it. It's good that the people of UP don't listen to Akhilesh. He got vaccinated secretly. Have some shame that you were doing politics even at the time of a pandemic," he said.

### Congress' tally will...

He accused Congress of insulting Baba Sahad Bhimrao Ambedkar. "Congress did a lot for the politics of appeasement. They insulted Baba Saheb, made him lose the election, and did not give Bharat Ratna to him. Modiji declared April 14 as Samrasta Diwas. All the places associated with Baba Sahab in Mau, London, Nagpur, Delhi, and Mumbai were developed as pilgrimages," he said. (Agencies)

Modi in Arambagh, said, "The TMC government is irritated by the development of the SC community, hence it is not allowing you to progress, whereas the BJP government gives priority to the interests of the SC community."

Modi alleged that TMC government to appease their vote bank are willing to resort to any means within their control. TMC is staunchly anti-women and anti-SC/ST, he said. Lambasting the TMC government for deteriorating the state's condition, PM Modi exclaimed, "There was a time when Bengal contributed significantly to strengthening the nation's economy. Today, TMC has turned it into a stronghold of corruption."

"There was a time when Bengal witnessed groundbreaking scientific discoveries. Now, under TMC's rule, bomb-making factories are springing up across the state.

There was a time when Bengal revolted against infiltrators. But today, under the protection of TMC, infiltrators are thriving here," he said.

Hitting out at the TMC, Congress and the Left parties, PM Modi stated, "Today, following one's faith has become a crime in Bengal. In Bengal, the TMC government doesn't allow the mention of Lord Ram... In Bengal, the TMC government doesn't permit the celebration of Ram Navami. Even the supporters of the Congress-Left have opened a front against the Ram temple. Can the country be entrusted to the hands of the TMC-Congress and Left?"

He cited examples like Karnataka, claiming that Congress has already allocated OBC reservations to Muslims. Talking about the 'Vote Bank' politics, the PM iterated that CAA has provided citizenship to the 'Mata' community of West Bengal. He added that CAA is the antidote to 'Vote-bank politics' and CAA will provide citizenship to all those who have suffered the aftermath of partition. Asserting that no corrupt individual will go unpunished, he declared, "I will ensure that those responsible for the corruption in Bengal are held accountable. Those accumulating vast sums of money will not evade the law. I am pursuing legal avenues to ensure that the victims receive restitution for these ill-gotten gains."

Modi also slammed the opposition for the atrocities happening in Sandeshkhali of North 24 Parganas district. He said, "The perpetrators of Sandeshkhali crimes, first shielded by TMC's police, now face a new challenge. TMC's goons are intimidating and threatening the women of Sandeshkhali solely because the perpetrator's name is Shahjahan Sheikh. Bombs and guns are being unleashed from his home. Yet, TMC is bent on white-washing this criminal by securing his clean chit for the sake of vote-bank politics."

### Rains lash Kashmir...

The MeT office said the weather will remain generally cloudy with intermittent light to moderate rain (light snow over higher reaches) at most places, with thunder, lightning, hailstorms, and gusty winds at a few places on Sunday.

The weather will turn partly to generally cloudy with light rain/thunder at a few places on May 13, while the weather will generally remain dry from May 14 to May 18.

On May 19, there are chances of light rain and thundershowers at a few places towards the afternoon, and the weather will remain dry from May 20 to 23, the MeT office said.

Amid inclement weather forecast, the MeT office has advised farmers to suspend farm operations during the next 24 hours. Besides, there is a possibility of landslides and shooting stones at a few vulnerable places in Jammu and Kashmir.

There is a possibility of hailstorms, gusty winds, thunder, and lightning at a few places, the MeT office said, cautioning people to avoid boating and Shikara riding during the inclement weather.

Barring the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir, the minimum temperature during the intervening nights of Saturday and Sunday was recorded above normal in all weather stations of the valley.

The day temperature was recorded 1-2 degrees Celsius above normal on the previous day, except at the tourist resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir.

The MeT office said Srinagar recorded a low of 12.6 degrees Celsius on Sunday, and it was 2.0 degrees Celsius above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 5.8 degrees Celsius, and it was 0.7 degrees Celsius above normal, while Gulmarg settled at 5.5 degrees Celsius, and it was 0.5 degrees Celsius below normal for the ski resort of north Kashmir on Sunday.

### Voters will end...

NC or the Congress, their concerns are not the priority of these parties as they only want to perpetuate their family rule," said Chugh, who is overseeing his party's campaign in the region besides in Ladakh and Telangana.

The Congress had jailed NC founder Sheikh Abdullah for over two decades but his son and grandson, Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, have joined hands with the same party, he said, adding that this underlines their "hunger for power and desperation".

Asked why the BJP is not contesting any of the three seats in the Valley, he said the party has been able to strike a chord with people with the works of the Centre and has exposed the entrenched political parties.

Sources said the BJP believes that its best hopes lie in a good performance by former minister Altaf Bukhari-led JK Apni Party and Sajad Lone's JK People's Conference as the demographics of the Muslim-majority Valley are not very suited to the party.

It is the first major election in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, in August 2019. Nearly 17.48 lakh electorate are eligible to vote in the election to the prestigious Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency and 24 candidates are in the fray.

Two other Kashmir seats, Baramulla and Anantnag-Rajouri, are headed for the polls in the fifth and sixth phases on May 20 and May 25 respectively.

PDP leader and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti is contesting from Anantnag-Rajouri, while NC's Omar Abdullah, also a former CM, is in the fray from Baramulla.

Chugh said, "We are sure that the NC, PDP and the Congress will not get people's support. They have built their politics over dead bodies." He also expressed confidence that the BJP will continue its winning streak in Ladakh, where it has fielded Tashi Gyalsen in place of sitting MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal.

Asked about the party's prospects in Telangana, where polling will be held on all 17 Lok Sabha seats on Monday, he said the party will ride the popular support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to emerge as the biggest party in the southern state.

The BJP had won four seats in 2019, its best-ever show, in the state, but the Congress' victory in the recent assembly polls and the perceived decline in the fortunes of the BRS, which ruled the state for 10 years and had won nine seats last time, has added an element of uncertainty to conventional equations.

Chugh claimed that the recent remarks of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on the Pulwama terror attack have not gone down well with voters, and the Congress will pay a price for it. The BJP has also accused Reddy of questioning the air strikes following the terror attack. (AGENCIES)

### MHA directs CAPFs...

security tasks like guarding India's international borders, anti-Naxal operations, counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency duties.

The aim of replicating the BSF West Bengal beekeeping model is to generate employment in remote locations, making friends and earning goodwill of the locals, who act as the "eyes and ears" in these areas from the security point of view, a senior BSF officer said.

Launched in November last year, the BSF unit in Nadia has installed close to 200 beehives on the India-Bangladesh alloy-made border fence till now, with a multi-pronged aim of stopping border crimes like cattle, gold and narcotics smuggling, fence cutting and engaging the population in productive remuneration-based work.

Commandant Sujeet Kumar, the commanding officer (CO) of this BSF battalion, earlier spoke to PTI and explained that the initiative was launched after it was analysed that trans-border crimes were directly linked to scanty livelihood opportunities in the region leading to allurements of locals into criminal activities.

The 'beehives on fence' initiative is aimed to engage the locals in producing honey for sale, planting flowering and fruit-bearing plants for the honeybees and also for the purpose of trade and shallow water pisciculture through the fresh ditches being made in this border area to store water, he had said.

The BSF has engaged the Ayush ministry for procuring herbal and aromatic plants to run this initiative, which has also become part of the Union government's vibrant village programme (VVP) that aims to engage local border population in productive programmes thereby stopping migration from the frontier areas that have strategic and vital importance vis-a-vis internal security.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been running the "scientific beekeeping and honey mission" for sometime but it has now been desired that the BSF West Bengal model should be adopted to boost this ongoing programme for achieving enhanced results for the locals and the forces concerned, the CAPF officer quoted above said.

More than 1 lakh saplings have been planted with the engagement of BSF personnel, Ayush ministry and hundreds of local people in the border area of Nadia since the 'beehives on border fence' model was launched late last year, he said. (Agencies)

### Army Chief visits...

advanced healthcare & community development. It is equipped with cutting-edge technologies and eco-friendly features," it posted.

The Command Hospital, virtually inaugurated by the Chief of Army Staff on April 10, 2024, has modern features and facilities that include specialised multi-discipline facility for treatment, sophisticated medical gas pipeline system, state-of-the-art fire-fighting mechanism, central air-conditioning system with optimal patient care and safety standards, effluent treatment plant and sewage treatment facility.

The Chief of Army Staff interacted with the patients undergoing treatment and also the paramedics.

He lauded All Ranks for their professionalism and exhorted them to continue striving for excellence.

### Terrorist associate...

associate during a search operation in Bandipora. Some arms and ammunition including Pistols, Pistol magazines and rounds were recovered from his possession.

A case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police station Pethkote.

"In a joint operation, Indian Army, Bandipora Police and CRPF ,arrested one terrorist associate along with arms & ammunition. Case registered under relevant section of law in PS Pethkote", Police said on X.

### Arms, Ammunition...

Besides nine IEDs fitted with electric detonators and three pistols along with three magazines and 20 rounds, the forces also recovered one kg explosive powder, seven explosive safety fuses, 21 batteries of various types, 50 metre electric wire, 15 Ak assault rounds, eight metre rope, one blanket and three dressing bandages, the officials said.

They said the operation was still continuing when last reports were received.

## AM MG Jammu celebrates Mother's Day with heartfelt tributes and festive fun

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 12

AM MG Jammu, a part of the renowned AM Group, celebrated Mother's Day with great enthusiasm and heartfelt tributes to mothers. The event, held at the new MG showroom in Jammu, was a memorable affair, attended by various social media influencers along with their mothers. The celebration featured a range of activities designed to honor mothers, including a "Best Mom Selfie" contest, where guests took selfies with their mothers and shared stories about why their mom is the best. There was also a "Mother's Day Tribute Wall," where guests wrote heartfelt messages and stuck them



on the wall to express their love and appreciation for their mothers. Guests were treated to a delightful musical performance, creating a warm and festive atmosphere. The highlight of the event was the heartfelt speeches by guests, expressing gratitude and love for their mothers. Many shared touching stories and memories, thanking their mothers for their unconditional love, sacrifices, and unwavering support. RJ Tani from Radio Mirchi added to the charm of the evening with her lively anchoring, engaging the audience and keeping the spirits high throughout the celebration. Raj Mahajan, Vandana Mahajan, Sharmila Mahajan and Sakshi Mahajan from the AM Group graced the

event, further enhancing the familial atmosphere. The occasion also celebrated the recent launch of the new state-of-the-art showroom and service facility of MG Jammu. The showroom offers a wide range of MG cars, showcasing the latest models and features. The service facility is equipped with advanced tools and technologies, ensuring top-notch service and maintenance for MG vehicles. The Mother's Day celebration at AM MG Jammu was a heartfelt tribute to mothers, filled with love, gratitude, and joyful moments. It not only celebrated motherhood but also showcased the commitment of AM Group to create memorable experiences for its customers.

## SSH new unit framed at village Jindlarh of Block RS Pura



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 12

Shiv Sena Hindustan under the chairmanship of J&K President Pit Rajesh Kesari Sunday framed party's unit at village Jindlarh of Block RS Pura in which Thodu Ram was made President, Kulwinder Kumar Vice President, Somnath treasurer, Swarn Kumar General Secretary, Rajan Kumar appointed Secretary of village Jindlarh unit. The new unit was garlanded with flowers by Vice President Balveer Kumar. Kesri while welcoming new entrants into party fold said that Shiv Sena Hindustan had been running a campaign against drugs for a year, for which we went from village to village and shared information with Police against those selling drugs to the people. He said his party organized awareness camps so that those who are hell-bent to destroy our younger generation can be put behind bars with the help of the police and locals because these people are spoiling the future of our young generation by intoxicating them, hence no one should maintain any kind of friendship with these people, even from the village. Those who are involved in this heinous

crime should be thrown out from the boundary of village. Drug sellers are enemies of the society and the country. Such people have no right to live in society as they deserve jail which is their real home. Kesri observed that it is the need of an hour that the pace of this drug abdication should be reduced. In order to curb this problem the first and foremost step which the government of Jammu and Kashmir has to take is strict action against drug peddlers, opioid cultivators, and chemist shops that sell psychotropic medicines. Another important responsibility is of parents and teachers. Instead of scolding their wards who have become addicted to drugs, they have to deal with them with love and patience. They should try to increase the morale and confidence of drug addicts that they can shun this vice. Parents should also consult professional interventionists to help find the real cause of stress and ways to manage it, added Kesri. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Captain Ghara Ram, Suresh Kumar, Balwant Fauji, Rajkumar Babaji, Rajesh Kumar, Darshani Devi, Rajni Devi, Neeru Devi besides others.

## Indian Army Organised 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' at Gambhir Brahmana, Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MAY 12

Cleanliness is a fundamental aspect of a healthy life. It encompasses both our personal hygiene and the tidiness of our surroundings. To increase awareness about personal hygiene & sanitation and healthy life amongst people residing in remote area, Indian Army organised a Swachh Bharat Abhiyan for Healthy Life on 12 May 2024 at Gambhir Brahmana village in Rajouri District. During this event, an awareness lecture was also con-

ducted to increase awareness amongst the children, youth and resident populace residing in remote areas regarding various diseases and their symptoms alongwith proactive measures to stem the tide and also emphasize on importance of good eating habits, balanced diet plan and maintaining. Personal hygiene and sanitation to increase happiness quotient amongst the gathering. On this occasion, all personnel also took a pledge to ensure cleanliness of their homes, workplace and surrounding areas.

## ZNS NIST Academy opens their branch in Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 12

ZNS NIST Academy the premier destination for aspiring fashion and makeup enthusiasts, is thrilled to announce its grand opening! Located in the heart of UDHAMPUR ZNS is set to revolutionize the industry by providing unparalleled education, hands-on experience, and a platform for creativity to flourish. At ZNS NIST we believe in nurturing talent and empowering individuals to realize their full potential in the dynamic worlds of fashion and makeup. Our expert instructors bring years of industry experience and a passion for teaching to every class, ensuring that students receive the highest quality skills education. The Grand opening inauguration ceremony done by Sh. Lal Chand (DDC Chairman Udhampur) along with Shabir Malik MD ZNS NIST & in presence of Shivangi Dogra ( Centre Head Udhampur) ZNS NIST already have centres in Gandhinagar



& Bari Brahmana where Quality skills education is the key motive. Whether you're dreaming of becoming a top fashion designer, a sought-after makeup artist, or a successful entrepreneur in the beauty industry, ZNS NIST provides the tools, resources, and support you need to succeed. In addition to our comprehensive curriculum ZNS NIST offers state-of-the-art facilities, including fully-equipped design studios, makeup labs, and photo studios. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate with industry professionals, participate in fashion shows and photo shoots, and build a portfolio that showcases their talent and creativity. "We are thrilled to launch ZNS NIST Academy and provide a platform for aspiring fashion and makeup enthusiasts to turn their passion into a successful career," says MD SHABIR MALIK. Our mission is to empower individuals to express themselves through fashion and makeup, and we look forward to inspiring the next generation of creative talent. Enrollment for ZNS NIST ACADEMY Udhampur is now open for admissions for various courses like Hairstyling & Makeup, Fashion Designing, Hair Dressing & Nails Extensions with Professional.

## Dogri Sanstha Jammu organized multilingual Kavi Goshthi



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 12

Dogri Sanstha Jammu organized multilingual Kavi Goshthi at Dogri Bhawan, Dogri Sanstha, Karan Nagar Jammu in which prominent poets of Dogri, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu participated. The Goshthi was presided over by Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu. The Kavi Goshthi started with tributes paid to eminent Punjabi poet Surjit Patar who left for heavenly abode because of heart attack early in the morning. Swami Antar Neerav displayed Surjit

Patar's last recording of one of his poems that he had recited in a Kavi Goshthi just last evening. Thereafter Sushil Begana, Literary Secretary, Dogri Sanstha Jammu started the proceedings of Kavi Goshthi. The poets who participated in Kavi Goshthi include Prof. Lalit Magotra, Susheel Begana, Promila Manhas, Pawan Verma in Dogri, Kamaljit Chowdhary, Krishan Kumar, Sudhir Mahajan in Hindi, Dr. Baljit Singh Raina, Swami Antar Neerav, Balwinder Singh, Javid Rahi in Punjabi, Liyaqat Zafri, Deepak Aarsi and Ankur Rastogi in Urdu language.

While presiding over the function Prof. Lalit Magotra said that it was a very successful Kavi Goshthi as all the participants have carved a niche with colossal contributions in their respective languages. He assured that such an initiative will be a regular feature to promote literary culture in the region wherein prominent poets will continue inspiring others to pen down meaningful poetry, a necessity of time also. This multilingual Kavi Goshthi was attended by quite a good number of litterateurs and poetry lovers of different languages.

## 'Mentor India Programme': KU faculty selected regional 'Mentor of Change' for JK

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 12

The University of Kashmir (KU) Sunday announced that its faculty Dr Javid Ahmad Sheikh from the Department of Electronics and Instrumentation Technology, has been selected as 'Regional Mentor of Change (RMoC)' for the year 2024-2025 by the NITI Aayog, GoI, for Jammu and Kashmir. The Mentor India programme is a national movement being led by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, wherein skilled professionals provide pro-bono mentoring to young school student innovators, with a strong sentiment towards nation building. AIM calls the skilled professionals 'Mentors of Change'.

Tinkering Labs and encourage students to experiment, innovate, and bring their 21st century skills to practice, an official statement issued here read. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is India's flagship initiative to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship with over 5000 'Mentors of Change' helping realise the potential of the stakeholders under NITI Aayog's guidance. "The role of RMoC is to be closely working with AIM team to guide and assist the Jammu and Kashmir ATAL tinkering labs community, mentoring the mentors, activating the mentors, solving their operational problems, providing innovation landscape among the students besides innovate events," a spokesperson said. Dr Javid termed it an honour to be part of the 81 RMoC members selected for supporting AIM's mission of encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship.

In her congratulatory message, KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan termed it a remarkable feat and a special moment for the varsity. "The whole university community is delighted as it is successfully making a mark at both national and international arena and is resolute towards attaining excellence across domains," she said. KU Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal, also congratulated Dr Javid for the assignment at the national level and considered it "a recognition and an opportunity to contribute towards nation building, by mentoring young innovators and empowering them accordingly". Head, Department of Electronics and Instrumentation Technology, Prof. Tariq Bandy, lauded Dr Javid's dedication and expertise, and emphasised the positive impact his mentorship will have on the innovation ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, the statement read.

## 84 Bn CRPF organizes "Free Medical Camp" at Kud Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 12

On 12 May 24, 84 Bn CRPF organized a day long Free Medical Camp at Govt Higher Secondary School Kud, Udhampur. The Camp was attended by approximately 250 needy villagers, including elderly persons, women and children. The participants were attended by Dr Anu Gorke SMO/DC 84 Bn and Dr Manish Rundla MO/AC 137 Bn. The locals were provided free Medical Treatment and medicines during the camp. The Camp was inaugurated by Sh N Ranbir Singh Commandant 84 Bn. While speaking, during the function; he stated that CRPF is entrusted with the responsibilities of Internal Security of the large and diverse country, India. Therefore, CRPF is deployed across the length and breadth of the country. He highlighted about the glorious history of CRPF and its paramount contribution in nation building. He also highlighted about the various initiatives taken up by the CRPF and reiterated CRPF's unflinching com-



mitment towards the welfare and well-being of the local people. 84 Bn CRPF is deployed in J&K, with all of its Coys in Ramban and Udhampur. The Unit is securing a stretch of more than 45 km of NH 44, which is the major lifeline to the Kashmir valley. Besides rendering its services of securing the Nation, CRPF also carries out social outreach program to augment its connect with the local populace. It is with this objective that 84 Bn CRPF, under the aegis of Jammu Sector CRPF, is organizing the program at Govt Higher Secondary School Kud, Udhampur, as the people in the area do not have easy access to good

healthcare facilities. Sh Vikram Singh Second in Command, Sh Rishi Parashar Asstt Cdt, Sh Y Darpan Singh Asstt Cdt of 84 Bn, officers and personnel of 84 Bn, Insp Umesh Thakur SHO Kud, Sh Kuldeep Raj Sarpanch Kud, Sh Bidia Sagar Ward member Kud and Smt Sapna Ward member Kud and members of print and electronic media were also present during the function. Light refreshments were served to the local participants during the camp. Sh Kuldeep Raj Sarpanch Kud and local participants profusely thanked 84 Bn CRPF for the noble initiative.

## Aryans celebrates International Nurses Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 12TH

Aryans Institute of Nursing (AIN), Rajpura, Near Chandigarh celebrated International Nurses Day under the theme "Our Nurses, Our Future. The economic power of care". Dr. Varinder Garg, OSD to President (PGIMER), Union Health Minister, India; Principal Investigator, Indian Council of Medical Research, CIBioD, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh was the Chief Guest while the Guests of Honour were Dr. Puneet Girdhar, Joint Director, Medical Education, Punjab; S. Gurdyal Singh Buttar, President, Nursing Training Institute Association (NTIA), Punjab & Dr. Gurpreet Singh, Joint Secretary, Punjab Uniaided Colleges Association (PUCA). Dr.

Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group presided over. PGI expert, Dr. Varinder Garg said that while doctors are hailed for their medical genius, the contribution of nurses may often be relegated to the shadows of the hospital corridors. However, times is changing, and one of the biggest examples in the recent past has been that of the Covid-19 pandemic. Dr. Puneet Girdhar mentioned that International Nurses Day is a time to recognize and appreciate the exceptional contributions of nurses to healthcare. Their selfless dedication, tireless efforts, and compassionate care make them the true heroes of healthcare. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group said that as we celebrate this special day, let us express our heartfelt

gratitude to all nurses around the world for their invaluable contributions to society. Let us honor their unwavering commitment to patient care and acknowledge their role as champions of health and well-being." Nidhi Chopra, Principal, Aryans Institute of Nursing gave information that the students also took the oath to uphold the values of their Nursing profession. Students while taking oath pledged to serve the society with their profession during their studies as well as after the completion of their course. It is to be mentioned that International Nurses day is celebrated every year on 12th May to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, who is widely considered the founder of modern nursing.

## EDITORIAL

## A path to sustainability for J&K

In the face of pressing environmental concerns and the urgent need to curb carbon emissions, the recent directive by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to solarize all Government buildings within Jammu and Kashmir couldn't have come at a more crucial time. This move signifies not just a step, but a significant leap towards a greener and more sustainable future for the region. With abundant sunlight and natural resources at its disposal, Jammu and Kashmir stands poised to harness the power of the sun and lead the charge towards renewable energy adoption. Jammu and Kashmir's energy landscape has long been marked by challenges, from power shortages to environmental constraints on traditional energy sources. Despite its potential for hydroelectric generation, factors like unpredictable rainfall and diminishing water levels in major rivers have hindered progress. Moreover, concerns over the environmental impact of coal and demographic pressures have limited its exploitation. In this context, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power emerge as not just alternatives, but as imperative solutions. The decision to prioritize solarization aligns perfectly with the region's interests, both environmental and economic. By reducing carbon footprints and setting an example of responsible governance, the Government not only addresses immediate energy needs but also sets the stage for long-term sustainability. However, challenges remain, particularly in meeting established targets for solarization. The untapped solar power potential of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, now Union Territories, remains a glaring missed opportunity amidst the global push for renewable energy adoption. Reports reveal a dismal performance, with less than one percent of the staggering 111 Gigawatts (GWs) solar power potential being utilized over the last four years. This neglect is concerning, especially considering the Central government's directives to maximize solar energy harnessing across states and Union Territories. To overcome these hurdles, the Administration has extended subsidy schemes and launched awareness campaigns to encourage adoption. The recent directive to solarize all offices in the region underscores a commitment to user-friendly, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly solutions. By exploring innovative avenues like floating solar power plants and installations along canals and riverbanks, Jammu and Kashmir demonstrates a holistic approach to maximizing solar potential. But success hinges not just on directives, but on effective policy formulation, infrastructure development, and public engagement. Streamlining regulatory processes, incentivizing investments, and providing technical assistance are crucial steps. Moreover, raising awareness about the economic and environmental benefits of solarization is essential for widespread adoption. Embracing solar energy isn't just about meeting energy needs; it's about fostering a green economy, creating jobs, and enhancing energy security. It's about building a sustainable future for generations to come. While the journey to solar power may have its challenges, the path forward is clear: Jammu and Kashmir must seize the opportunity to lead the charge towards a brighter, more sustainable future powered by the sun.

## Precision agriculture: Key to food security

PARAG ACHARYA

India's population is projected to reach approximately 1.7 billion by 2050. It would be a significant challenge for Indian agriculture to meet the food demands of such a vast population amidst the emerging challenges of climate change. Additionally, the sector faces issues such as an ageing farmer population. Younger generations are increasingly veering away from taking over the family agricultural farm, choosing other, more lucrative and less labour-intensive career paths over agriculture. To address these challenges, the adoption of modern farming techniques like precision farming and digital smart agriculture becomes imperative to ensure sustainable food production and the future prosperity of Indian agriculture.

A recent parliamentary panel has emphasized the importance of promoting agricultural mechanization, particularly for small and marginal farmers and has advocated for the integration of tiny robots and Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Indian farm operations to address the challenges posed by fragmented land holdings. Furthermore, the panel recommended the establishment of a 'National Institute of Agricultural Robotics and Artificial Intelligence' to ensure that India remains at the forefront of agricultural development both domestically and internationally. On August 23,

2022, regarding Farm Mechanization, the Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education revealed that India's mechanisation level stands at 47 per cent, trailing China (59.5 per cent), Brazil (75 per cent) and the US (95 per cent). The level of mechanisation varies greatly by region inside India too. Northern States boast higher rates (70-80 per cent), driven by fertile land, labour decline and State backing. Southern and eastern States lag (35-45 per cent) due to fragmented land holdings. North-eastern States struggle due to terrain, equipment costs and socio-economic factors.

Certainly, agriculture has evolved steadily from a traditional, labour-intensive model to a sophisticated, technology-driven system. Key milestones include the establishment of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK). The development of high-yielding, cost-effective, disease/pest-resistant and climate-resilient varieties and technologies across crops, horticulture, animal husbandry and fisheries sciences by ICAR has significantly bolstered production and productivity. However, while acknowledging these strides, it's imperative to recognize that the pace of progress must match the urgency of our times.

Throughout history, people have always sought easier, faster and

more efficient ways to get things done. This pursuit has sparked a technological revolution that merges age-old farming practices with cutting-edge innovations like the Internet of Things (IoT) known as Ag-IoT. It is a huge change in farming that could shake up how we grow, manage and protect our food. Its solutions are not merely about efficiency; they are about empowering farmers to achieve greater time efficiency, productivity and precision in their daily tasks. It's like having a super smart assistant that can take care of land, animals, crops and farms without needing humans to do everything. People also call it precision agriculture, smart agriculture, or digital agriculture.

It is like a big step forward in farming because it uses data to make decisions, making everything more efficient and productive. Through Ag-IoT, the very pulse of plant and animal needs can be sensed. The farmers can keep an eye on the soil all the time, control watering systems from afar and even check on the health of their animals without being right there. It's super handy because it can predict how much crops will grow accurately. In every aspect, Ag-IoT stands poised to revolutionize the landscape of crop management, insect and pest surveillance, food warehousing, livestock care, disease monitoring, dairy operations, supply chain logistics and beyond.

The evolution of drone

technology has opened up boundless possibilities in the realm of crop assessment and monitoring. One such pioneering initiative, the NaMo Drone Didi Initiative, stands as a beacon of empowerment for rural women. In a momentous gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally handed over 1000 drones to 1000 Namo Drone Didi across 10 locations nationwide at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Pusa, New Delhi. These drones will help them do things like check on crops, spray fertilizers and plant seeds. Prime Minister Modi's announcement of the 'Drone Didi' yojana 2023-24 further underscores the Government's dedication to leveraging technology for the betterment of society. Significant financial allocations during 2020-21 and 2021-22, by the Indian Government including INR 1756.3 crores and INR 2422.7 crores respectively to States for the integration of cutting-edge technologies like drones, artificial intelligence, blockchain, remote sensing and GIS into agriculture and INR 7302.50 crores and INR 7908.18 crores were made in the same periods to ICAR for R&D, further demonstrate the Government's dedication to modernizing agriculture.

Technological strides like RFID tags (radio frequency identification) and systems like NLS (National Livestock Identification Scheme) and INAPH (Information Network for Animal Productivity

& Health) have propelled Precision Dairy Farming.

With swift electronic scanning and data integration, farmers can efficiently manage cow health, productivity and records, marking a significant shift in the dairy industry towards precision and efficiency. Meanwhile, in the aquaculture industry, companies like Aquaconnect and Shrimpbbox are leveraging technology to revolutionize shrimp farming. Aquaconnect employs artificial intelligence and satellite sensing technologies to monitor farm performance and provide advice to shrimp and fish farmers, predominantly small to medium-scale operations. Shrimpbbox, on the other hand, specializes in shrimp farming in colder climates and landlocked areas, boasting impressive productivity with minimal water usage and without antibiotics. Cropin Technology, based in Bengaluru, has developed Aksara, an open-source microlanguage model tailored for climate-smart farming.

In India, the World Economic Forum's AI for Agriculture Innovation (AI4AI) initiative, led by C4IR India, is revolutionizing farming through AI. The 'Saagu Baagu' pilot in Telangana's Khammam district, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Digital Green, exemplifies this success. With over 7,000 farmers benefiting, chilli yields surged by 21 per cent, pesticide use decreased by 9 per cent,

fertilizer usage dropped by 5 per cent and unit prices improved by 8 per cent. Consequently, farmers doubled their earnings, with incomes rising by over INR 66,000 per acre per crop cycle. Overall, AI interventions at 175 farms in India have boosted crop yields by 30 per cent, as per the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

In conclusion, the future of Indian agriculture hinges on a blend of tradition and innovation. With a burgeoning population and dwindling resources, precision agriculture offers a crucial pathway to sustainably feed 1.7 billion people. If established, the 'National Institute of Agricultural Robotics and Artificial Intelligence' would catapult Indian agriculture into unprecedented realms of excellence. The benefits of farm mechanization must permeate every corner of our nation, bridging divides and fostering inclusivity. We cannot afford to overlook those who are marginalized by the digital divide, particularly our small-scale farmers. As we look towards the future, let us remain committed to nurturing a vibrant, tech-enabled agrarian ecosystem that empowers farmers, preserves natural resources and ensures food security for generations to come.

(The writer is a scientist, at Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar; their views are personal)

## Memories of GE's Crotonville

GOPICHAND KATRAGADDA

In the initial weeks of my tenure at General Electric in India, I was accidentally introduced to an important aspect of the company. My manager in the US nominated me for the Manager Development Course (MDC) at GE's Crotonville campus. At the time, the significance of this nomination barely dawned on me, until our local HR expressed concerns, fearing it was a reward bestowed too early, recommending that I take up the opportunity after a year. This was my first introduction to the legendary Crotonville, a significant part of the GE Culture and Leadership development. I attended MDC at Crotonville later,

which was an experience that deeply shaped my understanding of leadership and development.

Over the years, Crotonville became a recurring chapter in my career narrative. I was privileged to attend several leadership training sessions in an unparalleled learning environment. The courses often ran for two to three weeks, and were led by some of the world's foremost experts in industry, academia, and within GE's senior leadership. Jeff Immelt, then Chairman and CEO of GE, was a guest speaker at all the senior-level Crotonville courses. His presence at these sessions underscored the importance GE placed on continuous learning and development at all levels

of the organisation.

In addition, Jeff and all his direct reportees appeared throughout the leadership sessions, talking about business or functional priorities and seeking inputs from the participants. The participants were from around the globe, and diverse in many ways. Many times, heated debates would ensue between the participants and the senior GE leadership. Learning from each other, asking questions, and discussion and debates were all important aspects of learning.

A memorable session for me at Crotonville was the Leadership Innovation and Growth strategy workout. Jeff Immelt was a fellow participant sitting with the rest of us in the

learning pit throughout this three-day session!

Learning extended beyond the confines of the classroom. We travelled globally, engaging with other companies and expanding our understanding of global business dynamics. Back in Crotonville, the evenings unfolded with camaraderie and networking at what was affectionately known as the White House, where we partied and formed spontaneous friendships that endured. One of my experiences was a learning trip to understand 'Lean' from leading manufacturing companies. My travel was on a charter flight with Gary Reiner, GE's CIO, where we spent the whole trip discussing Maxwell's

equations. It was amazing to see the keen interest from Gary on a topic far from his profession and training. This was how GE leaders were - curious to the core and constantly learning. While some Crotonville courses were replicated locally, the unique essence of being at Crotonville was irreplaceable. The residential programme, with its long duration and the architectural grace of its buildings, contributed to an immersive experience that was second to none.

Today, with a tinge of nostalgia, I reflect on the news that GE has sold Crotonville. Having visited numerous other corporate learning centres, I can assert that none rival the holistic experience Crotonville offered.

The quality of the participants, the expertise of the faculty, and the meticulously curated experiences were unparalleled.

Crotonville was more than just a training centre; it was an institution that epitomised the zenith of corporate learning and development. The closure of such a landmark symbolises the end of an era. While the corporate world will continue to evolve and adopt new methods for leadership development, the legacy of Crotonville will remain a high watermark, a testament to what corporate training can achieve. Its impact on thousands of leaders, including myself, will be cherished, and its absence keenly felt. There will truly be no other like it.

## Traits of a Successful Person

RAVI VALLURI

There is a part of us that will not let us be content until we become all that we are capable of being. Life is not about resting on our past achievements and laurels and residing in our comfort zone. It is an adventure from being ordinary to extraordinary. One's current situation may be good, but if a greater opportunity presents itself, one must be open to expanding. This does not mean you are to run away or violate your integrity.

Muscles stay strong and flexible only by use and stretching and so does our mind. The challenge is the way of the universe and showing us the path that the bigger we assume that form and shape. We should bless our dreams and our desires to identify the opportunity that is lurking as there would be several chances arising around

the corner. We need the courage and humility to ask the Universe to provide such opportunities, leave behind all our limitations and step forward to live life as magnificent and gigantic as ordained by the Universe.

Successful people stretch their hands and take up responsibility which empowers them to enter uncharted territories. This increases the level of their prana/chi, attention span and nature of work, adding a new dimension to the personality. Successful people are never straight-jacketed in their approach and revel in taking risks. Only risk-takers become game-changers.

Rahul Bajaj's sons Rajiv and Sanjiv embarked upon a fascinating idea to salvage the scrap of the decommissioned INS Vikrant to manufacture scooters. It was an innovative idea, utilizing scrap in



a novel manner. While the bottom line of the exercise may be to generate profit, the unattainable thought is audacious. Therefore, successful entrepreneurs never kill an idea. An ingenious idea can be a platform for a radical discovery.

An awesome idea is breathtaking and amazing, stunning and awe-

inspiring. When the idea germinates, something stupendous takes place. Think big and do not listen to people who tell you it can't be done. "Life is too short to think small", writes Tim Ferriss. The Universe listens to our deepest thoughts. If the thought is positive, we are blessed with positive results.

ing in teams.

The Universe believes in the Laws of Attraction, the Laws of Abundance, the Laws of Gratefulness and the Laws of Spiralling Effect. All this gets transformed into what Darren Hardy calls the Compound Effect. Next, we ought to always feel blessed and have faith that a superior power is guiding us in our

endeavours. There is a superior intelligence that is always creating wonderful opportunities for us and these should be grabbed and seized with humility.

A triumphant individual hinges his belief on the thought that the Divine will take care of everything and by simply reposing faith in that Superior Power. Successful People work on these principles where the football swerves like a parabola and enters the net and we are benumbed, giving a standing ovation. That is the miracle performed. Choose to call it the power of the Almighty or the architecture of the Universe. But this works on the premise of the power of positive thinking and becoming successful.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

## 'Anaemia a preventable health threat in girls, women in India'

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Anaemia is a very common yet preventable threat among girls and women in India, said health experts on Sunday.

A deficiency of healthy red blood cells or haemoglobin needed to carry oxygen to the body's tissues raises the risk of anaemia. The condition is more common among women and girls. Lack of a proper iron-rich diet, particularly among women in their reproductive age can result in tiredness, weakness, and shortness of breath, the experts noted.

According to the National Family Health Survey 5 (NFHS-5, 2019-21), 25 per cent of men (aged 15-49 years) and 57 per cent of women (aged 15-49 years) suffer from anaemia.

"Anaemia is a very common and another rampant problem in Indian ladies, especially, due to intake of a diet low in iron and sometimes, it is genetically determined also. A vegetarian diet is quite low in iron and hence, supplements are necessary," Dr M. Wali, Senior Consultant, Department of Medicine, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital said.



"Pregnancy increases the requirement of iron and also lactation, so these two conditions are particular to the females," he added.

The doctor further noted that anaemia is prevalent in both rural and urban women in India.

"Most Indian urban women who are dieting to reduce weight become deficient and rural women because of hard work, increased requirements, increased loss of the menstrual blood due to infection or otherwise repeated childbirth, so all these causes lead to lack of blood or anaemia," Dr Wali said.

The NFHS- data shows that anaemia is also highly prevalent among young adolescent boys (31 per cent), and adolescent girls (59 per cent) aged between 15 and 19 years, as well as in pregnant women (52.2

per cent) between 15 and 49 years, and also in small children (67 per cent) aged between 6 months and below 5 years.

Common indicators of anaemia include fatigue, pale complexion, breathlessness, dizziness, and cold extremities.

"Anaemia poses a significant health challenge in India, especially for women as they are more prone to lower haemoglobin levels owing to their distinct physiological requirements, including menstrual and pregnancy-related blood loss," Dr Rahul Bhargava, Principal Director & Chief BMT, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram, said.

Importantly, the health experts pointed out that the condition progresses slowly and discreetly, and is difficult to detect. The symptoms also tend to appear late. They advised eating foods rich in iron or

taking supplements.

"Anaemia is very difficult to detect, most of the time it is slowly developing. Symptoms like breathlessness (an important symptom), chest pain (sometimes mistaken as heart pain), difficulty in pregnancy, palpitation, headache, and easy fatigability appear very late," Dr Wali said.

"Many women quietly battle anaemia -- a preventable threat in India. By promoting a balanced diet rich in iron, advocating for accessible iron supplements available through government systems, and emphasising regular screening, we can empower women to combat anaemia and embrace healthier lives together," Dr Ameet Babre, National Programme Manager at Nutrition International, said.

The most effective preventive measures against anaemia involve adopting an iron-rich diet, which includes lean meats, poultry, fish, legumes, tofu, leafy greens like spinach and kale, fortified cereals, and nuts, Dr Bhargava said.

Fruits like guava, banana, figs, and pomegranate may also help combat anaemia.

## 89 pc Indian mothers concerned about kids' screen time

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

A whopping 89 per cent of Indian mothers are concerned about the screen time of their children, according to a report on Sunday.

The report, released by market research firm Techarc on Mother's Day, is based on a survey of 600 working mothers, across four metro cities, having at least one child between grade 3-10 in school.

It explores insights on the digital ecosystem in which mothers operate today viz-a-viz the challenges, concerns, interests, and preferences.

"Mothers believe that increased screen time affects their studies and has a negative impact on the mental and physical



health of their children," the report said.

Further, the report showed that privacy (81 per cent), inappropriate content (72 per cent), teenage influencers (45 per cent), deep fakes, and impersonation (26 per cent) were other top concerns bothering mothers.

Mothers feel that deep fakes and Gen AI will add

to their future parenting worries as they get to see the rising cases along with learning how these can be negatively used to malign the reputation and credibility of individuals.

Among the devices, mothers are concerned about the expected popularity of VR headsets, especially after the launch of Apple Vision Pro.

Mothers believe that "this form factor will zone out their children who will lose attentiveness towards the environment adding to their distractions," the report said.

On the other hand, mothers also found the digital world much more useful and relevant for children, compared to five years ago.

More than 60 per cent of the mothers spent 51-85 per cent on their children through digital mediums buying various goods and services. Nearly 20 per cent of digital savvy mothers spent more than 85 per cent, the report said.

Mothers' most trusted digital partners include Amazon (for shopping), Swiggy (for food), and Disney Hotstar (for entertainment)

## More than 1 in 5 new mothers experience postpartum depression: Doctors

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

While parenthood comes as a blessing for many, for more than 20 per cent of mothers, the new chapter of life creates stress, anxiety and postpartum depression, which can turn fatal for both the mother and child, without adequate support, said doctors on Mother's Day on Sunday.

Mother's Day is celebrated every year on the second Sunday of May.

Postpartum depression is common but a treatable medical condition that many women face after childbirth. While the exact cause can be difficult to identify, several factors contribute to these feelings of sadness, anxiety, and tiredness. These can result from genetics, hormonal changes, sleep deprivation, fatigue, or the pressure of becoming a mother. The overall pooled estimate of the prevalence of postpartum depression was 22 per cent reporting postpartum depression within



two weeks of delivery.

"The journey to parenthood presents couples with a myriad of challenges, often impacting their emotional well-being profoundly. The complexities surrounding late pregnancies, assisted conception methods like IVF, and the burden of preterm deliveries weigh heavily on maternal mental health," Dr Saurabh Mehrotra, Associate Director, Psychiatry, Institute of Neurosciences, Medanta, Gurugram, said.

Studies reveal that maternal mental illness during pregnancy correlates with adverse outcomes for both mother

and child, including preterm delivery and poor neurodevelopment.

"At Medanta, we witness approximately 70-80 per cent of mothers having post-partum blues out of which 20 per cent of mothers with postpartum depression grapple with such mental health challenges, emphasising the critical need for comprehensive emotional support and holistic care throughout the perinatal period," Dr Saurabh said.

The symptoms of postpartum depression include insomnia, loss of appetite, intense irritability, and even difficulty bonding with the baby.

For mothers facing the postpartum blues, asking for help may be one of the most crucial steps, as it may help them easily bond with the baby, the experts said. But, "if left untreated, the condition can last several months or longer," Dr Teji Dawane, Senior Consultant, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Motherhood Hospitals, Whitefield, Bengaluru, said.

"One of the first steps in addressing postpartum depression is early detection through screenings during prenatal and postnatal care and giving importance to emotional well-being. It is also encouraged to seek help from professional support services such as counselling and therapy," Dr Teji said. Sometimes, treatment options also include medication like antidepressants to manage symptoms effectively. It is equally important to create a supportive family environment and develop self-care practices for new parents, the experts noted.

## Premature menopause may raise risk of early death: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Women who enter menopause before the age of 40 are more likely to die young, finds a study.

The study presented at the 26th European Congress of Endocrinology in Sweden, however, showed that the risk can be lowered with hormone replacement therapy (HRT) -- the most common treatment.

While most women experience menopause between the ages of 45 and 55, about 1 per cent experience menopause before the age of 40 years, known as premature menopause or premature ovarian insufficiency



(POI). It increases the risk of long-term health problems such as heart disease.

The reason behind this remains largely unknown but can be brought on spontaneously or by some medical treatments such as chemotherapy or by surgically removing the ovaries.

The team from the

University of Oulu, in Finland, examined 5,817 women who were diagnosed with spontaneous or surgical premature ovarian insufficiency in Finland, between 1988 and 2017, and compared them with 22,859 women without POI.

The results revealed spontaneous premature ovarian insufficiency

more than twice raised the risk of dying of any cause or heart disease, and more than four times from cancer.

On the other hand, the risk of all-cause and cancer mortality halved in women who used HRT drugs for more than six months. Further, women with early menopause from surgery were not found to have any added mortality risk.

"Our findings suggest specific attention should be paid to the health of women with spontaneous premature ovarian insufficiency to decrease excess mortality," said Hilla Haapakoski, a doctoral student at the University of Oulu, in Finland.

## Zydus gets final nod from USFDA to market generic arthritis drug

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 11

Indian drug maker Zydus Lifesciences on Saturday announced receiving final approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to market a generic medication for arthritis and other conditions.

The company received approval to market Dexamethasone Tablets USP, 1 mg, in the US.

Dexamethasone is used to treat conditions such



as arthritis, blood/hormone disorders, allergic reactions, skin diseases, eye problems, breathing problems, bowel disorders, cancer and immune system disorders.

The product will be

manufactured at the group's formulation manufacturing facility at Baddi, Himachal Pradesh, the drug maker said.

According to the data by the global provider of advanced analytics, technology solutions IQVIA, Dexamethasone tablets had an annual sales of \$1.8 million in the US.

Earlier in the week, Zydus Lifesciences received final approval

from the USFDA to market Dapson Gel, 7.5 per cent.

Dapson Gel is used to treat acne and will be manufactured at the group's topical manufacturing facility at Changodar in Gujarat's Ahmedabad.

As of December last year, the group has 395 approvals and has so far filed more than 460 Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDAs) since the commencement of the filing process in FY 2003-04, the company mentioned.

## 36 pc adults say social media taught them about mental health issues: Report

AGENCIES  
SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 11

While a third of adults are attempting to spend less time on social media, more than one in three adults (36 per cent) reported that social media has taught them about mental health issues, a new report has revealed.

According to the US-based healthcare company CVS Health, about 48 per cent mentioned that they are likely to turn to mental well-being apps for care.

As per Taft Parsons III, MD, VP and Chief Psychiat-



ric Officer, CVS Health, the increasing use of technology has helped grow access to mental healthcare.

"But as we navigate the effects social media has on mental health, it

has become increasingly important that we highlight its limitations and set barriers for ourselves and our children," he added.

This survey was conducted between March

19-21, 2024 in the US, among a sample of 2,202 adults.

Moreover, the report mentioned that about 65 per cent of adults have experienced concerns about their mental health as well as of their friends and family, which is an increase of 6 percentage points from 2022 and 15 percentage points from 2020.

Around 77 per cent are concerned about mental health in the country, viewing it as a top concern in line with issues such as the economy (81 per cent), the report added.

## Heart failure patients who have taken Covid vaccine likely to live longer: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 11

Patients with heart failure who are vaccinated against Covid-19 are 82 per cent more likely to live longer than those who are not vaccinated, a new study said on Saturday.

The study presented at Heart Failure 2024, a scientific congress of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), used the Korean National Health Insurance Service database to obtain information on vaccinations and clinical outcomes.

Participants who received two or

more doses of the Covid-19 vaccine were described as "vaccinated", and those who were not vaccinated or had received just one dose were defined as "unvaccinated".

Heart Failure is a life-threatening syndrome affecting more than 64 million people globally.

"In this large study of patients with heart failure, Covid-19 vaccination was associated with a lower likelihood of contracting the infection, being admitted to hospital because of heart failure, or dying from any cause during a six-month period compared with remaining unvaccinated," said



study author Dr Kyeong-Hyeon Chun of the National Health Insurance Service Ilsan Hospital, Republic of Korea.

The study comprised 651,127 heart failure patients over the age of 18. The average age was 69.5 years, and 50 per cent were female. Of the whole study population, 538,434 (83 per cent) were classified as vaccinated, and 112,693 (17 per cent) as unvaccinated.

The researchers found that vaccination was associated with an 82 per cent lower risk of all-cause mortality, 47 per cent lower risk of hospitalisation for heart failure, and 13 per cent reduced risk of Covid-19 infec-

tion compared with no vaccination.

Regarding cardiovascular complications, vaccination was associated with significantly lower risks of stroke, heart attack, myocarditis/pericarditis, and venous thromboembolism compared to no vaccination, the researchers mentioned.

"The study provides strong evidence to support vaccination in patients with heart failure. However, this evidence may not be applicable to all patients with heart failure, and the risks of vaccination should be considered in patients with unstable conditions," Chun said.

# DNA of INDI alliance & Pak seem to be similar: Yogi

**AGENCIES**  
SITAPUR (UP), MAY 12

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Sunday that the DNA of Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the INDI alliance, and Pakistan seem to be similar.

Addressing an election meeting at Gandhi Degree College, Sidhauri, Sitapur, the CM said, "The poor used to die of hunger during the time of the SP and Congress. And while people are starving to death in Pakistan, 80 crore people are getting free rations in India."

Attacking the opposition, he said, "Congress had an opportunity for 60-65 years to work for the development of India, but it did not. There was a lack of medical facilities during the UPA government. They used to play with people's faith, allow the poor to die of hunger, and drive farmers to suicide. PM Modi has lifted more people (25 crore) than the population of Pakistan above the poverty line in a span of 10 years."

He urged people to ensure that the candidates of such political parties that dare to play with the future of the country lost their deposits in this election. He was appealing for votes in favor of Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candi-



date Kaushal Kishore.

Yogi said that the corrupt and those who do not want to see India develop are upset over PM Modi becoming the Prime Minister for the third time. "The voices of the INDI alliance and Pakistan are resonating in Pakistan. They oppose India, Lord Ram, marginalised communities, including scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, daughters, and businessmen. Therefore, the citizens have decided to reelect PM Modi with an overwhelming majority to realise the dream of a developed and self-reliant India," he said.

Highlighting the development works, he said that when the BJP's Manish Rawat was elected in 2022, the maximum houses were built in Sitapur district. "We are working to develop Naimisharanya on the lines of Ayodhya Dham," he said.

The CM said, "Congress and SP didn't have

a vision for development. Just like the steam from a coal engine, the pace of development during their time was terribly slow. All that they were interested in was commissions. So, development was neglected."

He accused Congress and SP members of conspiring to tamper with the reservations for backward classes, scheduled castes, and tribes by altering the Constitution of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. He urged the public to not let the opposition interfere with their rights.

Yogi said that RJD's Lalu Prasad Yadav, a key component of the INDI alliance, had said in Bihar during the UPA government that he would give OBC reservation to the Muslims here, a proposition that India would not endorse. He emphasised that Baba Saheb had explicitly stated that reservations cannot be based on religion.

He accused the opposition of aiming to introduce a Jizya tax by imposing an inheritance tax on Indians' ancestral property. He asserted that they harbor the spirit of Aurangzeb, but India will not tolerate it. The CM said, "Aurangzeb was the cruelest ruler among the Mughals. No civilized Muslim names their children Aurangzeb, yet these Congress and SP members seek to confiscate your property through inheritance tax and dishonour the nation."

Continuing his attack on the opposition, he said that they intended to grant freedom of eating beef to the minorities, thereby promoting cow slaughter in the country if elected to power, which the country would never tolerate.

Yogi said, "It was the power of your vote that brought Lord Ram to Ayodhya after 500 years. Our generation has realised the aspirations of our forefathers. This achievement was made possible under PM Modi's guidance because your votes empowered the BJP. If the state were governed by the SP and the country by the Congress, Ram devotees would have faced bullets, akin to the events of 1990. Those who target Ram devotees, betray Ram, or support terrorists will not govern this nation."

# DG Defence Intelligence Agency leaves for 3-day official visit to Tanzania

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI MAY 12

Director General Defence Intelligence Agency (DG DIA) Lieutenant General DS Rana embarked on an official visit to the United Republic of Tanzania.

The aim of this visit, scheduled from May 13 to 15, is to further reinforce the robust defence ties between the two nations and discuss opportunities for regional security collaboration, an official statement said.

During his visit, the DG DIA is scheduled to interact with the senior military leadership of Tanzania, including the Chief of Defence Staff of Tanzania Peoples' Defence Force, General Jacob John Mkunda, and his counter-



part Maj Gen MN Mkere-my, Chief of Defence Intelligence.

He Will also visit the Tanzanian National Defence College, where he will discuss India's security perspective with future leaders of the TPDF.

The meetings will be aimed at fostering mutual understanding and strengthening bilateral defence cooperation.

Lt Gen Rana will also inaugurate the newly set up Defence Wing at the High Commission of India,

Dar Es Salaam.

As a gesture of goodwill towards expanding military cooperation, he will present the TPDF with Indian manufactured Bullet Proof Jackets.

At the Command and Staff College CSC Arusha, the DG DIA will inaugurate the Library and lay the foundation stone for the gymnasium that is being facilitated through Government of India assistance. India shares close, warm and friendly relations with Tanzania, which is bolstered by robust capacity building and avenues for defence cooperation. The visit of the Indian Military delegation is expected to further strengthen the elevated Strategic Partnership with Tanzania.

# Naveen rebuts Modi on his remark against him, says BJD will form govt in Odisha

**AGENCIES**  
BHUBANESWAR, MAY 12

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has strongly rebutted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks, stating that the BJP cannot win the confidence of the people of Odisha in the next ten years.

During his election meetings in Kandhamal, Bolangir, and Bargarh on Saturday, the Prime Minister made a scathing attack on Patnaik, accusing him of outsourcing the state government to someone who has no knowledge of Odia culture.

Modi also claimed that Odia culture and pride are in danger in Odisha, and the state is lagging in development during Naveen Patnaik's 25-year rule, despite its rich natural and mineral resources.

The Prime Minister announced in public meetings that the countdown to the exit of the Naveen Patnaik government has started and invited people to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the BJP Chief Minister on June 10 in Bhubaneswar.

In a video message, Patnaik criticised the Prime Minister, asserting that with the blessings of Lord



Jagannath and the love of the people, the BJD will form the government in the state for the sixth consecutive time.

The Chief Minister stated that the BJP cannot win the hearts and confidence of the people of the state for the next ten years, let alone this time.

Patnaik, in his 24 years of rule, has never been seen making such an aggressive and harsh remark about Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The BJD has also taken a step further, with its star campaigner and bureaucrat-turned-politician, V. K. Pandian, considered the most powerful next to the Chief Minister, announcing that Naveen Patnaik will take the oath as Chief Minister for a record sixth time on June 9 and invit-

ing the Prime Minister to grace the swearing-in ceremony in Bhubaneswar.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the people of Odisha have been with him for the last 24 years, while the BJP's central leaders, including the Prime Minister, only remember them during elections.

He asked the Prime Minister, "Do you remember the promises you made during the 2014 and 2019 elections?"

The Chief Minister reminded the people of Odisha to remember the promises you made, such as doubling the MSP for paddy for farmers, constructing a coastal highway, reducing price rises, creating two crore jobs, reducing the prices of LPG, petrol, and diesel,

waiving GST, and improving mobile connectivity in the state.

He pointed out that visiting and remembering the state only during elections will have no impact on the people.

"With the blessings of Lord Jagannath and the love and affection of the people, the BJD," he said, "will form the government in the state for the sixth consecutive time."

The Chief Minister regretted that the central government has not increased the royalty of coal in the last ten years, despite several representations from the state government.

He said, "You had sanctioned Rs. 1000 crore for the promotion of the Sanskrit language but did not bother to release funds for the Odia language."

Furthermore, the Chief Minister mentioned that he had twice requested the centre accord classical status to Odissi music, but it was rejected.

Patnaik expressed disappointment that, despite many brave sons of the state, the Prime Minister has not conferred Bharat Ratna on any of them, even forgetting to confer it upon Biju Patnaik.

# 34 killed as lava floods hit Indonesia's West Sumatra

**AGENCIES**  
JAKARTA, MAY 12

The death toll from lava floods that struck Indonesia's West Sumatra province on Saturday rose to 34, with at least five others missing, a senior official of the local disaster agency said on Sunday.

The rains poured down the area at the slope of the Marapi volcano on Saturday evening, triggering cold lava floods that hit the regencies of Tanah Datar and Agam, Fajar Sukma, head of the emergency unit of the provincial disaster management and mitigation agency, told Xinhua via phone.

"Now the number of



casualties is 34. The figure may rise as a search and rescue mission is underway. At least five people are still missing now," Sukma said.

In addition, 16 injured residents had been treated at nearby hospitals in the

regencies, said Muharrir Idwan, a senior press officer at the provincial disaster management and mitigation agency.

"As for the missing, we have set up at least two information centers in the regions. The

number of missing people may change as reports keep coming in," he told Xinhua. "The lava floods occurred at night when the residents were sleeping. Many buildings have been submerged," he added.

# BJP's plan to topple AAP govts in Delhi, Punjab failed miserably: Arvind Kejriwal

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, for the first time after his release from Tihar jail, met his party MLAs at his official residence on Sunday and hit out at Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) saying that BJP's plan to topple AAP governments in Delhi and Punjab has failed miserably.

"They couldn't topple the Delhi government. They couldn't break our MLAs. They couldn't dent the Punjab government. Their entire plan failed," the Delhi Chief Minister said while addressing the AAP legislators.

"In Tihar Jail, I kept hearing about you all. I used to talk to the staff and security guards inside the jail. They gave me updates on every MLA. I was worried that my absence might disrupt our work but you all have done a great job," said Kejriwal.

He said that Sunita Kejriwal, Delhi ministers Saurabh Bharadwaj and Atishi and Punjab Chief Minister



Bhagwant Mann used to come to meet him and he used to inquire from them about the various works in Delhi.

"Before my arrest, BJP members used to meet me. They told me that after my arrest, they would break our party, overthrow the government in Delhi, and take AAP MLAs and Bhagwant Mann with them by all means. But it turned out the opposite. After my arrest, our party came together in a much stronger way," he said.

He said that the entire political narrative of the country was against the AAP party but as the party members stood together they could not dent the

party. "The biggest congratulations for this goes to you all. I have also come to know that they tried to contact you and break you in every possible manner. But you all stood firm," the Delhi Chief Minister told MLAs.

He also told his MLAs that he has to go back to jail on June 2 and they all should take care of the party once he is lodged back in jail.

On Friday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was lodged in Tihar jail in the alleged excise scam, was released after 40 days hours after the Supreme Court granted him interim bail till June 1.

# Arvind Kejriwal announces 10 guarantees amid ongoing LS polls

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday announced 10 'Kejriwal ki guarantee' amid the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, saying that these guarantees will alleviate the country from inflation and unemployment.

"Today we are going to announce 10 Kejriwal guarantees. We are late in doing so, it got delayed due to my arrest. I have not yet discussed this with the INDIA alliance but I am confident that the INDIA alliance will not face any difficulties with these guarantees," Arvind Kejriwal said while addressing a press conference at the AAP headquarters along with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, AAP MP Sanjay Singh, and Delhi ministers Saurabh Bharadwaj and Atishi.

"After the formation of the INDIA alliance government, I will ensure that all these guarantees are fulfilled by all our colleagues," said Kejriwal, adding that these 10 guarantees are the vision of a new India.



He said that many of these tasks should have been done in the past 75 years but now on a war scale, these tasks will be completed in five years.

"Among these guarantees is one that will alleviate the country from inflation and unemployment," said the AAP National Convenor.

Taking a dig at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Kejriwal said that recently, there has been talk about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee in the country.

"The public will decide whether to trust PM Modi's guarantee or Kejriwal's guarantee. PM Modi had guaranteed that Rs 15 lakh would be deposited in everyone's account, which he did not fulfil. PM Modi guaranteed that two crore jobs would be created every year, which

he did not fulfil. PM Modi guaranteed the implementation of the Swaminathan report to ensure fair prices for farmers' produce, which he shelved after becoming PM. He also guaranteed that every household in the country would have 24-hour electricity by 2022, but many cities still face electricity issues with prolonged power cuts," the Delhi Chief Minister said.

He said that PM Modi failed to fulfil any of his promised guarantees.

"Kejriwal guaranteed free electricity, and we have provided it in Delhi and Punjab. We have ensured 24-hour electricity. We guaranteed the establishment of good schools, and we have built excellent schools for children," he said.

He said that the AAP government has fulfilled

all its guarantees while PM Modi's guarantees are not worthy of trusting.

"And now, next year, PM Modi will retire, then who will fulfil the guarantees?" the Delhi Chief Minister asked.

While divulging the details of guarantees, he said that Kejriwal's first guarantee is 24-hour electricity and free electricity for the poor within the country.

"We have calculated it. With an expenditure of Rs 1.25 lakh crore, the poor of the country will receive free electricity. The second guarantee is education. We will build excellent schools in the country, and every child will receive free education in government schools in every corner of villages and cities," said Kejriwal.

He added that the third is health and its

infrastructure. "We will arrange good treatment for everyone. Throughout the country, clinics will be opened in every village, city, and neighbourhood. District government hospitals will be turned into multi-specialty hospitals. Treatment will be free," said Kejriwal.

He said that the fourth is the nation. "China has occupied our land. Everyone knows it and there are satellite images. We will reclaim the land that China has captured through diplomatic means and give full freedom to the army to take whatever steps necessary," the Delhi Chief Minister said.

He added that the Agniveer scheme is harmful and will be discontinued.

"For farmers, the guarantee is to provide them with prices as per the Swaminathan report. Two crore jobs will be created. Corruption will be eradicated. The BJP's washing machine will be broken. For the business community, the guarantee is to abolish the GST. It will be removed from the PMLA," he said.



## UK government mulls broader ban on 'extreme protest groups'

AGENCIES  
LONDON, MAY 12

A range of organisations including Just Stop Oil and Palestine Action could be banned in the UK as "extreme protest groups" under new proposals tabled by a senior government advisor.

The approach currently applied to terrorist organisations should be used as a model, according to advisor on political violence John Woodcock, also known as Lord Walney, the BBC reported on Sunday, citing extracts from the report.

In recommendations now due to be presented to the Cabinet, Woodcock backs proscribing groups that "routinely use criminal tactics to try to achieve



their aims."

"Militant groups like Palestine Action and Just Stop Oil are using criminal tactics to create mayhem and hold the public and workers to ransom without fear of consequence," he said.

"Banning terror groups has made it harder for their activists to plan crimes - that approach

should be extended to extreme protest groups too."

If adopted, the measures could restrict a group's ability to fundraise and its right to assembly on British soil.

Climate activists from Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion have repeatedly paralysed public life

with large protests in which people have glued or chained themselves together.

Just Stop Oil rejected the proposed sanctions, arguing instead that the government were the "dangerous radicals that are endangering all of us" through their climate policies. According to the BBC, the government is considering the report's recommendations. A small number of protesters had in recent months displayed "violent and hateful behaviour," the Home Office told the broadcaster.

"Extremism of any kind has no place in our society and we will not tolerate tactics that set out to intimidate, threaten or cause disruption to the law-abiding majority."

## 10 killed in clashes between govt forces and Houthis in Yemen

AGENCIES  
ADEN, MAY 12

Ten people were killed in fierce clashes between joint Yemeni forces aligned with the internationally recognised government and the Houthi fighters in Yemen's central province of Marib, a military official told Xinhua News Agency on Sunday.

The military source said on condition of anonymity that "ferocious confrontations took place between a force from the 'Giants' brigades, part of the joint pro-government forces, and Houthi fighters" on the Harib front south of the strategic city of Marib, adjacent to the oil-rich Shabwa province, on Sunday night.

Marib has emerged as the primary battleground of the protracted Yemeni



conflict since the Houthis launched a major offensive in early 2021 aimed at seizing complete control of the energy-rich Marib province.

The government-controlled Marib city holds great political, military, and economic significance. It is home to the defence ministry headquarters, the pro-government Yemeni army leadership, the key Safer oil

fields and refinery, and the country's largest power plant.

The source said that the hour-long clashes involved the use of heavy weaponry, leading to the deaths of four government forces members and six Houthi fighters, with nine more sustaining injuries on both sides.

In a separate incident, the military source said an unidentified projec-

tile, believed to be a ballistic missile launched by the Houthis on Sunday, exploded in the airspace over the Wadi district east of Marib city, though no casualties were reported.

Yemen has been embroiled in a deadly conflict between the Saudi-backed internationally recognised government and the Iran-aligned Houthi for a decade. According to the United Nations, the conflict has caused one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

Since September 2014, the Houthis have controlled vast swaths of territory across northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa. In March 2015, a Saudi-led military coalition intervened in Yemen in support of the government after the Houthis ousted it from Sanaa.

## US man who received first-ever modified pig kidney transplant dies

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, MAY 12

The world's first patient with a transplanted pig kidney has died almost two months after the operation.

In March, Massachusetts General Hospital transplanted the genetically-edited pig kidney into Rick Slayman, a 62-year-old man living with end-stage kidney disease.

The operation was a milestone in xenotransplantation, the transplantation of organs or tissues from one species to another -- as a potential solution



to the worldwide organ shortage, the hospital said at the time. Slayman's death was not linked to the transplant, the hospital said on Saturday.

"Our family is deeply

saddened about the sudden passing of our beloved Rick but take great comfort knowing he inspired so many," his family said. Slayman's family paid tribute to the medical team that cared for him.

"Their enormous efforts leading to the xenotransplant gave our family seven more weeks with Rick, and our memories made during that time will remain in our minds and hearts."

The kidney came from a pig that was genetically edited to remove harmful pig genes and add certain

human genes to improve its compatibility with humans. Scientists also inactivated porcine endogenous retroviruses in the pig donor to eliminate any risk of infection in humans. The hospital said it was "deeply saddened" by Slayman's death.

"We have no indication that it was the result of his recent transplant," it said.

"Mr Slayman will forever be seen as a beacon of hope to countless transplant patients worldwide, and we are deeply grateful for his trust and willingness to advance the field of xenotransplantation."

## Saudi Crown Prince postpones Islamabad visit yet again amid raging political turmoil in Pakistan

AGENCIES  
ISLAMABAD, MAY 12

The much-awaited visit of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Al Saud to Pakistan on May 19 has been postponed, yet again.

While the Pakistan government, which has been preparing for the high-profile visit for weeks, remains tightlipped on the reasons behind its postponement, sources reveal that MBS is quite unhappy with the current situation in the country.

They revealed that the Saudi Crown Prince remains quite upset with the political developments in Pakistan, particularly with the recent statements made by some leaders which have been seen as an attempt to drag Saudi Arabia in the country's internal matters.

Recently, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sher Afzal Marwat blamed the 'Saudi influence' behind him not being considered for the Chairman's post of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has expressed "extreme concern" about evacuation calls for both Jabalia and Rafah in the south.

The clashes have heightened apparent differences between Israel's political and military leaders over strategy in the Gaza war.

Israeli Chief of General Staff Herzi Halevi reportedly complained to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the lack of a political strategy for the post-war period meant the army was now fighting in places such as Jabalia, which it had previously taken and withdrawn from.

According to media reports, Israeli soldiers are also still deployed in other locations in the north of the Gaza Strip.

Israeli troops are engaged in fierce fighting with armed Palestinians in the north of the Gaza Strip, Israeli media reported on Sunday. The military wing of the Palestinian Islamist organisation Hamas cited heavy clashes between its fighters and Israeli forces in the area of Jabalia, some four kilometres north of Gaza City.

Israeli army spokesman Daniel Hagari said the previous evening that warplanes had attacked targets in Jabalia after the civilian population there had been evacuated.

The Times of Israel wrote on Sunday that the army had called for an estimated 1,00,000-1,50,000 Palestinians in the Jabalia area to be evacuated. The United Nations



"Shibli Faraz told Imran Khan in jail that the Saudi Ambassador does not want me to be appointed as the PAC chairman," Marwat said while speaking to the media outside Adyala jail in Rawalpindi, where he was denied a meeting with the former Prime Minister.

Last month, Marwat claimed that Saudi Arabia was a "conduit" for the regime change operation carried out by the United States to oust Imran Khan's government following

which PTI removed him from its core and political committee and also issued a show-cause notice on trying to damage relations with Saudi Arabia.

"It is certain that Saudi Arabia is unhappy over the remarks made by Marwat that smack of domestic political point-scoring. Marwat has directly accused Saudi Arabia for meddling in Pakistan politics and the Saudis do not tolerate such behaviour," said senior political analyst Javed Siddique while

admitting that the cancellation of MBS' visit to Pakistan is a big "setback" for the country.

On the other hand, government sources maintain that there are some points on the economic front which still need to be cleared between both parties before MBS finalises his Pakistan visit.

They maintained that Saudi investors and businessmen, who recently toured Pakistan, are interested in some projects but the terms of the agreement have not yet been finalised.

After MBS accepted Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif's invitation to visit the country, the government has been working hard to ensure that it is not postponed yet again and eventually leads to more Saudi investment.

While the Foreign Ministry spokesperson has said that the revised schedule of the visit is still being worked out, sources say that MBS could visit Pakistan in the third week of June, shortly after the Hajj and Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

## Bus crash kills 11 on Indonesia's Java island

AGENCIES  
JAKARTA, MAY 12

At least 11 people died and dozens of others were injured after a bus crash in a hilly resort town in Indonesia's West Java province, police said on Sunday.

The bus carrying more than 60 people crashed while descending a ramp in Subang, West Java, on Saturday evening, a local police spokesman told DPA.

The passengers were students and teachers from a vocational school who were returning home after a graduation trip.

The cause of the crash was not clear.

## Death toll in Indonesia's flash flood rises to 34

AGENCIES  
JAKARTA, MAY 12

The death toll from lava floods that struck Indonesia's West Sumatra province on Saturday rose to 34, with at least five others missing, a senior official of the local disaster agency said on Sunday.

The rains poured down the area at the slope of the Marapi volcano on Saturday evening, triggering cold lava floods that hit the regencies of Tanah Datar and Agam, Fajar Sukma, head of the emergency unit of the provincial disaster management and mitigation agency, told Xinhua via phone.

"Now the number of casualties is 34. The figure may rise as a search and rescue mission is underway. At least five people are still missing now," Sukma said.

In addition, 16 injured residents had been treated at nearby hospitals in the regencies, said Muharrindo Idwan, a senior press officer at the provincial disaster management and mitigation agency.

"As for the missing, we have set up at least two information centres in the regions. The number of missing people may change as reports keep coming in," he told Xinhua.

"The lava floods occurred at night when the residents were sleeping. Many buildings have been submerged," he added.

## One killed, many injured as building hit in Russia

AGENCIES  
MOSCOW, MAY 12

A heavy weapons strike on a residential block in the city of Belgorod in Russia's southern border region has killed one person, media reports and officials said on Sunday.

One woman was killed, and 29 people were injured, according to initial findings by Russian investigators.

Regional Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov blamed the Ukrainian military for the "massive shelling."

## North Korea expresses full support for Palestinian UN membership

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, MAY 12

North Korea supports a United Nations resolution for Palestine's full membership, Pyongyang's foreign ministry said on Sunday, criticising the United States for vetoing the move.

The remark came after the UN General Assembly urged the security council to give "favourable consideration" to full Palestinian membership on Friday (US time), Yonhap news agency reported.

"The DPRK fully sup-

ports it," a spokesperson for the North's foreign ministry said in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency, noting that the rights of the Palestinians are "mercilessly violated" by the US.

DPRK stands for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Last month, the US vetoed a UN Security Council resolution that would have recognised Palestine's full membership, a status that Palestinians had long sought at the UN.

## Fire reported after drone attack at Russian oil refinery



AGENCIES  
MOSCOW, MAY 12

A fire broke out at an oil refinery in southern Russia following a drone attack by Ukraine, a Kremlin-appointed official said on Sunday. The night-time raid in the Volgograd region was repelled by the Russian air defences, Governor Andrey Botsharov wrote on Telegram.

However, the falling drone detonated and

caused a fire on the refinery site, which has since been extinguished. There were no casualties, the governor said. Moscow has been waging a full-scale war against Ukraine for more than two years.

To disrupt Russia's infrastructure and reduce its war revenues, the Ukrainians have, in turn, repeatedly targeted oil refineries hundreds of kilometres deep inside the country.

## Fierce fighting between Israeli forces and armed Palestinians reported in Gaza



AGENCIES  
GAZA/TEL. AVIV, MAY 12

Israeli troops are engaged in fierce fighting with armed Palestinians in the north of the Gaza Strip, Israeli media reported on Sunday. The military wing of the Palestinian Islamist organisation Hamas cited heavy clashes between its fighters and Israeli forces in the area of Jabalia, some four kilometres north of Gaza City.

Israeli army spokesman Daniel Hagari said the previous evening that warplanes had attacked targets in Jabalia after the civilian population there had been evacuated.

The Times of Israel wrote on Sunday that the army had called for an estimated 1,00,000-1,50,000 Palestinians in the Jabalia area to be evacuated. The United Nations

## Rocket from Gaza hits residential building in Israel



AGENCIES  
TEL. AVIV, MAY 12

A rocket fired from the Gaza Strip has reportedly hit a residential building in the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon.

Three people were injured in the overnight attack on the city about 10 kilometres north of Gaza, according to Israeli media reports on Sunday.

Palestinian Islamist organisation Hamas, which carried out the October 7 terrorist assaults on southern Israeli communities that sparked the devastating war in Gaza, has recently increased its attacks on Israeli towns and villages.

The Israeli Kerem Shalom border crossing

was also targeted again on Saturday, according to the Israeli army. Militants fired four missiles at the crossing, which is used to bring humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.

Out of the four missiles, one was intercepted by Israel's missile defence system, while the others hit uninhabited areas.

Israel is preparing for an increase in attacks on its territory as the military penetrates deeper into the city of Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip.

The offensive into the city has been heavily criticised internationally, including by Israel's allies, but the Israeli leadership sees it as necessary to achieve its war aim of completely eliminating Hamas.

# After last week's fall, expect markets to remain range-bound

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 15

Markets had a crazy week and were under pressure throughout. They fell on expected lines and this time, we could not blame the US markets as they gained on all five trading sessions.

What happened is a blessing in disguise as it has cooled of the markets, even though Mumbai is having sweltering heat currently.

BSESENSEX lost 1,213.68 points or 1.64 per cent to close at 72,664.47 points while NIFTY lost 420.65 points or 1.87 per cent to close at 22,055.20 points. The broader markets saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 lose 1.83 per cent, 2.04 per cent and 2.25 per cent respectively. BSEMICAP lost 3.27 per cent while BSESMALLCAP lost 3.80 per cent. In what could best be described as an unusual situation, markets lost on two trading sessions but were flat on the remaining three sessions. Just an instance to point out the flatness was NIFTY closing at unchanged levels down to two decimal points on Wednesday at 22,302.50 points compared to Tuesday. I do not remember any other instance in recent times when the levels have remained identical like this.

The Indian Rupee lost 8 paise or 0.10 per cent to close at Rs 83.50 to the US Dollar. Dow Jones had a stellar week and gained on all five trading sessions of the week. It was up 836.96



points or 2.16 per cent to close at 39,512.64 points.

The week gone by saw three IPOs open and close for subscription. The first was Indegene Limited which had issued shares in a price band of Rs 430-452. The issue was open from Monday the 6th of May to Wednesday the 10th of May. The issue was subscribed an overall 70.26 times with QIB portion subscribed 192.72 times, HNI portion subscribed 55.84 times and Retail portion subscribed 7.8 times. There were 27.80 lakh applications in all.

The second issue was from Aadhar Housing Finance Limited which was open from Wednesday the 8th of May to Friday the 10th of May. The price band was Rs 300-315. The issue was subscribed 26.76 times overall with QIB portion subscribed 76.42 times, HNI portion subscribed 17.33 times and Retail portion subscribed 2.58 times. There were 16.38 lakh applications.

The third issue was from TBO TEK Limited which was open from Wednesday (8th May) to Friday (10th of May). The price band was

Rs 875-920. The issue was subscribed 86.68 times overall with QIB portion subscribed 125.51 times, HNI subscribed 50.51 times and Retail portion subscribed 25.65 times. There were 23.75 lakh applications.

The week ahead sees one IPO from general insurer, Go Digit General Insurance Limited. The issue opens on Wednesday the 13th of May and closes on Friday the 15th of May. The issue consists of a fresh issue of Rs 1,125 crores and an offer for sale of 5,47,66,392 equity shares in a price band of Rs 258-272. The company is promoted by Prom Watsa of Fairfax.

The company helps in customising products as required in the general insurance space. It became profitable in FY22-23 and has built on the same in the current nine months ended December 23. The valuations based on current nine months are attractive and offer scope for appreciation on listing as well as for people with a minimum, medium term holding period.

Markets on Thursday,

made the intraweek lows at 72,334.18 points on BSESENSEX and at 21,932.48 points on NIFTY. These were higher than the lows made on April 19, at 71,816.46 points and 21,777.65 points.

The fourth round of voting out of seven phases would be held on May 13, followed by the fifth round the following Monday. Volatility has increased in line with the significance of the event and is further borne out by the fact that FPIs have sold close to Rs 30,000 crores in the current month which has been counterbalanced by domestic institutions who have spent their entire kitty of record SIP inflows for the month.

Coming to the markets in the week ahead, while support exists at the lows made on Thursday and the previous lows made on 19th April, even if they are broken, support exists around 21,500 on NIFTY and at 71,650 points on BSESENSEX. On the upside hurdles exist around 22,450-500 and at 73,900 points on BSESENSEX. These levels need to be broken and sustained for any further up move. Expect markets to trade in a narrow range till then.

The trading strategy for the coming week would be simple. Sell on rallies and expect markets to trade in a broad range. Volatility would increase if the levels on either side whether lower or higher are likely to be breached. Trading opportunities will exist and allow the disciplined trader to make money.

# How volatility hit the Indian markets in last three elections

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Lok Sabha elections and the stock market are deeply connected. Every election year, the market faces some volatility. This year has the same story as well.

In 2014, the Lok Sabha elections were held in nine phases between April 7 and May 12 and the results were declared on May 16.

A big surge was seen in the market before the elections started in 2014. Nifty was at 6,041 points on February 10, which reached 6,776 points by April 7. During this period, Sensex increased from 20,414 points to 22,628 points. In the next three weeks, from April 7 to April 28, Nifty remained within a limited range of 200 points and Sensex remained within 500 points.

The market once again witnessed a big rally from



April 28 to May 19. Nifty reached 7,367 points. During this period, the Sensex also reached 24,693 points.

In 2019, the Lok Sabha elections were held in seven phases between April 11 and May 19 and the results were declared on May 23.

The stock market went up before the election. Nifty was at 10,738 points on February 18 which reached 11,752 points on April 15. The Sensex went up from 20,414 points to

22,628 points during this period.

During the voting period, there was a decline in the market for the next three weeks from April 15 to May 6. During this period, the Nifty fell to 11,278 points and the Sensex to 37,462 points. But in the next three weeks i.e. till May 27, the market again gained momentum, due to which Nifty rose to 11,922 points and Sensex to 39,714 points.

India VIX, which reflects market volatility, sees a sig-

nificant increase during Lok Sabha elections. India's VIX began to rise 22 days before the 2014 elections, whereas in 2019, this trend was seen 35 days earlier.

This year, voting is being held in seven phases from April 19 to June 1 and the results will be announced on June 4.

This year also there was an initial rise in the market before the elections. Nifty was at the level of 21,839 points on March 20, which reached 22,753 points on April 10. During this period, Sensex increased from 72,101 points to 75,038 points.

After this, the market declined, and by April 18, Nifty and Sensex slipped to 21,995 points and 72,488 points respectively. Since then Nifty has been trading between 22,750 points and 22,800 points and Sensex is trading between 72,000 points and 75,100 points.

# EVs, green hydrogen to propel India's journey towards net-zero target by 2070: Experts

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

The faster adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), the National Hydrogen Mission and other such initiatives will propel India's journey towards a net-zero target by 2070, eminent scientists and thought leaders have said.

Speaking at an event organised by the Technology Development Board (TDB), under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Professor Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the government, emphasised the promotion of EVs through initiatives such as the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) and Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME), aiming to mitigate greenhouse gas



emissions.

He also highlighted the EV Mission, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Science, Technology Innovation and Advisory Council (PM-STIAC), which is dedicated to developing supportive standards and frameworks for EV adoption.

"Substantial investments in green hydrogen production are a key component of the National Hydrogen Mission in India's journey towards a

net-zero target by 2070," said Sood.

He also spoke about ongoing efforts in Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) technologies, with policies aimed at cost optimisation and broader industrial application.

Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST further underscored the significance of innovation for national development.

He highlighted the government's initiatives in

funding various research and development programmes and nurturing innovation through schemes like NIDHI and TDB, aimed at incubating startups and fostering entrepreneurship.

"Technology is a double-edged sword: it reduces inefficiency but can also drive increased consumption. To combat this, focus on EVs, green hydrogen, carbon capture and energy-efficient habitats. Transitioning to renewable energy globally is essential to tackle climate change," said Professor Ashutosh Sharma, President of INSA and former secretary, DST.

In his keynote address, Padma Shri Professor G.D. Yadav advocated for sustainable solutions, championing carbon removal and technological innovations to achieve net zero by 2070.

# Indian tech leaders stand behind Ola's Bhavish in his fight against Microsoft & LinkedIn

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Indian tech industry leaders have come out in support of Ola Founder and CEO, Bhavish Aggarwal, after his tirade against Microsoft-owned LinkedIn for deleting his posts and "bullying Indians" into agreeing with the Big Tech platforms or cancelling them out.

Homegrown IT software company Zoho's CEO Sridhar Vembu agreed with Aggarwal, saying "we in India have to strongly resist this woke imperialism".

"It is best understood as a fanatical religious doctrine that masquerades as a socio-political movement," Vembu posted on X social media platform.

Edtech company Unacademy CEO Gaurav Munjal earlier posted that this is so "f\*\*\*\*\* up on



LinkedIn's part".

An angry Ola CEO on Saturday announced the termination of Microsoft Azure cloud's services and moved the entire workload of his company to his own AI venture called Krutrim.

"We've decided to move our entire workload out of Azure to our own Krutrim cloud within the next week," he said in a blog post.

When reached, LinkedIn or Microsoft did not comment on Aggarwal's

blog post.

The tussle began when Ola CEO shared his thoughts on gender pronouns, with a LinkedIn post on "pronoun illness".

The LinkedIn AI chatbot used "they" and "their" to address the founder.

The professional networking platform later deleted Aggarwal's posts "without notifying him", leading to an outburst from the Ola founder.

"Proud of you Bhavish. When CEOs like you show

the way, I'm sure many will emulate you. It is one thing to coax people to be inclusive but quite another to use bullying and cancelling techniques to impose a fake inclusiveness with dubious benefit. May Dharma always guide you," Author Sahana Singh posted on X.

Aggarwal has said he will work with the domestic developer community to build a digital public infrastructure (DPI) social media framework and the only 'community guidelines' should be the Indian law.

"Woke" was a word earlier used within Black communities in the US to refer to an "awareness of inequality".

It is now being frequently used in political parlance to describe anything that appears too liberal or progressive.

# Market outlook for next week, key events to watch



AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Indian equity indices were in deep red last week, following FII selling and volatility in the market.

Due to this, Sensex and Nifty closed at a three-week low of 72,644 points and 22,055 points respectively.

The Nifty small-cap and midcap index witnessed a fall of around 5 per cent and 2.75 per cent respectively.

FII outflows were significant, exceeding Rs 22,000 crore last week. While domestic institutional investors (DIIs) did buy Indian stocks to the tune of Rs 17,000 crore, their buying wasn't enough to offset the selling by FIIs.

Global and domestic economic data coming next week will play a big role. Wholesale and retail inflation figures will be

released in India.

Globally, the upcoming US PPI, retail sales, jobless claims, Fed Chairman's speech, and core inflation data will be a key event to watch.

China's industrial production data and Japan's GDP figures round out the important releases for the week.

Arvinder Singh Nanda, Senior Vice President of Master Capital Services said, "The Nifty index has been trading within a broad range of 21,750 to 22,800 over the past few months, and it's currently approaching the lower end of this range, a critical support level at 21,750 for the short term."

"With a decisive break below the immediate support at 22,300 observed on Thursday, the Nifty is anticipated to experience further downward movement in the short term."

# Hyundai Motor beats Volkswagen in Q1 operating profit



AGENCIES  
SEOUL, MAY 12

South Korea's Hyundai Motor Group beat Volkswagen Group to rank second after Toyota Group in operating profit for the January-March period, their earnings data showed on Sunday.

In the first three months, Hyundai Motor Group posted an operating profit of 6.98 trillion won (\$5.08 billion), higher than 6.78 trillion won reported by the German carmaker, according to their earnings results.

The won's weakness against the US dollar and strong sales of high-end models in the US and other major markets helped push up Hyundai's operating income in the past quarter, reports Yonhap news agency.

Toyota Group, which has Toyota Motor Corp. as

its flagship affiliate, posted an operating profit of 9.8 trillion won in the January-March period.

The first three months are the fourth quarter of the 2023 fiscal year for the Japanese company.

Among the world's five biggest carmakers, that include GM Group and the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance, Hyundai Motor Group topped others in terms of operating profit margin in the January-March period, the data showed.

Hyundai Motor Group's two major car-manufacturing affiliates -- Hyundai Motor and Kia -- reported a combined operating profit margin of 10.4 per cent, followed by Toyota Group with 10 per cent, GM Group's 8.7 per cent, Volkswagen's 6.1 per cent, and the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance's 4.3 per cent.

# Meta 'super greedy' at claiming credit for ad campaigns: Elon Musk

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Sunday said that Mark Zuckerberg-run Meta is "super greedy" at taking credit for advertisers who run campaigns on its platform.

A Musk follower raised this issue in a post, saying several of his advertisers noticed that while running campaigns on both X and Meta, nearly all conversions are attributed to Meta, "with X reporting



almost no conversions." "Interestingly, when

X ads are turned off, total conversions significantly drop, including those reported on Meta. No research is needed to understand what's going on here," the follower commented. The X owner replied that "we are terrible at claiming credit, and Meta is super greedy at claiming credit."

Another Musk follower posted that eventually, "Meta will need to revise their attribution model, revealing the truth to advertisers who

are already noticing a decline in results."

"For X, refining the attribution model to align more closely with reality is relatively straightforward. This will show even better outcomes for advertisers," the X user suggested.

The rivalry between Musk and Zuckerberg is well known. They were apparently set for a "cage fight" some time back -- dubbed as the fight of the century. However, the much-anticipated showdown between the duo was cancelled.

## Shooting: Esha, Anish register second win in Olympic Selection Trials

AGENCIES  
BHOPAL, MAY 12

Both Esha Singh and Anish Bhanwala registered their second win in the Olympic Selection Trial (OST), posting victories in the women's 25m pistol and men's 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP) OST T3 matches respectively. While Anish had won the first trial in the same event in Delhi, Esha had won the second trial in the women's 10m air pistol, also at the Karni Singh range in Delhi.

On Sunday at the M.P. State Shooting Academy (MPSSA) ranges, Esha notched her first trial win in women's 25m pistol, shooting 43 in the final. Her score was a point more than the world record set by Korean Kim Yeji at the Baku World Cup, earlier this month.

Manu came a good second with 40 hits while Rhythm Sangwan picked up the final podium point, bowing out ahead of the



10th and final series with a score of 33. Simranpreet Kaur Brar and Abhidnya Patil were fourth and fifth respectively.

In the Men's RFP final,

Anish seemed to be in a league of his own, bossing the five-man finals field with three perfect series of five hits to begin the eight-series final with.

He eventually missed just four to finish with 36 hits for the win.

Vijayveer Sidhu did stutter in the beginning, but eventually held his own to come in second with 31 hits. Ankur Goel was third with 19, while Adarsh Singh and Bhavesh Shekhawat came fourth and fifth respectively.

All 10 shooters will come back on Monday for the fourth (T4) and final OST match in both events.

On average in the first three trials, Manu Bhaker comfortably leads Esha Singh at the top in the women's sport pistol while Anish is also well ahead of second-placed Vijayveer in the men's RFP.

Even as Manu and Anish look near certain for a top finish in their respective 25m pistol events, the fight for the second spot still seems to be up for grabs.

The final picture in the Olympic 25m events will certainly be clear on Monday.

## Each match will be a spectacle of skill and strategy, says Shahid Afridi as World Championship of Legends takes centre stage

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

As the inaugural World Championship of Legends (WCL) commences at the iconic Edgbaston Cricket Ground from July 3, former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi emphasised his team Pakistan Champions' readiness for the challenge.

Approved by the England Cricket Board, the league boasts an impressive roster including iconic figures such as Brett Lee, Shaun Marsh, Tim Paine, and Ben Cutting from Australia; Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, and Suresh Raina from India; Jacques Kallis and Herschelle Gibbs from South Africa; Ravi Bopara, Kevin Pietersen, and Ian Bell



from England; and Chris Gayle, Darren Sammy, and Samuel Badree from the West Indies.

Adding to the excitement, Team Pakistan Champions, led by former Pakistan World Cup-winning T20 captain Younis Khan and Afridi, is set to make its mark on the global stage. With

an ensemble of Pakistani cricketing talent, the team promises a riveting display of prowess and passion.

"With the legends of the game converging, each match will be a spectacle of skill and strategy. We are poised to bring our A-game and leave an indelible mark on the WCL, said Afridi.

Younis, former T20 World Cup-winning captain, echoed the sentiment, highlighting the league's significance in reigniting the passion for cricket worldwide. "It's more than just cricket; it's about passion and legacy. We are here to compete and inspire fans across the globe."

Behind Team Pakistan Champions stands Kamil Khan, an entrepreneur esteemed in the cricketer community worldwide. He underscores the league's importance and the team's role in it. "The WCL transcends mere competition; it's a celebration of cricket's greatest talents. We are honored to represent Pakistan and share our pride through our official merchandise."

## 'You can't have an ego when you...', Sehwag slams Rohit, SKY for MI's loss against KKR

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

Former India opener Virender Sehwag slammed Mumbai Indians' (MI) batting duo Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav for taking too long to get set and then giving their wicket away without making any significant contribution in the IPL 2024 match against Kolkata Knight Riders.

In a rain affected encounter which was reduced to a 16 over game between the two historical powerhouses of the IPL on Saturday, Rohit scored 19 off 24 while managed to record 11 off 14 after MI started their chase of 158 strongly with Ishan Kishan giving the side a good start with his 40 off 22 balls.

"Whoever bowls good, just play him out. If two wickets hadn't fallen, Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav could've finished the match an over before. Vaibhav Arora, Mitchell Starc, Andre Russell and Harshit Rana had to ball anyway; if they played out the spinners and didn't lose the wickets, they would've won the



game. You can't have an ego when you come out to bat. You play them out or punish the loose deliveries," Sehwag said on Cricbuzz.

Two early wickets in the first innings saw the KKR struggle early in the game. The Mumbai bowling attack faltered as the game went on with Venkatesh Iyer being the main man with the bat. Nitish Rana, Andre Russell, Rinku Singh & Raman-deep Singh all provided small yet explosive contri-

butions to take Kolkata's score to 157/7.

In response, Tilak Varma's 32 runs off 17 balls went in vain as there were no real contributions by the middle order with Hardik Pandya, Tim David and Nehal Wadhwa all combining for five runs. Naman Dhir's 17 runs off 6 balls gave the fans a glimmer of hope but it was not enough as MI only managed to score 139 in the chase.

"Naman Dhir came right at the end and

smashed two sixes and a four; if Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav were set at that time, they would've hit 5 balls for boundaries. You could be Rohit Sharma or Suryakumar Yadav, but at least respect the delivery if you can't respect the bowler. The ball on which Rohit Sharma got out wasn't a weak ball. No doubt Rohit and Suryakumar are great players, but that doesn't mean you should hit the good deliveries, too," concluded Sehwag.

## 75 days to Paris 2024: Men's hockey skipper Harmanpreet says team is in 'last stages of an intense training block'

AGENCIES  
BENGALURU, MAY 12

As 75 days are left for the commencement of the Paris 2024 Olympics where the Indian men's Hockey team will take the field at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium in quest to end 44-year gold medal drought, skipper Harmanpreet Singh has said the team entered "last stages of an intense training block" in their preparation for the marquee event.

India have to overcome the reigning Olympic Champions Belgium (World No. 2), Australia (World No. 3), Argentina (World No. 7), New Zealand (World No. 10), and Ireland (World No. 11) in Pool B to secure a top-four finish in the pool to progress to the quarterfinals. Meanwhile, Pool A comprises the world's top-ranked team, the Netherlands, alongside Germany, Great Britain, Spain, South Africa, and hosts France, setting the stage for an intense battle in the 12-team men's hockey tournament at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

India will begin their campaign on July 27



against New Zealand, followed by a match against Argentina on July 29 before facing Ireland and Belgium on July 30 and August 1. They will play their last group stage game against Australia on August 2.

"We are in the last stages of an intense training block right now. The team has worked on the areas we felt needed attention after the Tour of Australia. Soon, we will head to Europe to play some essential matches in the FIH Hockey Pro League

2023/24 to test ourselves against some tough opponents like Argentina, Belgium, Germa

"The chemistry in the squad continues to grow and with only 75 days left for the Paris 2024 Olympics we are working to be in the best shape possible," said Harmanpreet. Meanwhile, vice-captain Hardik Singh expressed his excitement for the Paris 2024 Olympics saying, "The team is leaving no stone unturned in our endeavour to change the colour of our

previous medal and clinch Gold at the Olympics this time. We have players like PR Sreejesh and Manpreet Singh who could be playing their fourth Olympics along with quite a few players who could be playing their third Olympics, including our Captain.

"Their experience has been instrumental in moulding some of the younger players we have in the squad right now. Only 75 days remain for the Paris 2024 Olympics and we cannot wait to begin our Olympic journey."

India has a rich history in hockey at the Olympics. They won their first Gold Medal after beating the Netherlands 3-0 in the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam and went on to dominate, winning Gold Medals in the 1932, 1936, 1948, 1952, 1956, 1964, and 1980 Olympics.

In addition to their 8 Gold Medals, India claimed a silver medal in 1960 and 3 bronze medals in 1968, 1972, and the previous Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020, making them the most successful men's hockey team in the Olympics with 12 Medals.

## IPL 2024: KKR's Ramandeep Singh fined 20% of match fees for code of conduct breach

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, MAY 12

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) batting allrounder Ramandeep Singh has been fined 20 per cent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during match against Mumbai Indians (MI) at the Eden Gardens, on Saturday.

Ramandeep committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.20 of the IPL Code of Conduct, which intended to cover all types of conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game and which is not specifically and adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in this Code of Conduct.

"He admitted to the offence and accepted the Match Referee's sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," IPL/BCCI statement read.



By way of example, Article 2.20 may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach)

prohibit, without limitation, the following: (a) the use of an illegal bat or illegal wicket-keeping gloves;

and (b) failure to comply with the provisions of clause 6.3 of the IPL Match Playing Conditions."

The article further reads, "When assessing the seriousness of the offence, the context of the particular situation, and whether it was deliberate, reckless, negligent, avoidable and/or accidental, shall be considered. Further, the person lodging the Report shall determine where on the range of severity the conduct lays (with the range of severity starting at conduct of a minor nature (and hence a Level 1 Offence) up to conduct of an extremely serious nature (and hence a Level 4 Offence)"

Ramandeep smashed a quickfire unbeaten 17, including a final-ball six off Jasprit Bumrah to lift KKR to 157/7, a total Kolkata managed to defend by bowling out MI for 139/8 in 16 overs to qualify for the playoffs.

## LaLiga: Real Madrid tame relegated Granada; Mallorca takes vital win

AGENCIES  
MADRID, MAY 12

Already-confirmed LaLiga champions Real Madrid ended a perfect week when they won 4-0 away against Granada.

Madrid traveled to the south of Spain after qualifying for the UEFA Champions League final with a 2-1 home win over Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

Carlo Ancelotti made many changes to his side, but after a difficult opening 35 minutes, Madrid whitewashed the rival that will play next season in the second division.

Left back Fran Garcia opened the scoring after a pass from youngster Arda Guler and then returned the favor for the Turk to double the lead on the stroke of half-time.

Brahim Diaz added Madrid's third four minutes after the break and scored his second in the 59th minute of the game.



Giovanni Gonzalez's scrappy 29th-minute goal gave Mallorca a vital 1-0 win at home to Las Palmas to lift them nine points clear of the relegation zone and pile the pressure on Cadiz who will face Getafe at home on Sunday.

Mallorca's win also means that Granada's descent to the second division was confirmed before they kicked off their match against Real Madrid.

Athletic Club Bilbao's chances of qualifying for the Champions League look to have ended after their 2-2 draw at home to Osasuna,

but they showed spirit to overcome a host of absences to come back from 2-0 down.

Raul Garcia put Osasuna ahead in the 40th minute and Ruben Garcia doubled their lead early in the second half. Inaki Williams pulled a goal back for Athletic with a powerful 57th-minute shot and Asier Villalibre poked home in the 96th minute after an error from visiting goalkeeper Sergio Herrera.

Alexander Sorloth scored his 18th and 19th goals of the season as Villarreal beat Sevilla 3-2, with the Norwegian heading the winner with virtually the last action of the

game. Sevilla had led twice after Youssef En-Nesyri scored a 25th-minute penalty and then added a second in the 43rd minute after Sorloth's first of the game had leveled the score.

Yerson Mosquera made it 2-2 with only seven minutes left to play and Villarreal also had a goal ruled out for offside, moments before Sorloth's winner.

On Friday, second-placed Girona were held 2-2 away by Alaves after twice leading against the rival that only had pride to play for.

Eric Garcia headed Girona into an early lead, but Jon Guridi's first of the game made it 1-1 in the 12th minute. Yangel Herrera's low shot put Girona back ahead just before halftime, but Guridi scrambled home his second of the game in the ninth minute of injury time for a share of the points which means Barcelona can go second if they beat Real Sociedad on Monday night.

## Innovative Electoral Empowerment

## Bandipora's Trailblazing 'Pink Conclave' under SVEEP unites Women to share Tales of Triumph & Inspiration

JINNEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, MAY 12

In a pioneering move to promote inclusivity in the electoral process, Bandipora held its first-ever Pink Conclave under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative in Hajin, which garnered an overwhelming response.

The event, hosted at the Town Hall in Hajin, was chaired by SDM Sumbal, Aamir Choudhary, who also serves as the Assistant Returning Officer for the 14-Sonawari Assembly segment of the 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency.

The conclave witnessed participation of a galaxy of women from various walks of life, including entrepreneurs, poets, meritorious students, sportspersons and Government employees, among others, highlighting the diverse representation and commitment to gender equality in the electoral arena.

Addressing the participants, SDM underscored the significance of Pink Polling Stations, which are exclusively managed



by female poll staff to encourage greater female participation in the electoral process.

Choudhary emphasized that by empowering women with knowledge and resources, they are laying the foundation for a more inclusive and participatory democracy, while also recognizing the pivotal role of women in shaping the nation's future.

The conclave unfolded in a meticulously curated series of three distinct interactive sessions, each serving as a platform for

the women invitees to weave the intricate tapestry of their personal journeys, adorned with tales of both triumphs and tribulations.

The first session, under the moderation of the Nodal Officer for Pink Polling Stations, Dr. Nuzhat Wali, provided a poignant reflection on the essence of empowerment and electoral engagement and participation.

The second session, helmed by Sabiya, lecturer at HSS Shadipora, the discourse delved deeper into the profound

symbiosis between individual aspirations and the democratic process, casting a luminous spotlight on the dynamic interplay between societal expectations and the promise of electoral representation.

As the conclave approached its crescendo, the final session, deftly guided by the eloquent Mufti Sheeba, lecturer at HSS Sumbal, served as a poignant conclusion, encapsulating the collective wisdom garnered throughout the day's deliberations.

Amidst the intellectual symphony, interludes of cultural enrichment added vibrancy to the proceedings, with Shama Mach enchanting the audience with her lyrical poetry, while the graceful performances by girl students wove a blend of tradition and innovation, leaving an indelible impression on all the participants. The speakers highlighted the importance of women's active engagement in the electoral process, reaffirming the commitment to promoting gender equality and empowerment in the electoral arena.

## Lok Sabha Elections 2024

## Jashn-e-Jamhuriyat: 2-Day mega SVEEP program concludes at Gulmarg

JINNEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, MAY 12

'Jashn-e-Jamhuriyat', a two day mega Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program held in the heart of the world renowned international tourist destination Gulmarg to spread voter awareness, concluded today. The grand SVEEP program was meticulously organized by the District Election Office in anticipation of the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024 for the 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, scheduled to be held on 20th of May.

The mega event saw the participation of esteemed dignitaries including Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri; General Observer, Deependra Singh Kushwah; Expenditure Observer, Sita Ram Meena; Police Observer, Ravi Shankar Chhabhi; District Election Officer Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; Chief Executive

Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority, district officers, artists, athletes, trekkers, and a diverse array of other enthusiastic participants, making the event a vibrant and inclusive gathering.

The two-day program kicked-off with an enthralling musical concert on the evening of May 11th. Renowned artists, including the talented young Ishfaq Ahmad, a recipi-



ent of the prestigious Rashtariya Bal Puraskar award, along with Shafi Sopori and the mesmerizing Jehlum Band graced the stage and captivated the audience with their beautiful melodies.

Second day of the mega voter awareness program started with the plantation drive in the lush green meadows of Gulmarg which was held under the Green Election campaign

of SVEEP initiative, where the esteemed dignitaries joined hands with the Students, general public, police personnel and planted saplings to promote greener democracy.

Later in the day, various sporting activities were held which were initiated by the flagging-off ceremony of a trekking rally held under the 'Trek for Democracy' campaign of SVEEP initiative. Similarly, Cyclothon and Marathon were held which saw a massive participation of newly registered voters, showcasing their eagerness to wholeheartedly participate in this electoral process.

The mega SVEEP awareness program in Gulmarg culminated with the award distribution ceremony where the winners of the individual sporting events were felicitated by the Police Observer, 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, Ravi Shankar Chhabhi who presented them with certificates and mementos.

## Lok Sabha Elections 2024

## Election teams reach all 260 Polling Stations across Ganderbal



JINNEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, MAY 12

In a significant stride towards ensuring the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, election teams have been successfully deployed to all 260 polling stations across Ganderbal, part of Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, going to polls on 13 May, 2024.

Under the meticulous supervision of the District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir, the process of dispatching of Poll Parties from two Dispatch cum Receipt Centres (DCRCs) established at Degree College Ganderbal for 18-Ganderbal Assembly Constituency and PTS

Manigam for 17-Kangan Assembly Constituency was conducted successfully.

The district has 260 polling stations including 155 in Ganderbal Assembly Constituency and 105 in Kangan Assembly Constituency. Comprehensive arrangements were made for departure of polling parties, encompassing vehicles, seating arrangements, refreshments, and security measures.

The District Election Officer, accompanied by SSP Sandeep Gupta, conducted visits to both the centers. They interacted with polling parties, urging them to adhere to Election Commission guidelines diligently and

execute their assigned tasks with dedication and integrity.

The deployment of polling parties marks a crucial step in the electoral process, ensuring that democratic exercise proceeds smoothly and efficiently.

Pertinently, district administration has established special polling stations on identified locations across district to cater to a wide range of needs of individuals with disabilities, elderly citizens, women, which offer tailored services ensuring that every eligible voter has the opportunity to exercise their fundamental right to vote in a manner that is convenient and accessible to them.

## Deputy Commissioner reviews functioning of Revenue Department in Reasi district

JINNEWS SERVICE  
REASI, MAY 12

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Revenue Department in the Conference Hall of the administrative Complex. Assistant Commissioner Revenue Anshumali Sharma presented a comprehensive overview on revenue matters, including land records, demarcation of land, retrieval status of Massavi, status of digitisation of Jamabandis, implementation of SVAMITVA, e-offices, land acquisition cases, eviction status, writing of Gridwari registers and Status of PSGA services.

DC Mahajan instructed for constituting a Committee of Naib Tehsildars to recreate the pending 31 Masavis, with the help of Girdawars, Patwaris and submit the same within one month. He further directed Tehsildars to check and ensure correctness of all digitised Jamabandis before May 19, 2024. He directed senior officers to counter check the status of Jamabandis.



Giving a string of instructions, he directed for immediate physical retrieval of any encroached land, maintaining strict vigil on the conversion of agricultural land to non-agriculture and commercial purposes and disposal of all pending court cases on the RCCMS portal.

The meeting also reviewed the status of the jan sugam portal and online services for the public. Mahajan reviewed

grievances on the JKIGRAMS Portal, Satarak Nagrik and Grievances Redressal portal and emphasized that no grievance should be pending beyond 21 days.

The introduction of the e-office system right from patwari to highest level within a stipulated time frame was also emphasized. He also discussed relief cases under the SDRF and examined the record of Kacharai/Shamlat lands

emphasizing that any registration of documents should not be delayed unreasonably and timely disposal of all auto-appeal cases should be ensured.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samayal, ADC Kulbushan Khajuria, SDM Katra, Dharmari and Mahore, Joint Director Planning, PO ICDS Mohd. Anwar Bandey, all Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Patwaris and Officials were present in the meeting.

## 3 day Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti celebrations organised by JKAACL conclude at Kathua

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SAMBHA, MAY 12

The Three day Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti celebrations which were started at Bhagwan Parshuram Temple, Gho Brahmana, Vijaypur concluded here today with the soulful 'Bhajan Sandhya' at Shiv Mandir, Gupwal, Ramgarh.

The evening witnessed presence of a large number of localities who left awestruck with the spellbound performances

of the artists.

The programme was held under the patronage and support of higher authorities of J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Jammu in which the authorities has directed district Officers to organise such kind of events at religious as well as historical places.

At the very outset, Sanjeev Gupta, SOCA JKAACL Kathua said that J&K Academy of Art Culture & Languages feels blessed in organising Bhajan Sand-

hya at Shiv Mandir for the citizens of the area during Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti celebrations and all possible efforts will be made to make such event as a regular activity.

He further detailed about the future activities of the J&K Academy of Art Culture & Languages and also assured more activities in near future here in the area. He also thanked the working committee of Shiv Mandir, Gupwal, Ramgarh, Vijaypur for their unconditional sup-

port.

The programme began with the vibrant singing of Kuldeep Kumar and Party followed by the presentations of Pawan Kumar and Party, Rattan Lal Shugal and Party, Chaman Matoo and Party and Bandhana Choudhary and Party. The programme concluded with a soulful presentation by Narinder Singh and Party who mesmerised audiences with their singing skills. The programme was ably conducted by Sat Pal Singh.

## SFCAC Ramban approves 143 foster care cases for financial assistance

JINNEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, MAY 12

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today chaired a meeting of the Sponsorship and Foster Care Approval Committee.

The meeting focused on discussing the cases sanctioned under the sponsorship scheme to provide support to children in need of financial assistance. Attendees included District Social Welfare Officer, Rahul Gupta, Chairperson Child

Welfare Committee (CWC), Nighat Ghani, Member CWC Shabir Ahmed Zohd, representatives from the State Adoption Agency (SAA), Protection Officer, Mission Vatsalya, and a member representative from NGO.

At the onset, District Child Protection Officer, Ramban, delivered a PowerPoint presentation and provided a brief overview of the Juvenile Justice Act and the criteria followed in selecting these cases. The DSWO informed the committee that the number of cases for

the district has recently been increased from 58 to 201, with an additional 143 cases identified. The documents of these cases will undergo further scrutiny by the CWC before issuing final orders.

The Committee deliberated on individual cases and approved additional 143 cases. The Committee directed stakeholders to forward these cases to CWC for final scrutiny and issuing of orders. Once approved, the children will receive sponsorship as per approved norms.

## DC assesses implementation of SC/ST PoA Act, Protection of Civil Rights Act in Ramban

JINNEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, MAY 12

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Prevention of Atrocities (SC/ST PoA) Act 1989 and the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955, aimed at safeguarding the rights and well-being of marginalized communities and combating discrimination and atrocities against them.

The meeting was attended by Additional SP, Ramban, Gourav Mahajan, ACR Ramban, S. Harpal Singh, and other official and non-official members from SC and ST communities, as well as non-SC and ST members of the committee.

District Social Welfare Officer, Ramban, Rahul Gupta provided a detailed description of the agenda, highlighting the significance of such meetings in demonstrating the District Administration's commitment to addressing issues related to the protection of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He emphasized the importance of providing a platform for stakeholders to discuss challenges and devise strategies for the effective implementation of these crucial pieces of legislation.

The committee deliberated on various cases of atrocities reported to the District Administration and explored the remedial measures including financial incentives for the victims. The Deputy Commissioner issued strict instructions to all members, emphasizing zero tolerance for any violation of the above acts. He underscored the need for increased awareness programs in the district to educate the public about these legislations.