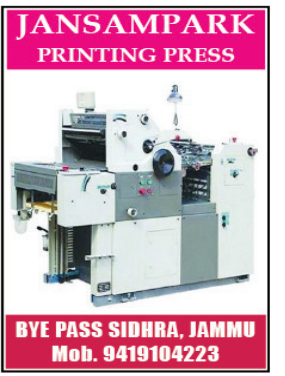


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NIA chargesheets 10th accused in Jammu drone arms dropping case

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 15

The National Investigation Agency has chargesheeted one more accused in the case involving delivery of arms and ammunition from across the border in 2022 via drones by Lashkar-e-Taiba.

In a statement, issued to the news agency, a spokesperson said that Zakir Hussain is the 10th accused against whom charges have been filed in the case RC-6/2022/NIA/JMU by NIA.

The statement reads that 9 other accused were previously chargesheeted under various sections of IPC, UA (P) Act, Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act.

"Zakir Hussain was supporting and assisting the operatives of LeT in collecting and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

LG chairs review meeting of Revenue Department



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a review meeting of the Revenue Department with senior officials at the Civil Secretariat on Wednesday.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shaheen Kabra,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

LG reviews progress of schemes & projects of Jal Shakti Department



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha reviewed the progress of schemes and projects of Jal Shakti Department today.

The Lt Governor said 14.91 lakh rural households in UT now have access to tap water connection. He further directed officials to complete the works to

ensure every household has access to clean drinking water through tap.

"Our efforts to provide tap water supply to all our citizens is on right track. We are creating a future-ready water management system. Access to safe & adequate drinking water to every citizen is my commitment & We are taking effective action to ensure water security in J&K," the

Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor appraised the district-wise achievements registered under the Jal Jeevan Mission. He impressed upon the officials to maintain transparency and accountability in execution of works and to make concentrated efforts to meet the target within specified timelines.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

I never said Hindu or Muslim; I talked about poor families: PM

AGENCIES
VARANASI (UP), MAY 15

Clarifying his "infiltrators" and "those with more children" remarks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an interview with News18 said that he did not only talk about Muslims but spoke about every poor family, adding that the day he starts doing Hindu-Muslim, he will be "unworthy of public life."

PM Modi said that he does not market love towards Muslims, "I do not work for a vote bank. I believe in Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas."

"I am shocked. Who told you that whenever one talks of people with more children, the inference is they are Muslims? Why are you so unjust towards Muslims? This is the situation in poor families too. Where there is poverty, there are more children, irrespective of their social circle. I didn't



mention either Hindu or Muslim. I have said that one should have as many children as you can take care of. Don't let a situation arise where the government has to take care of your children," the Prime Minister said on Tuesday.

Referring to the post-Godhra riots in Gujarat when he was the Chief Minister of the state, PM Modi said that his opponents "tarnished" his image among the Muslims after 2002 (the Godhra riots).

"This issue is not about Muslims. Irrespective of how supportive individual Muslims are of Modi, there is a wave of thought that dictates to them, 'do this, do that'. In my house, there are all Muslim families around me. Eid was also celebrated in our house, and there were other festivals in our house. Food was not cooked in our house on the day of Eid. Food used to come to my place from all the Muslim families. When Muharram

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Ten passengers injured as bus turns turtle in Jammu outskirts

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

At least ten passengers suffered injuries when a bus they were travelling in met with an accident and turned turtle in Akhnoor area here in the city outskirts.

Police said that the bus on its way from Khour towards Jammu, this evening turned turtle when it reached near Balle-De-Bagh area.

Police and locals immediately swung into action and launched a rescue operation.

"All the injured persons were rushed to the hospital and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Court grants bail to Kashmiri journalist in 2019 Srinagar central jail riot case

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

Kashmiri journalist Aasif Sultan, who was arrested in March this year after returning home following five years of detention, has been granted bail by a Srinagar Court in a case related to the agitation of jail inmates inside the Srinagar Central Jail in 2019.

Additional Session Judge, Special Judge designated under National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act Srinagar, granted bail to Sultan on May 10, saying that mere use of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act provisions against an accused would

not warrant rejection of bail in ignorance of other binding requirements.

"There can be no dispute at all that so far as the investigation into allegations of commission of offence under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 is concerned, that there is compelling state interest in tackling such serious crimes. However, mere use of this statutory provision would not ipso-facto warrant rejection of applications of bail ignoring the other binding requirements," the Court said.

The Court observed that further detention of the accused would not serve

any purpose.

"In the humble opinion of this court the occurrence took place more than 5 years ago and sufficient time of approximately 2 2 months (72 Days) has been given to the investigating agency for the custodial interrogation of the accused/applicant. The accused/ applicant was already under PSA (Public Safety Act) till Feb 2024. The further detention of the accused person/ applicant in the custody shall not serve any purpose...." Additional Session Judge, Special Judge designated under NIA Act Srinagar observed.

While granting the bail

to Sultan several strict conditions were imposed on him and he has been barred from using encrypted messaging apps or proxy networks, and to buy a new mobile phone or a SIM card only after permission from the court. .

Sultan was booked in a case related to Srinagar's central jail that witnessed protests by inmates in April 2019 following rumours that some prisoners were being shifted. The protesters reportedly set a temporary shelter on fire but there were no casualties.

During the hearing,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Amit Shah to visit Srinagar today evening

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

Amid the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Srinagar on Thursday evening, officials sources said here on Wednesday.

Top official sources told the news agency that Shah will arrive in Srinagar tomorrow evening and will stay for a night. He said that the next day



Shah is scheduled to meet various delegations including civil society members and BJP Karyakartas. Shah's visit to Srinagar comes amid the Lok Sabha polls being held across the country, however, the BJP has not fielded any candidate for 3 seats in the Kashmir Valley.

Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency went to polls in the 4th phase on May 13, recording a voter

turnout of over 38 percent - the highest since 1996 in the Lok Sabha elections. Baramulla and Anantnag-Rajouri seats will go to polls on May 20 and May 25 respectively in the 7-phase Lok Sabha polls.

Results will be declared on June 04. Meanwhile, BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur also confirmed to KNO that Amit Shah is scheduled to visit Srinagar tomorrow to meet several delegations.

Five killed in separate road incidents in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Five people, including a minor girl, were killed in four separate road incidents in Samba, Poonch, and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, police said.

Two sadhus, Baba Bhim Giri, 55, and Suresh Kumar, 52, both residents of Narwal bypass, were killed when their two-wheeler was hit by a truck coming from the wrong side on a bridge in Samba along the Jammu-Pathankot highway, they said.

The accident took place around 10 am when the two were headed towards Pathankot.

The driver of the truck, which way on its way to Jammu, fled the scene and efforts are on to arrest him, police said.

In Surankote area of Poonch, a passenger vehicle driven by 26-year-old Mohd Naseer Khan skidded off the road and fell into an over-100

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Jammu and Kashmir participates in Cannes Film Festival 2024

JNEWS SERVICE
CANNES, (FRANCE), MAY 15

Today marked a historic day as the official delegation from Jammu & Kashmir participated in the 77th edition of world famous Cannes Film Festival for the first time ever. The Jammu and Kashmir Booth in the Bharat Pavilion of the famed Cannes Film Market (Marche du Film) was inaugurated by H. E. Shri. Jawed Ashraf, Ambassador of India to France and Shri Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, GoI, along with



dignitaries from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, National Film Development Corporation as well as lead-

ing personalities of Indian and International Cinema. Rehana Batul, Secretary Information, J&K and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Forest Fire Erupts Near Line of Control in Mendhar, Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

A forest fire broke out early Wednesday morning near the Line of Control (LoC) in Mendhar upazila of Poonch district, Jammu division. The rising smoke from the blaze is visible from miles away, causing concern among local residents and authorities.

Sources told the news agency that the fire originated in the forests across the LoC in the area held by Pakistan and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

IG BSF reviews operational preparedness of troops ahead of Lok Sabha election

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF) Kashmir, Ashok Yadav on Wednesday visited the forward areas of the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu Kashmir's Kupwara district to review the operational preparedness of the troops ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

IG Yadav visited Kupwara and Tangdhar areas near the LoC and reviewed the BSF preparation and coordination with the local administration for the upcoming phase of Lok Sabha election, the BSF said.

The Lok Sabha Election for the sensitive border constituency of Baramulla-Kupwara is being held



on May 20.

IG BSF appreciated the operational readiness of troops put in place for the safe and secure elections in the border constituency.

"Ashok Yadav IPS, IG BSF, Kashmir visited the forward areas of Kupwara,

Tangdhar & reviewed the BSF preparations & coordination with local administration for the upcoming Phase of #LokSabhaElection. IG appreciated the operational readiness of troops for safe & secure elections", BSF Kashmir posted on X.

DC Kishtwar inspects Road-Bridge works in Dachhan, Marwah area

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 15

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav conducted a comprehensive visit to the Dachhan area of Sub Division Marwah to review the progress of several critical road-bridge infrastructure projects connecting Dachhan to Marwah.

He was accompanied by SDM Marwah Mohd Ashraf, ACD Phulail Singh, and the concerned Executive Engineer Mohd Aslam Lone, along with officials from Revenue, RDD and Police Department.

The DC assessed the development of the Ikhala Block Boundary Road extending from Dachhan to Marwah. He also reviewed the ongoing construction of a 45-meter spanned Steel-Girded motorable bridge at Km 43



of the Hori-Sounder Road over the Kibber Nallah.

Dr. Yadav issued strict directives to contractor to expedite the pace of the project to ensure its timely completion.

The DC inspected the pending execution work on the 35-meter span Steel-Girded motorable bridge over Nanth Nallah at Suid Dachhan. He

directed the executing agencies and the contractor to commence the work immediately to make the road accessible to the public of Sirchi, Dachhan.

During the visit, Dr. Yadav also evaluated the progress of the new hospital building at Suid Dachhan, which is being constructed under the Resettlement and Rehabil-

itation Plan of Pakal Dool HEP. Dr. Devansh Yadav instructed SDM Marwah M o h a m m a d Ashraf to resolve the issues, if any, to ensure smooth and timely completion of the hospital project.

The residents of Suid and Sewar Bhatti had an opportunity to interact with the DC, where they presented their grievances. Dr. Yadav assured them of prompt resolution of their issues.

Furthermore, the feasibility of the road from Dam Top to Tunder was assessed and RDD Dachhan was instructed to submit the Detailed Project Report (DPR) promptly.

Ensure pothole free roads for smooth riding in Kashmir Division: Div Com V K Bidhuri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

Emphasizing on smooth riding surface of all roads, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today directed concerned officers of PWD for finishing all works on the City roads and ensure pothole free roads across Kashmir Division.

He stressed on agencies entrusted with upgradation and development of roads to strictly adhere to deadlines for completion of project works at critical junctions and locations.

Besides, he directed for macadamization of roads and landscaping of walkways, and instructed officers to execute works at different sites through double shift working plan.

Underlining the utmost urgency of completion of work at Jahangir Chowk



Junction, Div Com asked CE, SSCL to accelerate ongoing developmental works and finish it within couple of days.

Bidhuri also directed CE, PWD for improvement of riding surface at Nowgam flyover besides finishing pending con-

struction work at Bemina and Nowgam flyover within stipulated time.

CE assured the meeting smooth riding surface of service roads of Nowgam Flyover from today evening.

Among others, the meeting was attending by

CE Smart City Srinagar; CE PWD and Joint Commissioner SMC besides other officers.

Earlier, Div Com chaired a meeting regarding Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2024, wherein he directed concerned officers to enhance the registration process of service providers to saturate the requirement for smooth conduct of pilgrimage.

He also asked all stakeholder departments to initiate the tendering process for implementation of developmental work plans for SANJY.

The meeting was attended by DC, Anantnag, DC Ganderbal; ADC Bandipora; CEOs of Pahalgam & Sonmarg Development Authorities, officers of SASB, KPDCCL, R&B, Animal Husbandry, Labour Department, SMC, Sanitation, NHIDCL, BRO and other departments.

Srinagar Admin holds Workshop on Operationalization of Decision Support System

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

In order to enhance understanding and proficiency in operationalization of the Decision Support System (DSS) for efficient emergency response and Disaster Management, the District Administration Srinagar today organized a workshop at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Chairman District Disaster Management Authority presided over the programme organized in collaboration with J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency (JKERA).

Addressing the workshop, the DC underscored the significance of the Decision Support

System (DSS) and Digital Risk Database (DRDB) to respond promptly during disasters and emergencies. He said the comprehensive training session is aimed to enhance understanding and proficiency in utilizing the Decision Support System (DSS), a crucial application for efficient decision-making and risk management.

Dr Bilal stressed on sensitizing frontline Officers and Officials about the operation of applications in disaster and emergency like situations to report and tackle the incident.

The DC laid emphasis on further upgrading and improvising the system and asked the concerned to integrate and extend the Decision Support System (DSS)/Digital Risk Database (DRDB) applications on WhatsApp platform so that maximum

population is connected to the repository for effective, robust and real-time recording of the incident and prompt response from the Administration.

The DC added that the collaborative efforts of all the stakeholders is pivotal towards strengthening disaster preparedness to ensure safety of people and properties.

On the occasion, the DC said that a Robust Incident Response System (IRS) is being developed to tackle any disaster through real-time recording and prompt response mechanism in Srinagar District.

Earlier, the DC was apprised that the DSS facilitates effective two-way communication, equipping line agencies such as JKDMA, DDMA, and other stakeholder Departments with a reliable communication

bridge, thereby strengthening their capacity to respond promptly during emergencies. On the other hand, DRDB serves as an open-source web-based application accessible to stakeholders, providing a centralized repository of hazard, exposure, and risk information that can be readily utilized for mitigation, developmental planning, and risk communication purposes.

The development of DSS and DRDB under the World Bank funded JTFRP represents a robust and integrated scientific system that will serve as the backbone of the Emergency Operation Centre, functioning as the command-and-control system for disaster management in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, alongside District Emergency Operations Centers (DEOCs).

National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 15

The implementation of National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) was reviewed today at a meeting of the District TB Forum Committee chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner, Kathua Surinder Mohan.

At the outset, District Tuberculosis Officer, Kathua Dr Radha Krishna presented the district TB profile. He informed that Kathua district has successfully diagnosed 43 MDR cases (15 INH and 28 RR resistant) out of 139 cases in the whole UT of J&K which depicts efficient efforts of all stakeholders. Besides, Kathua district is also maintaining 91% of treatment success rate which figures out amongst the best performers.

It was further given out in the meeting that out of total 257 panchayats, 38 panchayats including 7



in Kathua block, 8 in Billa-lar block, 5 in Basohli block, 7 in Bani block and 11 in Hiranagar block have been declared TB Free.

Moreover, under NIKSHAY MITRA programme a total of 717 kits (Food Baskets) have been

distributed to 544 TB patients in the district as nutritional support as part of National TB Elimination Programme.

While appreciating the District TB forum, the ADDC called for intensifying the efforts for maxi-

mum sample collection with special focus on smokers, aged and infirmed besides cases with comorbidities. He also enjoined upon the field functionaries to conduct house to house survey besides providing best possible treatment to diagnosed cases.

Earlier, the CMO Kathua also threw light on the dedicated infra available across the district in all health blocks of the district including provision of TRUNAAT machine in block Basohli, Hiranagar and Parole.

While NAAT testing is available at GMC Kathua, DTC Kathua, block Billa-lar and Bani. He said the GMC Kathua has also contributed significantly in screening of TB Cases which also has launched culture sampling facilities recently.

DC flags off 32 Haj Pilgrims from Samba

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAY 15

Deputy Commissioner (DC), Abhishek Sharma on Wednesday flagged off a group of 32 Haj pilgrims of Samba District here from conference Hall DC office.

The group of pilgrims includes 16 males and 16 females, of which 28 shall report to Delhi State Haj Committee at Haj Manzil Turkman Gate, Asif Ali Road, New Delhi and remaining 04 shall report at Srinagar.

The District Administration Samba has appointed Nodal Officer and Liaison Officer to facilitate and ensure all necessary arrangements and facilities to enable the pilgrims to travel safely and comfortably to Haj house Sri-



nagar and Haj Manzil Delhi for their onward journey to Saudi Arabia from International Airport Delhi and Srinagar.

Interacting with the pilgrims, the DC congratulated them for getting the opportunity to perform holy Hajj and wished them safe and secure pilgrimage.

He appealed to them to pray for peace and prosperity of the country and their fellow citizens from the District. He emphasized the significance of the Haj pilgrimage and the importance of upholding the values of peace, unity and brotherhood.

Furthermore, the DC advised the pilgrims to

install and use the Haj Suvudha App launched by Union Minority Affairs Minister Smriti Zubin Irani on March 3 that would provide necessary information and direct access to important services like training modules, flight and accommodation details during annual pilgrimage.

The event was attended by SSP Samba, Vinay Kumar, ADC, Suresh Chander, DIO, Ashiq Rafiq Malik, Liaison Officer, Yaqoob Khan and officials from the District Administration and Police, representatives from the religious community, and well-wishers who came together to bid farewell to the pilgrims and pray for their well-being during their sacred journey.

VC KVIB reviews bankers performance under PMEGP, JKREGP

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

Vice Chairperson, Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, today chaired a Bankers meet to review progress on schemes being implemented under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) at Civil Secretariat here.

The KVIB officers gave a detailed presentation on performance of KVIB Kashmir division under PMEGP and JKREGP.

The VC held deliberations on the wide range of issues including sanctioned cases for loan, rejection of cases by banks, pendency of cases



besides increasing the performance under the schemes.

The VC had exhaustive interaction with concerned officer regarding the implementation status of these scheme in their respective districts. She asked the representatives of various banks not to reject cases on frivolous issues and approve the cases as per merit.

She expressed satisfaction over the target achieved under the schemes and stressed

on the Bankers to follow guidelines strictly to reduce pendency of cases approved by KVIB. She further suggested measures to lower the rejections and directed the concerned officers to make the beneficiaries aware about the schemes to further reduce the rejection cases.

The VC reviewed the district wise performance of KVIB Kashmir division under PMEGP and JKREGP for the year 2023-24. She asked the Bankers to sensitize the branch officers

of their respective banks regarding disbursement of loan cases for entrepreneurial units of applicants.

It was also informed that JKREGP is a credit linked subsidy Programme aimed to harness and divert the energy and enthusiasm of the youth for establishment of the micro industrial sector and create employment opportunities in rural areas of J&K.

Scintillating Cultural program mesmerize visitors on Day-2

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 15

On 2nd day of the three-day annual Shiv-Parvati Moungrhi Mela, thousands of visitors and devotees from within and outside the district thronged the Mela site and paid their obeisance to Goddess Parvati and Lord Shiva.

To entertain the pilgrim-visitors and further strengthen mutual love and understanding

amongst different sections of the society, a scintillating cultural programme was presented by the DIPR Udhampur in collaboration with the Cultural Wing of DIPR J&K.

Local and Information Department artists and students enthralled the visitors at the event, also attended by PO Poshan Subash Dogra, DDC Councillor, Jasvir Singh, Mela Officer Tehsildar Moun-



gri, Arushi Sabharwal and other officers. Another attraction was rural sports activities organized by the Depart-

ment of Youth Services & Sports in collaboration with the Education Department.

The district administra-

tion has made adequate arrangements of water, electricity, healthcare, security, transport etc. for the successful conduct of

the mela. A number of temporary sweet shops, toy shops and other edibles corners put up by the locals as well

as outside vendors were the main attraction for the general public visiting the Mela site. During the Mela, checking of rates

and quality of eatables is strictly maintained by a team of officers.

On the sidelines, the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Field Office organised a Painting/ Drawing Competition for the students from adjacent schools.

Later, the prizes were given away among the participants of the event.

DC flags off Vishwagram Trust's Educational Activities in Doda



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 15

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh today flagged off the educational activities being conducted by the Vishwagram Trust Gujarat in various schools in the District.

The educational activities proposed to be organized by Vishwagram Trust include interactive workshops, skill development sessions, and awareness programs focusing on holistic development

and academic enrichment. The DC lauded the diverse range of programs offered by the trust and encouraged active participation from students to make the most of these opportunities.

The Vishwagram Trust Gujarat educational activities will include workshops, seminars, and training sessions designed to enhance the learning experience for students and educators alike.

During the flagging off ceremony, the DC

Doda emphasized the significance of providing students with a holistic learning experience that goes beyond traditional methods. He lauded the efforts of the Vishwagram Trust in introducing new teaching techniques and tools that will benefit the academic growth and development of students in Doda district.

CPO Doda, Manish Kumar, CEO Doda, Parkash Lal Thapa and other concerned officers and officials were present on the occasion.

Inter-School Zonal Level Football Competition concludes with exciting Final Match

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 15

The inter-school zonal level Football competition for boys U-14 years reached its thrilling conclusion at GCOPE Gadoora Ganderbal, with YSS Ganderbal hosting the final match between New Dreamland and Qamaria HSS Ganderbal.

The event witnessed the presence of Dr. Hartej Singh, Principal of GCOPE Gadoora Ganderbal, and Dr. Mushtaq Azad, as the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively.

The final match was a riveting display of intense drama and excitement, culminating in Qamaria HSS Ganderbal's victory with a 2-0 score line against New Dreamland.

Dr. Hartej Singh extended his congratulations to both finalist teams, recognizing their dedication and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Both the winning



and runner-up teams were honored with well-deserved trophies, acknowledging their exemplary performances.

In parallel, Zone Kangan hosted an exhilarating Inter-school Handball competition for boys U-14 years at the Zonal office ground in Kijpara Kangan.

A total of 152 students from 14 schools of Zone Kangan actively participated in the event, showcasing their talent and sportsmanship. The meritorious teams were recognized and awarded trophies by senior officials, celebrating their outstanding per-

formances. Additionally, Zone Tullamulla organized an intra-mural Handball competition at MS Sehpura and MS Bumpora within the zone. The Department of YSS emphasizes the significance of such intra-mural events in engaging the youth in games and sports, aiming to steer them away from the negative influences of society.

Similarly, Zone Hariganwan organized an inter-school Handball competition for Girls U-14 years at BHSS Hariganwan ground, witnessing participation of 116 girl students.

PM KISAN scheme DC Jammu seeks detection of ineligible beneficiaries in 7 days



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya has directed officers to start a re-verification drive to detect ineligible beneficiaries, if any, availing benefits of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.

Concerned Sub Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), Sub Divisional Agriculture Officers (SDAOs) and Tehsildars have been

instructed to complete the process of considering ineligibility based on the scheme guidelines within seven days. The officers were directed to conduct ground surveys and register detailed information.

ADDC Sher Singh, Director IT (DIO NIC) Jammu Sanjeev Kapoor, Chief Agriculture Officer Vinod Kundal, ACR Dr. Rajesh Kumar, CPO Uttam Singh and LDM Romesh Chander were also present in the meeting.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024: Mega SVEEP programme held at Pahalgam



JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MAY 15

A mega Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme was organised at the world famous tourist destination Pahalgam to raise awareness about the importance of voter education and participation in the electoral process.

The program organised under the guidance of District Election Officer Anantnag, SF Hamid and was spearheaded by the Chief Executive Officer Pahalgam, Sub-divisional

Magistrate Pahalgam, Nodal Officer SVEEP, Youth Service and Sports and Information and Public Relations Anantnag.

The program began with the administering of voters' pledge to the participants. Later, an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) rally was held from Nunwan to Sadu Padaoo. The intention of this program was to raise awareness among the masses for electoral participation. Notably, the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency is going to polls on 25th May.

Director RDD inspects development works in Samba, Kathua & Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Director Rural Development Jammu, Mohammad Mumtaz Ali conducted tour of Samba, Kathua and Jammu districts to inspect the progress of developmental works. He visited Bari-Brahmana, Vijaypur, Samba, Nud, Rajpura, Hiranagar, Marh and Nagrota Blocks of Samba, Kathua and Jammu districts and inspected a number of developmental works executed/being executed under different schemes of RD & Panchayati Raj Department.

In District Samba, he inspected Panchayat Learning Centres (PLC) in Birpur and Palli Panchayats of Block Bari-Brahmana, under construction

Panchayat Ghar buildings at Jakh in Block Vijaypur, DDC office building in Block Samba, BDC office building in Block Rajpura and other developmental works executed/being executed under different schemes of RD&PR. He was accompanied by Superintending Engineer, REW, ACD, ACP, Executive Engineer REW, Block Development Officers and other field staff.

Touring District Kathua, he visited Block Hiranagar and inspected Panchayat Learning Centre (PLC) in Panchayat Kootah, Construction of lane/drain at village Kootah Mohallah Parshotam Lal Ward No. 4, Playground at GHSS Kootah and other works executed/being executed under different schemes

of RDD.

Similarly, in District Jammu, inspections were carried out in Panchayat Learning Centre (PLC), Dhok Waziran, Block Nagrota to check the functioning of equipments and other development activities being carried out in the Panchayat. He also inspected ongoing work of the BDC office building at Nagrota and works including repairs and renovation of ponds, Amrit Sarovars etc. in Panchayats Panjgrain, Marh, Chibba, Bamyal, Jagti and Nadore.

He instructed the field staff to work professionally to maintain quality and timeline completion. Technical staff was instructed to closely monitor the execution of developmental works.

Lyceum International School, Pulwama served Notice for Various Violation/ Short Comings



JI NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, MAY 15

After receiving complaints from parents and injury to a student of the school within School Campus recently, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom taking cognizance of the matter, issued immediate directions to Chief Education Officer, Pulwama for inspection of the school and detailed report.

The report submitted by the CEO Pulwama, has highlighted various shortcomings, including lack

of safe and secure environment at various locations in campus including the site of incident where an under construction soakage pit, which is not properly secured, has led to the injury to the student.

Further, there is a defunct swimming pool, not properly secured to avoid any injuries/ incident. Report further revealed an abysmal pupil-teacher ratio as compared to the pupil teacher ratio in Government schools of the district as well as per norms. The roll in each section/

class is also beyond the upper limit as per preliminary inputs.

The report also revealed improper transportation management.

The school management has been issued notice for rectification/compliance of norms and submit compliance report failing which further action will follow as per rules. The district administration has cautioned all schools to ensure adherence to all rules/regulations/norms as envisaged, any violation will attract strict action under rules.

Team J&K to participate in India Skill Competition 2024 in New Delhi



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

The India Skills Competition 2024, the nation's largest skill event, is set to kick off in New Delhi.

Over 900 students from more than 30 states and Union Territories, along with 400 industry experts, will participate in this four-day extravaganza. The competition spans across 61 skills, ranging from traditional crafts to cutting-edge technologies.

Around 250 candidates were shortlisted to participate in UT level Competitions held in March 2024 in 8 Academic partner institutions viz University of Kashmir, Central

University Jammu, NIT Srinagar, NIFT Srinagar, Government Polytechnic Jammu, CIIT Jammu and NIELIT organized by J&K Skill Development Mission. The winners of UT level competition were trained through Academic partners to participate in the National Competition.

A contingent of 18 selected candidates from Jammu and Kashmir reached New Delhi today to showcase their diverse talents in areas such as Beauty Therapy, Cloud Computing, Cyber Security, Fashion Technology, Graphic Design Technology, Welding, Carpentry, etc. at New Delhi w.e.f 15-19 May 2024. One can-

didate of CNC Turning skill is participating at Bangalore venue.

J&K also participated in 2018 and 2021 and brought 1 prize and medallions of excellence to the UT. This event celebrates the invaluable role of skills and craftsmanship in nation-building, empowering skilled youth to dream beyond conventional boundaries and showcase their abilities on the global stage.

The IndiaSkills Competition aligns meticulously with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), allowing participants to creditize their learning outcomes and pursue thriving careers in their chosen fields.

Supporting Girls' Education: Stationary Kits distributed under BBBP initiative

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 15

In a concerted effort to bolster education and empower young girls, a distribution event was held under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative, providing stationary kits to female students in zone Hariganwan of Kangan Ganderbal.

The event, organized by Sankalp HEW MS Ganderbal under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Ganderbal marked a significant stride towards gender equality and educational accessibility.

The stationary kits contain essential educational materials such as



notebooks, pens, pencils, and geometry sets. The beneficiaries, female students from Middle School GB Hariganwan, Middle School Baghi Surfraw, Middle school GB Thune and Middle School Syed Basti Surfraw received

the kits as part of the ongoing efforts to support their educational journey.

The initiative aims to address the challenges faced by young girls in accessing quality education.

CMO reviews patient care scenario in Assar, Thathri Blocks

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 15

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Doda, Dr Om Kumar today convened a virtual meeting and interaction with the BMOs and Incharges of Health Centres to review the health-care scenario in Assar and Thathri blocks.

The CMO reiterated that healthcare is the essential service, and timely and quality delivery of the same remains the top most priority of the health department.

While reviewing the

status of punctuality of staff, the CMO strictly directed the BMOs to initiate strict action against the absentee staff and call for their explanation. He asked the BMOs to sanction the leave with utmost care and prior alternative arrangements so that the health care services of any of the centres doesn't suffer. The CMO appreciated the health care workers who remain available to serve humankind beating all hardships and advised them to uphold the grace of this noble profession.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-TENDER NOTICE			
No:- 40-2024-25-ADEN-2-FZR		Date:14.05.2024	
Sr.DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-05/06/2024 up to 15:00 Hrs . Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
13.05.2024		22.05.2024	05.06.2024/ 15:00 Hrs
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1.	40-2024-25-ADEN-2-FZR	Up-gradation/Improvement at Firozpur City Goods shed under ADEN-2/FZR.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer/Period of Completion
	8,25,22,191.06/-	5,62,600/-	60 Days 10 Months
Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".			
Note. 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1469/24			

BJP misleads people in the name of religion: Priyanka

AGENCIES
RAE BARELI (UP), MAY 15

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Wednesday attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government and said that the present government lacks accountability towards the people and it just gathers votes by misleading the public in the name of religion.

Addressing a public meeting in support of her brother and Congress candidate from Rae Bareli Rahul Gandhi in Unchahar, Priyanka said, "Everything is becoming expensive day by day due to the policies of the Modi government."

She said that while the Modi government waives the loans of the rich and the sons of its ministers mow down farmers under their vehicles, it does not waive the loans of farmers. She said while the BJP people talk about changing the Constitution, Rahul Gandhi is a true, simple and honest leader.

The Congress leader said that her family has been associated with Rae



Bareli for generations and the Congress leaders elected from here have been accountable to the people here. "There is no accountability in the present government and these people just take votes by misleading the public in the name of religion," she said.

She said that today a cooking gas cylinder costs Rs 1,100, whereas earlier the same cylinder was priced at Rs 400. "At that time BJP leaders came on the road carrying cylinders," she said in a veiled attack at Amethi MP Smriti Irani.

Priyanka said that today 70 crore people are unemployed. "The gap between rich and poor is

increasing. The facilities like roads, electricity and water are not available as they should be. The poor of the country like common people, youth and farmers are in distress," she alleged.

She said that the son of a minister of the Modi government ran his vehicle over the farmers in which some farmers were killed. "Today the Modi government waives off the loans of the capitalists but does not waive the loans of the poor and farmers," she said.

The Congress leader alleged that PM Narendra Modi is in collusion with the big capitalists, that is why the country's ports, airports and mines have been given to the big capi-

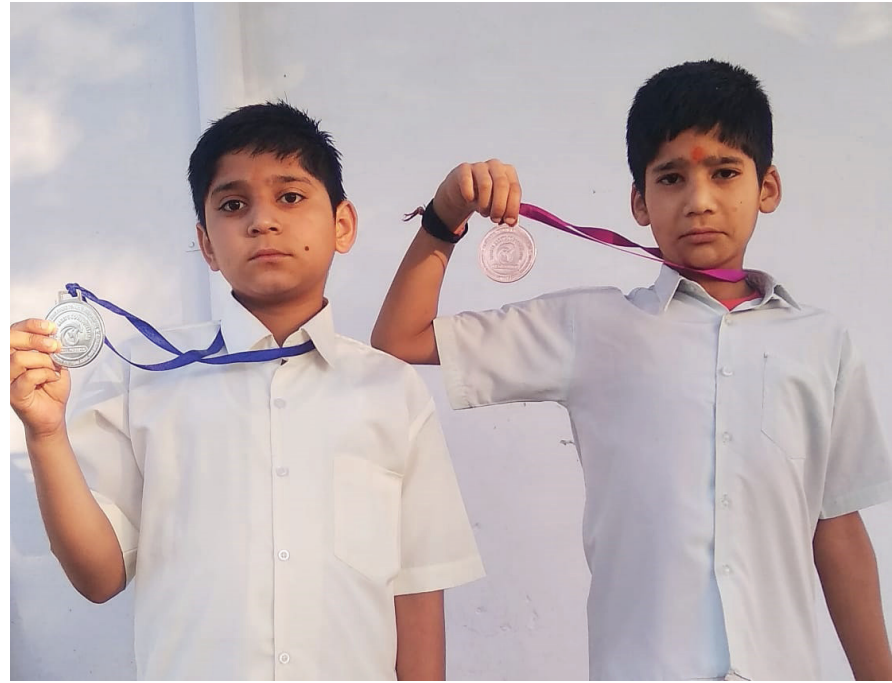
talists. She alleged that the Modi government took a donation of Rs 52 crore from a company which made a faulty vaccine.

She said that today stray animals are grazing in the farms in the villages. She said that when the Congress government in Chhattisgarh faced a similar problem it set up the cow sheds and linked women's groups to the cow shed, due to which the women got economic benefits and progressed by selling cow milk and curd.

She said that if the intentions of the government are right then the problems are solved but the intentions of the Modi government are not right. "This government is talking about changing the reservation and today the future of the country lies in this election," she said.

She said that when the INDI alliance government comes to power many schemes will be brought for farmers, women and youth. Strict laws will be made for minimum support price, right to job, paper leaks.

Sharma brothers bring laurels for Ramkot



JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

In the recently concluded 11th inter school/college open karate championship at Pathankot, two stu-

dents of St. Mary's convent school, Ramkot, Kathua namely Idhant Sharma and Sidhant Sharma won one silver and bronze medals respectively. The staff of the school and the

people of Ramkot congratulated both the players for bringing laurels for the Ramkot and wished them good luck for the future championships.

Shakib has company at head of T20I all-rounder rankings

AGENCIES
DUBAI, MAY 15

The race to be the No.1 ranked all-rounder at the start of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup has further intensified as two players share top billing following the latest update to the ICC Men's T20 Player Rankings.

Just 23 rating points separate the top five players on the updated list for T20I all-rounders, with Bangladesh veteran Shakib Al Hasan joined by Sri Lanka captain Wanindu Hasaranga in the top spot with just



over a fortnight to the start of the T20 World Cup. Shakib drops three rating points following

two appearances at the backend of Bangladesh's recent five-match T20I series against Zimbabwe, with Hasaranga joining the veteran in a share of the top spot and Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi just a further 10 rating point adrift. Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza gains two places to rise to fourth on the back of some strong performances against Bangladesh, while South Africa's Aiden Markram loses one spot to drop to fifth ahead of the Proteas' campaign at the T20 World Cup.

Heatwave likely over Northwest & East: IMD

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 15

A fresh spell of heat wave will likely commence over Northwest India from Thursday and eastern India from May 18, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

According to the IMD, isolated pockets of West Rajasthan, Punjab, south Haryana, East Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are very likely to witness heat-

wave conditions from May 16 to 19 with the possibility of severe heatwave conditions from May 17 onwards.

"Heat wave conditions very likely in isolated pockets over Gujarat region during 15th-17th; Konkan on 15th & 16th; Saurashtra and Kutch on May 16th & 17th; Delhi, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal and Odisha on May 18th & 19th," the IMD said.

The weather department has also predicted rainfall

with isolated heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds over south Peninsular India till May 20.

"Isolated heavy rainfall very likely over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karikal, Kerala, Mahe, Coastal and Karnataka from today till 19th May," the IMD said.

The MeT department also forecast isolated heavy rainfall over Arunachal Pradesh from May 16 to 19 and over Assam and

Meghalaya from May 17 to 19.

Southwest Monsoon is very likely to advance into South Andaman Sea, some parts of Southeast Bay of Bengal and Nicobar Islands around May 19, it said.

On hot and humid weather, the IMD said, these conditions are likely to prevail over Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Bihar on Wednesday and Thursday.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LG chairs review...

Financial Commissioner Revenue; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Prasanna Ramaswamy G, Secretary, Revenue; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and other senior officials attended the meeting.

The Lt Governor emphasized on developing a comprehensive and transparent land records management system and to ensure seamless extension of various services being provided to the citizens.

Effective land governance for efficient service delivery, drone survey and generation of property cards, accessibility of land records for implementation of schemes and infrastructure development for ease of living for citizens and quality and speedy delivery of services is our top priority, the Lt Governor said.

He directed the Revenue Department, Divisional Commissioners and all the Deputy Commissioners to streamline the online services with regard to mutations, change of land use, legal heir certificates, SC, ST, and OBC certificates.

He also asked the officers to ensure hassle-free access of land records and necessary certificates to all the citizens.

The chair was briefed on the progress achieved in scanning, uploading and digitization of data, status of properties pertaining to Evacuee, Waqf assets and transfer of land for various public purposes.

The meeting also discussed the progress on Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA), realization of Revenue collection, services provided on Revenue Plus and computerization of Revenue Courts—(KNO)

LG reviews progress...

The chair was briefed on the progress achieved under Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) in the UT. The meeting also discussed the working of Pani Samitis and the interventions required to address the issues in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.

The Lt Governor took stock of the IEC activities and dedicated measures undertaken by the department for Community Mobilization and capacity building of human resource with regard to Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance.

The Lt Governor also reviewed the Action Plan for Summer season and directed for effective measures to meet the water demand.

Progress under Centrally Sponsored schemes, PMDP projects and various other key projects, works under Shri Amarnathji Yatra, UT Specific Action Plan for Water Sector and governance initiatives of Jal Shakti Department were also discussed.

Meeting was attended by Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Sh Shaleen Kabra, Financial Commissioner, Jal Shakti Department; Sh Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari,

Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Dr. Ghulam Nabi Itoo, Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission J&K, Chief Engineers and other senior officers.

I never said Hindu...

started, we needed to come out from under the Tajjiya, we were taught. I grew up in that world. Even today, many of my friends are Muslims. After 2002 (Godhra), my image was tarnished," he added.

Asked whether Muslims would vote for him in this Lok Sabha election, he said that the "people of the country will vote for me."

"The day I start doing Hindu-Muslims, I won't be entitled to live in the public domain. I won't do Hindu-Muslim. This is my pledge," PM Modi said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Modi, in a public rally in Rajasthan, alleged Congress wants to take away the gold and property of people and distribute it among "those having more children."

Referring to reports about Congress's intention to redistribute wealth if elected to power, the Prime Minister said the party would conduct a survey and they would not even let Mangalsutra remain with women and "will go to this extent."

Prime Minister Modi filed on Tuesday his nomination papers from the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh. The Prime Minister is seeking a third consecutive term from the constituency and hoping to win with a record margin.

PM Modi, the sitting MP and BJP's candidate, filed his nomination papers at the district magistrate's office. Varanasi will go in for polling in the seventh and last phase of the Lok Sabha polls on June 1. The counting of the votes will be held on June 4. (Agencies)

Court grants bail to...

the Police report was called by the Court which revealed that the allegations against the accused is that on April 4, 2019, the accused along with other jail inmates in the Central Jail Srinagar set ablaze few barracks, shouted anti-national slogans and pelted stones on jail employees due to which some officials sustained injuries.

Accordingly, a case under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and various sections of Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) now the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including 307 (attempt to murder) was registered in Police station Rainwari.

Sultan was arrested in 2018 for allegedly working for a banned militant group. He was booked under the UAPA and various other sections. He was initially lodged in Srinagar Central jail till April 2022 and was moved to a jail in Uttar Pradesh under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

His PSA was quashed by the J&K High Court in December 2023, and he was released from the UP Jail in March. However, he was arrested again by the J&K police in the 2019 Srinagar central jail violence case.

During his incarceration, Sultan received the John Aubuchon Press Freedom Award from the American National Press Club in 2019.

Ready to contest...

coalition Muslim Mutahida Mahaz (Muslim United Front or MUF) that participated in the 1987 elections against the National Conference (NC). The election was rigged and NC was declared winner. The rigging created huge resentment among the young supporters of MUF which manifested in militancy a year later. In the early 90s, MUF leader Peer Muhammad Yousuf crossed the LoC and went on to lead the Hizbul Mujahideen as Syed Salahuddin—(KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir...

Jatin Kishore, Director Information and Public Relations are representing Jammu & Kashmir at this international event, showcasing the vibrant cinema culture and scenic beauty of the region to the global audience. The presence of Jammu and Kashmir at this global stage aims to promote Jammu and Kashmir as Film Makers' paradise and will definitely attract the attention of Film Producers of international repute to come to shoot in Jammu and Kashmir. The Cannes Film market will prove to be an ideal destination for promotion of recently launched, highly lucrative and producer friendly J&K Film Policy, 2024.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has recently accorded Industry Status to Film Making in J&K. The Film making in the Union Territory has got a fillip with Single Window Permissions and dedicated Nodal Officers for 24x7 assistance to the production houses shooting in J&K. The newly launched policy provides for attractive financial incentives by the government as well as a Local Talent Directory for promotion of Film Industry in the region.

Jammu & Kashmir has seen a remarkable resurgence in filmmaking over the last few years, with over 300 films/documentaries shootings taking place here. This resurgence marks a significant return of cinema to J&K after decades, symbolizing a renewed era of cultural revitalization thereby signaling a positive shift in the entertainment landscape of the region.

The presence of Jammu & Kashmir Pavillion at Cannes serves as a platform to promote the diverse cinematic offerings and scenic locations that the region has to offer to the world. It presents an exciting opportunity for filmmakers and industry professionals to explore the rich potential that Jammu & Kashmir holds for cinematic productions.

As the Cannes Film Festival unfolds over the next two weeks, the presence of Jammu & Kashmir will stand as a testament to the growing significance of regional cinema on the global stage and underscores the commitment of J&K to embrace and nurture its burgeoning film industry.

Hockey India launches Coaching Course Level Basic

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 15

Hockey India, the apex body for hockey in the nation, on Wednesday announced the commencement of the Coaching Course Level Basic, catering to individuals keen on pursuing coaching careers, including former players.

The course is part of the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway Development Program and aims to cultivate and educate aspiring coaches, providing them with a platform to advance towards FIH Level Coaching Courses.

The Coaching Course Level Basic is scheduled to be held online from June 24 to 29 and it will consist of five batches, each accommodating 40 candidates. Details regarding the online format and schedule of the courses will be communicated to the selected participants.

Online registration for the Coaching Course Level Basic has started at 10:30 AM on May 15 and will conclude at 3:00 PM on May 18.

Speaking about the Coaching Course Level Basic, Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey remarked, "This initiative underscores our commitment to nurturing the next generation of coaches and fostering a culture of excellence in hockey coaching in India. We are particularly excited to welcome former players who are keen on transitioning into coaching roles. Through these courses, we aim to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their coaching careers."

Forest Fire Erupts Near...

has been gradually spreading towards Indian territory. The situation has prompted immediate action from both the Army and the Forest Department, who are working tirelessly to control and contain the fire.

An official told KNO that efforts to combat the blaze are ongoing, with teams on the ground using various techniques to prevent the fire from causing further damage and crossing deeper into Indian forests. The challenging terrain and proximity to the LoC complicate firefighting efforts, but authorities are committed to mitigating the threat—(KNO)

NIA chargesheets 10th...

delivering the arms and ammunition consignments dropped by the drone coming from the Pakistan side," it reads.

It added that the case was originally registered by Rajbagh police in Kathua district of Jammu on 29th May 2022 after a drone (hexacopter) was intercepted and recovered with several rounds of Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL) and magnetic bombs near Dhalli area. NIA took over the case on 30th July 2022.

"Among the accused chargesheeted by NIA one is Faisal Muneer, identified as the main handler of the overground worker (OGW) network active in the border area villages of Kathua, Jammu. Faisal Muneer was working under the directions of designated terrorist Sajjad Gul of the proscribed LeT terror outfit.

The statement added that further investigations in the case are going on—(KNO)

Ten passengers injured...

their condition is stated to be stable," said police. They stated that a cognizance has been taken into the matter and investigation started.

Five killed in...

metre gorge near his house in Bufliaz around 11.30 am. He died on the spot.

A 17-year-old girl, identified as Saboorah Rafiq, was killed when she was hit by a speeding truck near the Banihal court complex along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district, police said, adding, they have arrested the driver.

In another incident in Ramban along the same highway, a driver was killed and two passengers injured, when a rashly driven truck hit a parked dumper near Dalwas.

They said the injured were rushed to hospital, while efforts are on to identify the deceased truck driver.

Bharat Pavilion at The 77th Cannes Film Festival inaugurated

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 15

Cannes, 15th May, 2024: In a year that spells magic for Bharat at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, with numerous official selections across sections, The Bharat Pavilion was inaugurated today at the 77th Cannes Film Festival in France. Hosted each year at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Government of India, Bharat's participation is spearheaded by the National Film Development Corporation as the nodal agency and FICCI as the industry partner. The pavilion marks India's continued commitment to showcasing its rich cinematic heritage and fostering international collaborations with the global film fraternity.

The grand inauguration ceremony, was led by Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,

Shri. Sanjay Jaju along with Shri. Jawed Ashraf, Ambassador of India to France.

The momentous inauguration was also witnessed by esteemed dignitaries, renowned filmmakers, and industry leaders coming together to celebrate the essence of Indian cinema. Guests present included Ms. Tholana Rose Ncheke, Chairperson, National Film and Video Foundation, South Africa, Mr. Christian Jeune, Director of Films Department, Deputy General Delegate, Cannes Film Festival, and Filmmaker Richie Mehta among others.

Speaking at the inauguration, Shri Sanjay Jaju said "Heartening to have more Indian projects in the Cannes official selection this year, one each in the competition and in uncertain regard and let me also confess that both these projects have been the beneficiaries of the support from the govern-



ment in terms of the incentive as well as the official core productions."

"The Bharat Pavilion here would serve as a hub for networking, collaboration, promotion of Indian Cinema on the global stage.

We would like to foster a greater collaboration between the Indian audio visual

industry and international counterparts, thereby enhancing the visibility and accessibility of Indian Cinema worldwide and serve the national goal of using the power of Cinema to enhance the country's soft touch." Added the Sec-

retary. "India is gaining attention worldwide, both geopolitically and economically, due to its philosophical contributions, thoughts, and ideas. Its role in a multipolar world of great uncertainty is significant as we transition from the existing international order into a new one. All these aspects are interconnected, making it increasingly important for us to have a greater presence abroad, particularly in cinema" Said H.E. Jawed Ashraf.

"It's such a momentous occasion of Indian cinema here. Personally for me,

I wouldn't have a career if not for the film festival community. The festivals have helped me basically unlocking a career. And also one of my missions has been to, as a Canadian Indian, to export the best of Indian storytelling and I'm not talking about from a film standpoint, I'm talking about from the stories, from people on the ground, from the amazing culture that we have to show the world. It's a real honour to be a part of this inaugural." said Richie Mehta.

Many states like Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra among others are present representing India at Cannes Film Market this year, to pitch their exquisite locales for international film shoots and to promote state incentives for filming to producers and production houses. Three films which have been shot in India through partnerships through India's Film

Facilitation Office (FFO) of India have been short-listed in various sections at this year's festival.

Notably, this is the first time ever that the UT of J&K is participating in the Cannes Film Market and reaching out to global film production companies to shoot in what is popularly known as 'Heaven on Earth.' The film incentive policy of J&K is less than a year old and on the very first day the response received through business meetings with several stakeholders has been more than encouraging, the officials at the J&K booth said.

The Bharat Pavilion serves as a dynamic platform, providing a gateway to the diverse landscape of Indian films, talent, and industry opportunities and is set to host a series of scintillating panel discussions and networking sessions during the course of the 77th Cannes Film Festival.

NSF celebrates birth anniversary of Shaheed Sukhdev

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

National Secular Forum (NSF), University Unit in Jammu University, and on the Birth anniversary of Shaheed Sukhdev who laid his life for the country. On the occasion, NSF activists raised slogans "Sukhdev Amar Raha" "Inqulaab Zindabad" "Bharat Mata ki jai", and they paid tributes to shaheed Sukhdev and garlanded the portraits of the son of soil.

Ankush Abrol, Jammu Provincial Joint Secretary, JKNC was the Chief Guest while Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary JKNC presided over the function.

Speaking on the occasion Ankush Abrol appreciated the initiative taken by the NSF member to remember the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country.

He also said that Sukhdev Thapar was an Indian freedom fighter who fought against the British government for the freedom of India. He was a member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican

Association (HSRA). He was executed along with Shivaram, Rajguru and Bhagat Singh on 23 March 1931. Sukhdev Thapar was born in Ludhiana, Punjab, British Raj on 15 May 1907 to Ramlal Thapar and Ralli Devi. He belonged to a Punjabi Khatri family of the Hindu community and he was brought up by his uncle Lala Achinram after the death of his father.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Vikas Sharma said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction. He exhorted the youth to refrain from drugs and intoxicants.

Dr. Vikas Sharma recalled the planning capability, boldness and feeling of nationalism in martyr Sukhdev and stressed upon the youth to follow his ideas. He also stressed upon the youth to shun their self centered outlook and contribute in the development of the nation.

Mohd Umer Farooq President University Unit NSF delivered the well-wishes, VINEET GUPTA Chairman University Unit, was delivering the vote of thanks.

Ajaz Jan accuses Apni Party of being BJP's 'B-Team' in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
MANDI, MAY 15

Ajaz Jan, Provincial President of Youth JKNC and former Legislator, accused the Apni Party of being the "B Team" of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing a series of meeting in Bader and Arai areas of Mandi Teshil in district Poonch, the senior NC leader highlighted the historical context, reminding the public that in 2014, the PDP entered into a coalition with the BJP to form the government in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that this alliance, despite its initial promises of stability and progress, ultimately led to political turmoil and disillusionment among the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jan expressed deep concern over what he perceives as PDP's repeated alignment with the BJP's agenda, which he believes contradicts the interests and aspirations of the people of the region. He asserted that the recent political maneuvers by the PDP further underscore their subservience to the BJP's political strategy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Jan urged the people of Pir Panjal to remain vigilant and reject any attempts by political parties to compromise on the region's autonomy and



identity for short-term gains. He emphasized the need for a government that prioritizes the welfare and development of the people above partisan interests.

Jan reaffirmed NC's commitment to advocating for the rights and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and reiterated their stance against any alliance that undermines the region's integrity and sovereignty. He appealed to the people vote and support NC candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed in the Parliamentary polls to get rid from BJP's misrule in Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, Nazir Shayar from BJP along with his supporters joined the National Conference in presence of Ajaz Jan and other leaders of the Party.

Ajaz Jan welcome the newly joined members into party fold and hoped that their joining will strengthen the hands of Party President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah.

Those who spoke are District President Baghusain Rathore, Bashir Naik, Sheikh Afsal, Peer Nissar, Abdul Jabar Tantary, Shamsudin Molvi sahib, Aslam Malik, Mohd Aslam, Haji Ashraf, Molvi Abdul Rahim, Molvi Nazir Sahib, Roshan Malik, Rakesh Sing Raka, Zameer Qureshi, Mukhtar Rathore, Parvinder Singh, Ab Razak, Abdul Ahad Tantary, Manzoor Ahmed, Ibharim Sakindere, Mohd Farooq, Shah Fasil, Irshad Ahmed, Stage Secretary Nawaz Sharif Malik and others.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024:

Expenditure Observer visits Assembly Segment 16-Gurez

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MAY 15

Expenditure Observer I-Baramulla PC, Sita Ram Meena conducted two day comprehensive tour of Assembly Segment 16-Gurez, which is part of I-Baramulla PC.

During the visit, Expenditure Observer oversaw home voting by accompanying one of the home voting team in Markoot Village, and also interacted with a senior citizen, Ashmi Begum, who availed the facility of home voting.

The Expenditure Observer also participated in a walkathon for voter awareness, which commenced from Degree College Dawar and culminated at Boys Hr. Secondary School Dawar, wherein he interacted with young first-time voters.

The Expenditure observer also reviewed the performance of Static



Surveillance Teams (SSTs), Flying Squad Teams (FSTs) VSTs and VVTs besides, he also reviewed functioning of accounting teams and emphasized on all the surveillance teams to work with zeal and diligence to ensure free and fair elections.

The Expenditure Observer also toured the

far-flung areas of Tehsil Tulail of 16-Gurez AC, wherein he inspected working of SSTs and FSTs.

On his return, the Expenditure Observer inspected working of Election Control Room at District Headquarter and Joint Civil Police Election Control Room at District Police Lines, Bandipora.

S. Manjit Singh leads election campaign in support of Zafar Iqbal Manhas in Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 5

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has continued to hold interaction with different segments of society as a part of election campaign in favour of the Party candidate for the Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahab.

In continuation to the ongoing election campaign and meetings across the Rajouri - Poonch Districts, the Apni Party has held a series of meetings with the people, seeking support for the Party candidate.

Similarly, S. Manjit Singh met the deputa-

tion of the people, who called on him in Poonch, and they extended their support to the Party candidate.

While expressing his gratitude, he said that the Party is committed to implement its agenda of equitable development in the Region that has faced decades of negligence, and poor infrastructural development.

He said that the Party has committed to leave no stone unturned to get a separate Parliamentary seat for Pir - Panjal, construction of two tunnels on the famous Mughal Road at Peer Ki Gali, and Dera Ke Gali, exploring new tourism sites, and promotion of tourism sites at the national and

international level.

He also believes that the Region should get a Hill Development Council and accordingly, separate funds should be allocated to revamp its development.

He also advocated that if the Party candidate for the Rajouri - Anantnag seat gets elected to the Lok Sabha, Zafar Iqbal Manhas would revolutionize the developmental activities, and generate employment at the local level with the promotion and exploration of the tourism sector in Pir Panjal.

He said that the tourism sector has huge potential to boost the local economy and generate employment.

Grievance Redressal Workshop on NCSS held at DIC Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 15

The District Industries Centre (DIC) Kathua, in collaboration with the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Jammu, organized a Grievance Redressal Workshop to enhance the efficacy of the New Central Sponsored Scheme (NCSS) for Industrial Development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Held in the conference hall at the Common Facility Centre (CFC), SICOP Govindsar Kathua, the workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 15 investors representing the Kathua

region. Its primary objective was to streamline the claim filing process under the NCSS framework, addressing prevalent information gaps and resolving grievances encountered by investors.

Participants were engaged in interactive sessions where they received comprehensive insights into the claim filing procedures, including eligibility criteria, documentation requirements and timelines. This ensured a thorough understanding among stakeholders, fostering transparency and clarity within the NCSS framework.

D&FCO Team inspects medical stores in Ramban District; Directs owners to install CCTV cameras



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 15

The Drug and Food Control Organization (D&FCO) carried-out an intensive inspection of the medical stores across the district to check the registration, authorization and record of availability and sale of medicines, besides the quality of medicines available in these chemist shops.

Drug Control Officer (DCO) Intiyaz Ahmed inspected various medical stores in Banihal area of district Ramban. During the inspection, the chemists were instructed to install CCTV cameras and ensure that the sale of Drugs is made only on a valid and proper prescription.

Chemists were made clear that there will be zero tolerance towards misuse of prescription drugs and erring medical shops will be dealt strictly under Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

The DCO directed all the Chemist establishments to adhere to the laid down norms strictly and warned the defaulters to desist from any unethical trade practices, failing which strict action as warranted under the Act shall be taken against them.

The department appealed to the general public to keep a vigil on persons involved in the trade of Narcotics & Psychotropic drugs, and inform the concerned if they found any violation of rules.

Pritam, Dwarka congratulate Krishna Bhardwaj for scoring 92% marks in 10th class



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU MAY 5

Jammu Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee Secretary and former councillor Dwarka Chaudhary and former councillor of ward number 55 Pritam

Singh on Tuesday congratulated Krishna Bhardwaj for scoring 92 percent marks in 10th class. Both the leaders said that Krishna has brought laurels to his parents as well as his school and teach-

ers. They also wished Krishna Bhardwaj all the best for his future. Vijay Sharma, Kamal Chaudhary, Parshottam Khajuria, Ajay Suri, Neeraj Kumar, Sukh Ram and others were present on the occasion.

EDITORIAL

Deepening divide in Ladakh

Once again, it is Leh versus Kargil in electoral race for Lol Saba berth in arid region of Ladakh. In the politically charged atmosphere in Ladakh, the region finds itself at a critical juncture, grappling with complex dynamics of identity, religion, and regional representation. The emergence of a narrative pitting Buddhist-dominated Leh against Muslim-majority Kargil reflects not only the diversity of the constituency but also the challenges of reconciling competing interests in a pluralistic society. The recent efforts by religious and social organizations in Leh to rally support behind a single candidate from the Buddhist community, in response to the perceived dominance of the lone Muslim candidate from Kargil, underscore the deep-seated apprehensions prevailing in the region. The maneuvering within political factions, with candidates urged to prioritize regional interests over party affiliations, exemplifies the urgency felt by stakeholders to safeguard their respective constituencies' representation. The Ladakh Buddhist Association's initiative to foster consensus among local candidates highlights recognition of the potential repercussions of a divided vote, wherein the fragmentation of support risks diluting the community's electoral influence. Similarly, the concerted outreach by the lone candidate from Kargil, Haji Hanifa Jan, underscores the imperative of consolidating support within his constituency amidst shifting political allegiances. However, amidst the fervor of electoral strategizing and communal calculations, it is essential to tread cautiously and uphold the principles of democratic pluralism and inclusive representation. While the concerns of minority communities must be acknowledged and addressed, political discourse should transcend sectarian divides and prioritize the collective welfare of all constituents. The resignation of National Conference leaders in Kargil, diverging from the party's endorsed candidate in favor of an independent contender, underscores the fluidity of political alliances and the nuanced dynamics shaping electoral alliances. Such developments serve as a reminder of the impermanence of opportunistic coalitions and the need for principled governance grounded in the aspirations of the electorate. In navigating the intricate terrain of Ladakh's electoral landscape, it is incumbent upon political actors to rise above parochial interests and embrace a vision of inclusive governance that transcends communal fault lines. The electorate, in turn, must exercise its franchise judiciously, prioritizing candidates' credentials, integrity, and commitment to the region's development over narrow sectarian affiliations. The Congress party is standing at a crossroads in Ladakh politics, while the BJP, facing protests and resentment for not granting the Sixth Schedule to the region, will watch the unfolding developments closely to chalk out a strategy to win over its opponents. As Ladakh prepares to chart its course in the upcoming elections, let it be guided by the spirit of unity, dialogue, and mutual respect, laying the foundation for a vibrant democracy that celebrates its diversity while forging a shared destiny. Only through collective action and pragmatic cooperation can Ladakh realize its full potential as a beacon of harmony and progress in the Himalayan landscape.

Filmmakers must calibrate branding of film festivals

CHAITANYA K PRASAD

The success of any branding exercise is the impact & impression it creates on the target audience, visibility of products, recall value and deep connection with the audiences cutting across campaigns, launches, events and the wide array of trends and styles. In a similar vein, it is important to understand the impact of the branding idea or strategy on a visible platform, where eyeballs determine the yardstick of success.

Film festivals today are the perfect ecosystem to understand the value, intensity and impact of branding on such a glamorous circuit and ecosystem.

In the domain of cinema, where creativity meets commerce, film festivals serve as vibrant hubs where storytelling converges with culture, artistry intertwines with industry and communities bond around a shared love for the silver screen. Beyond the show-

cases of cinematic aptitude, these festivals have evolved into powerful brands, each with its own distinct identity and allure. From the glitz of Cannes to the heritage of the Venice Film Festival and from the cosmopolitan charm of Berlinale to the intellectual intricacies of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and the grandeur of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), the branding strategies of these festivals offer a fascinating glimpse into the intersection of culture, economics and politics.

Film festivals portray glamour, charisma, fashion and celebrity quotient that creates a unique buzz with audiences Cannes, Berlin, IFFI and Toronto, over the years have developed a unique brand identity that has crafted and shaped the storytelling and visibility narrative in the branding space. Festivals are known for their innovative burst disruptive proclivities that lead to unique "out of the box Branding". The hustle

and bustle of any film festival create a unique integral link and the relationship between arc lights that define cinema and colours, shades and images that constitute branding. A study of the branding quotient across film festivals portrays a reflection of the shifting strands of ideas, concepts & evaluation of branding across the festival space. The 4C's = Creativity, Culture, Content and Consistency outline the integral link between branding and the festival circuit.

It is a perfect convergence of creative minds, storytellers, narrators and inspirational Talking heads. Every festival has defining branding moments, which leave an imprint on the minds of audiences and a lasting impression on prospective consumers and supporters of cinematic excellence. Opportunities at festivals are limitless.

Cannes, Berlin, IFFI & Toronto integrate branding platforms and ideas, with their filming culture

leanings, narrator's values and storytelling nuggets. At these festivals branding as a medium has reinforced the soft power dynamics & equitations leading to better visibility, product value, loaded positive perception and enhanced outreach and networking opportunities. An idea by technology brands brings out another level of product display. Interactive experience and marketing outreach. Each of the prominent festivals in their editions has reinforced the image, identity, influence, interaction and interface of brands with tech tools cross-cutting themes thereby positioning a unique product identity & space at the venues.

Each major film festival, whether it's Cannes, TIFF, Venice, Berlinale, or IFFI, meticulously builds a blueprint for its branding elements to convey its individuality and values.

Cannes, renowned for its glamour, incorporates the illustration of the Palme

d'Or trophy and celebrities on the red carpet, alongside a sophisticated logo design often featuring the Cannes coastline. The festival's colour palette of black, gold and red represents poise, prestige and excitement.

Meanwhile, TIFF embraces diversity with dynamic iconography displaying film reels, diverse viewers and Toronto landmarks, complemented by vibrant shades like red, blue and yellow that reflect energy, creativity and inclusivity. Venice Film Festival, with its rich heritage, opts for classical depictions of Venetian landmarks such as the Rialto Bridge or St. Mark's Square, accompanied by a refined logo design that captures the essence of Venice's timeless beauty. IFFI celebrates Indian cinema with displays of aesthetic motifs and sceneries, traditional logo design and vivid hues of orange, red and gold, beside serene blues and greens that capture India's

cultural richness. Through these branding elements, each festival communicates its beliefs, attracts audiences worldwide and reinforces its significance within the global film industry.

For filmmakers, the choice of which festival to submit their work to often depends not only on the esteem and reputation of the event but also on its alignment with their artistic vision and career goals. A filmmaker seeking international recognition may gravitate towards Cannes or Berlinale, while those championing a wide and diverse range of filmography might find a home at Venice or TIFF. In this way, the branding of film festivals becomes a crucial factor in shaping the trajectory of filmmakers' careers and the cultural nuances of movies as a whole.

(The writer was addl. DG, DFF & director IFFI. Views are personal. Inputs by Zoya Ahmed & Vaishnavie Srinivasan)

Stopping thieving through DBT

UTTAM GUPTA

On January 22, 2019, addressing NRIs and Indian-origin people at the inauguration of the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled what Rajiv Gandhi had Stated "Of the funds the Central Government sends, only 15 per cent of that reaches the people. If one rupee is sent from Delhi, only 15 paise reaches the villages, 85 paise disappear. Even as the country's middle class kept giving tax honestly, this "loot" of 85 per cent also continued". Modi added "I also want to tell you today's truth as well. We used technology to end this loot of 85 per cent completely." Elaborating on this theme, he explained:-

In the last four-and-a-half years, about Rs 580,000 crore, our Government, through various schemes viz. for a home, for education, for scholarship, for gas cylinder and to other such ends etc directly gives to the people, transferring it in their bank accounts. Now, just consider that if the country was being run through the old system, then even today from this Rs 580,000 crore, about Rs 450,000 crore would have disappeared or leaked. If we would not have brought a change in the system then this amount would have been looted like the former

Prime Minister had accepted...," Modi said.

That was before the 2019 General Elections. Today, when the 2024 General Elections are underway, the same discourse reverberates in the air even as the PM cites a figure that is nearly seven times. The amount spent on welfare schemes during the last ten years under the Modi - regime has gone up to a gargantuan of around Rs 4000,000 crore. Had the old system (read: before 2014) continued, the amount disappearing from the distribution pipe would have been Rs 3400,000 crore (4000,000x0.85).

What do the facts say?

The Union Government executes a plethora of welfare programs aimed at providing basic and necessary amenities and upliftment of the most disadvantaged members of society. It does so mainly through "Central Schemes" (CS) which are fully funded and implemented by it. A total of 740 CS schemes are currently under implementation. During FY2022-23, the CS spending was Rs 1208,000 crore

In addition, there are "Centrally Sponsored Schemes" (CSS) designed to supplement the efforts of the States in achieving various socioeconomic goals and implementing national priorities. These are funded by the central Government and the States in varying

proportions viz. 90:10, 60:40, 50:50 and so on depending on the scheme. These schemes are implemented by the States. During FY2022-23, the spending on a total of 50 CSSs was Rs 412,000 crore. Put together, the total expenditure of the Central Government on CS and CSS schemes during the year was Rs 1620,000 crore.

Now, if we were to apply the 85 per cent magic formula dished out by the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the amount pilfered while on the way to the beneficiaries would have been Rs 1377,000 crore. Only Rs 243,000 crore would have reached. Under the Modi - model, the entire Rs 1620,000 crore has been reached; courtesy of, the use of technology to transfer the money to their bank accounts.

How does it work?

Under its flagship Digital India program, the Modi - Government has been implementing what is popularly known as DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) for transferring the cash benefits and subsidies 'directly' to the Aadhaar-linked bank accounts of individual eligible beneficiaries. Launched by the erstwhile UPA - Government on January 1, 2013, its use has picked up pace under Modi since January 2015. As of date, DBT is used in 314 CS schemes.

The JAM trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhar, Mobile) is a

DBT enabler the 'mover and shaker' behind its successful implementation. Today, there are around 520 million Jan Dhan Accounts, more than 1.39 billion Aadhaar cards and 1.15 billion mobile connections. With this, the money can be 'instantaneously' transferred at the click of a mouse to tens of millions of beneficiaries spread all over the country. The DBT is free from the delays corruption and associated pilferage that was germane to the earlier arrangements under which there was human intervention, a host of intermediaries/mediators and the money was flowing through multiple layers in administrative offices.

To improve transparency, the Government has put in place the Central Plan Scheme Monitoring System (CPSMS) which ensures that all transfers to bank accounts are made strictly as per the list of eligible beneficiaries. The persons included in the list are authenticated with the use of an Aadhaar card that contains their biometric details thus removing any scope for fictitious claimants. The provision for such checks and balances has helped hugely in preventing bogus claims. As per the latest update on the DBT portal, the total savings by way of plugging leakages in the schemes due to the implementation of DBT during FY2022-23 was Rs

63,000 crore.

However, if we look at the food subsidy (the excess of the cost of procurement, handling and distribution of food over the price paid by the beneficiary/consumer), during FY2022-23, the Government was able to save over Rs 50,000 crore which works out to around 18 per cent in the total food subsidy bill of Rs 272,000 crore. This was made possible because of the "deletion of over 50 million duplicate and fake/non-existent Ration Cards".

Likewise, under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi or PM-KISAN (, the Union Government provides income support of Rs 6,000 a year to farmers with a valid enrolment, paid in three equal cash transfers of Rs 2,000 every four months; the money is credited to their account via the DBT mode), it was able to save over Rs 10,000 crore during FY2022-23. This is about 17 per cent of the total payment of Rs. 58,000 crores during the year. The savings were due to the deletion of over 21 million ineligible beneficiaries.

According to the DBT portal, the Government has been able to generate a cumulative saving of Rs 348,000 crore by plugging leakages since the inception of the DBT. Of this, more than half or Rs 185,000 crore are savings in the distribution of food subsidies alone.

Notwithstanding the

above, there remains a huge untapped potential for garnering more savings. This is because in the initial years, neither States used Aadhaar for validation nor the Centre made it compulsory even as the latter's efforts in this regard were hamstrung due to protracted litigation in the top court. In such circumstances, a large number of 'ineligible' persons making their way to the beneficiary list was inevitable. While the Government has got rid of them in some schemes like PM-KISAN, it has a long way to go.

Meanwhile, Modi also needs to focus on areas where technology intervention alone won't help. For instance, in fertilisers, the Government asks manufacturers to sell fertiliser at a low price to farmers. The excess of the cost of supply over it is claimed by the latter from the former as a subsidy. Since the subsidy is embodied in the MRP (albeit low), the subsidised fertiliser product must reach the farmer and be used only for growing the crop. If it doesn't reach, then the benefit of subsidy is enjoyed by the person who grabs it. A lot of pilferage from fertiliser subsidies is happening due to this flaw in policy. This can be curbed if only the subsidy is given 'directly' to the farmers under DBT.

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

The Role of Meditation in Sleep

RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

A recent newspaper article caught everyone's attention, featuring an elderly woman who initiated a 'Sleep Service Center' for those struggling to find restful sleep. This compassionate woman would just engage in conversation with the person and sing a lullaby offering comfort akin to a mother lulling her child to sleep. The result? Clients emerged refreshed and rejuvenated after just half an hour of her soothing sessions. Isn't it astonishing that we now seek sleep therapists for what should come naturally? What does this say about our society? If animals and birds can sleep peacefully, why can't humans enjoy this innate gift of carefree slumber?

Sleep is the best form of relaxation, akin to meditation, that's why those who

sleep well always keep well & feel well. It's a fact that if we get sound sleep during the night, we get up fresh being more active & feeling more energetic. However, in today's world getting sound sleep has become a rare occasion because today millions of people suffer from sleep disorders like sleep apnea, insomnia, restless leg syndrome, narcolepsy etc. In addition, the number of those who get a very broken, fitful sleep would be many times more. Sadly, many of these individuals resort to sleeping pills and drugs which ultimately make the problem worse. Knowing that tranquilisers are usually prescribed for insomnia and such other disorders as are due to anxiety and mental depression etc., one would say: 'Where are we heading?'

Medical science has acknowledged several causes that lead to sleep disorders. The biggest



hindrance of all that contributes to sleeplessness is bad mental health. We must understand that not being able to have restful sleep is not only in itself an unhealthy condition but also causes or aggravates many other diseases. For example, it is now recognised that sleep disturbance is one of the factors that lead to coronary heart disease. But most of us would agree subconsciously that tranquilisers

are not the answer to the question of sleep disturbance.

They now know well that these drugs represent a purely symptomatic approach, ignoring the underlying problems that cause these conditions. A British medical journal recently published a report about experiments that have shown that sympathy can work well in cases of sleep disorders. It further said that in one

trial, the doctors, instead of giving tranquilisers as they would have normally given, spent some time with the patients and talked with them in an open atmosphere. They just had a brief chat with them, with sympathy and also gave them a few words of advice and explained to them why they had those conditions. The results of these informal chats were astounding and the follow-up assessment showed that with this replacement of allopathy by sympathy, depression in those patients dropped from a level of 80 per cent to 40 per cent.

The other fact being realised is that mental depression, anxiety, etc. are mainly due to certain lifestyles, behavioural patterns and personality traits. It was also felt that the pattern of behaviour, designated as type 'A' which is characterised by competitiveness, impa-

tiency, etc., predisposes a person to coronary diseases, hypertension, etc. As a result of these new findings, doctors all over the world are now increasingly advising such patients to practise meditation and to have proper dietary patterns. It's a medically proven fact that mental ill health adversely affects one's eating habits, which in turn, drastically influences our sleep and health. Under such a medical condition, proper meditation techniques can be of great help if practised regularly. In the hustle and bustle of living a modern life, we tend to forget that it is the quality of life that matters the most & not the quantity. Hence if we jeopardise our sleep for silly reasons, we are knowingly undermining our health.

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

India alliance government will conduct caste census if voted to power: Kharge

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, MAY 15

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said that the current Lok Sabha election is a fight of rights and entitlements between the rich and the poor in which the INDIA alliance is completely with the poor people of the country.

In a joint press conference with Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, Kharge said that this is the first Lok Sabha election since independence which is very important in every respect. "Everyone knows that this is a fight between two ideologies. On one side, there is the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is standing in favour of a few capitalists and is ready to change the Constitution, while on the other side there is an alliance of 26 political parties which is fighting for the rights and



entitlements of the poor, tribals, unemployed and women," he said.

The Congress President said that in the first four phases of the elections, the INDIA alliance is far ahead of BJP and its allies and the results will be shocking on June 4 when the BJP will be wiped out and a coalition government will be formed in the country.

Regarding BJP's free ration scheme, he said that BJP only talks about 5 kilogram free ration whereas it should remember that the food security scheme is the contribution of Con-

gress and if their government comes to power at the centre, they promise that every poor family will be given 10 kilos of ration free. He said that the previous Congress governments had set up BHEL, HAL, GAIL and many other enterprises which provided employment to lakhs of people, whereas BJP wants to sell these enterprises to private hands. "Despite lakhs of government posts being vacant, youth are desperately searching for jobs," Kharge said.

Kharge said that caste census will be done in the country when the coal-

ition government comes to power. It does not mean that social inequality will increase but it will help in understanding what is the economic condition of each class, what is its level of education, whether the people are getting health services they require which will help in making a new policy, he said.

The leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha said that the youth are very angry with the BJP, while the women, farmers and the poor are hurt by inflation and this will be the factor in the defeat of the NDA. He said that Congress is committed to the five Nyay and 25 guarantees mentioned in its manifesto. In response to a question, the Senior Congress leader said that he will not say anything about the seats being won by BJP but it is certain that BJP is losing the Lok Sabha election and its departure is certain on June 4.

Pakistan, Ireland look ahead to T20 World Cup following Dublin series

AGENCIES
DUBLIN, MAY 15

Pakistan and Ireland believe their recent T20I series here will hold them in good stead for next month's ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Pakistan clinched a narrow 2-1 series triumph with a six-wicket triumph over Ireland on Tuesday and now travel to England for a four-match series against the reigning T20 World Cup champions ahead of the tournament in the USA and West Indies.

Pace spearhead Shaheen Afridi was in excellent touch during the Ireland series, with the left-arm collecting figures of 3/14 in the final match to finish as the leading wicket-taker across the series with seven scalps at an average of 12.71.

Experienced batters Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan also found some form, with the pair

scoring a half-century each in the series decider to complete the three-game series as the joint leading run-scorers with 132 runs apiece.

Shaheen paid tribute to the efforts of Babar and Rizwan and believes the series in Ireland has his team primed to perform well at the T20 World Cup "For us, before the World Cup, it's important to have these games to ready ourselves and there are a few areas to improve," Afridi said.

"They're both world-class players (Babar and Rizwan); they know how to play their role and they have done really well on this pitch," he said.

The form of Babar in particular will please Pakistan ahead of the T20 World Cup, with the skipper's innings of 75 coming from just 42 deliveries and featuring a joint career-best five sixes and an excellent strike-rate of 178.57. Babar smashed

four sixes from one Ben White over to put Pakistan in the ascendancy, combining with Rizwan for a partnership of 139 for the second wicket.

"We had good communication in the middle because we have played a lot of cricket together; we were trying to play on our strengths and the aim was to match with the run rate," Babar noted.

"Lots of positives for us to take and we were able to execute our plans," he said.

"We have a big tournament coming up and this is good practice; we are now looking forward to the England series," Babar said. While Ireland were disappointed to lose the series, they will be buoyed by the performances of a host of their players as they head into another T20 World Cup campaign.

Andy Balbirnie was in good touch at the top of Ireland's batting order,

tall right-arm seamer Mark Adair collected five wickets and Lorcan Tucker hit a superb 73 in the final game of the series when filling in as captain for usual skipper Paul Stirling who was rested.

Tucker revealed he enjoyed deputising for Stirling during the series decider and the 27-year-old said there were plenty of positives for his side to take into the T20 World Cup.

"It was brilliant and a great privilege to captain," Tucker said. "It would have been nice to start with a win."

"We set up a platform nicely but unfortunately, we couldn't finish well. We gave everyone a go with the ball. Credit to the lads, they bowled well in tough conditions," he said.

"Maybe it was a bit disappointing with the result but we had positives from the series," Tucker added.

Shah slams Naveen for regressing Odisha by 50yrs in his 25-yr rule

AGENCIES
SORODA (ODISHA), MAY 15

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday criticised Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for setting Odisha back by 50 years during his 25-year rule.

Addressing an election meeting at Soroda in Ganjam district, considered the bastion of the Biju Janata Dal, Shah said that the days of the Naveen Patnaik government would end on June 1 when the people of Odisha will bid him goodbye and bring the Bharatiya Janata Party to power.

The Union Home Minister criticised Patnaik for not implementing the Ayushman Bharat scheme, One Nation One Ration, and other central welfare schemes launched by the Modi government, fearing that Modi would take all the credit and he would lose popularity.

Shah assured the people that once the BJP comes to power in the state, the Ayushman Bharat scheme and the One Nation One Ration scheme would be implemented. He also



slammed Patnaik for not opening the four gates of the Sri Jagannath temple for devotees and for not making the probe report of the Ratna Bhandar (temple treasury) of the Sri Jagannath temple public.

Shah asserted that on the day a BJP Chief Minister takes oath in the state, the four gates of the Sri Jagannath temple will be opened for devotees, and the probe report of the Ratna Bhandar will be made public within six days.

He asked the Chief Minister where the original key of the Ratna Bhandar is and who made the duplicate key.

Accusing the Chief Minister of protecting chit fund companies that have

looted gullible investors in the state, the Union Home Minister assured the people that within 18 months of coming to power, the BJP will take stringent action against those who have looted the investments of the people.

Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is giving free rice to 80 crore people in the country, including Odisha, but Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is misleading people by giving free rice in a bag with his image.

He challenged the chief minister to add 2.5 kg more rice if he has the courage, instead of just providing an empty bag, so that the people will be happy and bless him.

Shah highlighted that

in Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh, all villages are connected by roads, but in Odisha, 6,412 villages lack road connectivity. He promised the people, "Vote for the BJP government in the state, and we will ensure road connectivity to all villages within two years."

Shah asked the people, "You have voted Naveen to power to run the state, but he has handed over the power to a non-Odia babu to run the government."

He said, "You have given the BJD 25 years to rule the state. Give the BJP five years, and we will make the state number one in the country, and not a single youth will need to leave the state in search of a job."

Ganjam, he noted, is the Chief Minister's home district, yet there is no industry, farmers are deprived of irrigation, and drinking water has not reached the villages.

The Union Home Minister said, "We promise Ganjam district will be the number one district in the country if the BJP is voted to power in the state."

Rabada flies back South Africa to nurse infection ahead of T20 World Cup

AGENCIES
CAPE TOWN, MAY 15

Kagiso Rabada has returned to South Africa to undergo rehabilitation for a lower limb soft tissue infection, as confirmed by Cricket South Africa (CSA) in their recent announcement.

"The 28-year-old consulted a specialist on arrival in South Africa and is being closely monitored by the Cricket South Africa medical team," said the release.

The infection, however,



will have no bearing on Rabada's preparation or participation in the T20 World Cup, as Cricket South Africa expect him to be fit for the tourna-

ment.

It cuts short the 28-year-old's stint with the Punjab Kings in the ongoing season of the Indian Premier League, where

he picked up 11 wickets in as many games at an economy of 8.86.

Rabada is expected to play a vital role in South Africa's T20 World Cup campaign as the spearhead of their pace attack, having been named in the squad on April 30.

The upcoming tournament in the West Indies and USA will mark his fourth appearance representing the Proteas in the T20 World Cup, having featured in the previous three editions in 2016, 2021 and 2022.

If you press Lotus button, I have to go to jail again: Arvind Kejriwal

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 15

Urging people to vote for the INDIA bloc candidate during the Lok Sabha election in the national capital on 25th May, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged on Wednesday that if people vote for the BJP, he would go to jail again.

Addressing the gathering while holding a roadshow here to garner support for the INDIA bloc candidate from Chandni Chowk Jai Prakash Agarwal, Kejriwal asserted, "I am a small person and



I own a small party. I wonder why these people (BJP) have put me in jail, what mistake did I make."

They are big people, so why would they put me in jail, he questioned sarcastically, stating, "My only mistake is that I have

provided free electricity, good education, free medicines and healthcare facilities to the people of Delhi."

He further alleged, "These people (BJP) have not even provided me insulin injections when I

was in Tihar Jail as I am a sugar patient for 20 years now. I don't know what these people want from me. They tried everything to break me but because of Lord Hanuman's blessings I did not break."

"If you press the lotus button on 25th May then I have to go to jail again but if you cast vote for the INDIA bloc candidate then I won't have to go to jail," Kejriwal said, while asking for people to vote for INDIA bloc.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has fielded Praveen Khandelwal from the Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha seat in Delhi.

Rishabh Pant reflects on successful comeback with T20 World Cup looming

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 15

Rishabh Pant's return to competitive cricket has been nothing short of remarkable, following a gruelling 14-month hiatus due to a near-fatal accident in December 2022.

This period of absence meant Pant missed out on several significant tournaments, including the IPL 2023, World Test Championship 2023 Final and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 at home.

Now, at 26 years old, Pant has made a triumphant return and appears to be back to peak fitness after completing a full season with the Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League. Reflecting on his journey back to the field after Delhi's final game of the season against the Lucknow Supergiants, Pant expressed his gratitude for the unwavering support he received from



fans across India.

"I think personally it was fantastic to come back on the field. The kind of support I got from whole India I would say was heartening to see," Pant told the broadcasters after Delhi's last game of the season. "Wherever I went to play, I got support from each and every person. That

was really good to see."

While it took Pant a few games to shake off the rust, he quickly regained his form with the bat and emerged as his team's top run-scorer, amassing 446 runs in 13 matches at an impressive strike rate of 155.40. His stellar performance throughout the season not only contrib-

uted to his team's success but also paved the way for a national comeback as he was picked in the India squad for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

"Everyone knew that I am playing after one-and-a-half years so it was a long time to wait outside the ground," Pant continued. "Loved every bit of it, just coming onto the ground, I just don't want to stay away from the ground, want to stay on the field all the time."

Pant is expected to be India's first-choice wicket-keeper in the T20 World Cup ahead of Sanju Samson. India's campaign begins on June 5 with their opening Group A clash against Ireland before they take on Pakistan in a much-awaited clash in New York. The Men in Blue will round off their group stage fixtures against USA (June 12) and Canada (June 15).

Home Secy hands over first citizenship certificates to 14 applicants under CAA

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 15

The Union government on Wednesday handed over the first set of citizenship certificates to 14 applicants here under the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024.

The certificates were handed over by Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, thus initiating the process of granting citizenship to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The Home Secretary congratulated the applicants and highlighted

salient features of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024. Secretary Posts, Director (IB), Registrar General of India and senior officers were also present during the interactive session, a Ministry of Home Affairs statement said.

It may be mentioned that the Government of India, on March 11 this year, had notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024.

The Rules envisage manner of application form, procedure for processing applications by District Level Committee (DLC) and scrutiny and

grant of citizenship by State Level Empowered Committee (EC), the statement said.

In pursuance of these rules, applications have been received from persons belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who have entered into India up to 31.12.2014 on account of persecution on grounds of religion or fear of such persecution. The District Level Committees (DLCs) chaired by Senior Superintendents of Post/Superintendents of Post as designated officers, on successful verification

of documents, have administered oath of allegiance to the applicants.

After processing as per rules, DLCs have forwarded the applications to State Level Empowered Committee headed by Director (Census operation). Processing of application is completely done through the online portal.

The Empowered Committee, Delhi headed by Director (Census Operation), Delhi, after due scrutiny, have decided to grant citizenship to 14 applicants. Accordingly, Director (Census operation) granted certificates to these applicants.

HDFC Bank introduces PIXEL: A new generation of Digital Credit Cards

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15, 2024:

HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, today announced the launch of 'PIXEL' - its first end-to-end mobile app-based customisable, DIY digital card range designed for Digital Natives. PIXEL is tailored for a generation characterised by digital fluency, unique preferences, and distinct financial behaviours.

PIXEL is a first-of-its-kind range of digital credit card series that offers seamless app-based issuance, complete digital lifecycle management, user engagement and digital servicing.

Furthermore, through PIXEL, the Bank gives the power of customisation and choice to customers, by enabling them to select their preferred categories and favorite merchants/

platforms such as Zomato, Myntra, BookMyShow, MakeMyTrip, Amazon and Flipkart, among others. By doing so, customers can earn attractive accelerated cashbacks on their spends from these merchants/platforms. Both current and new customers can apply for PIXEL credit cards through the PayZapp mobile application of the Bank.

PIXEL will be offered in 2 variants - PIXEL Play and PIXEL Go. Both the card variants offer up to 50 days credit free period.

PIXEL Play is a 'Build Your Own Card' variant of the PIXEL range of credit cards. It offers customisable benefits, giving customers the power to select merchants to earn accelerated cashbacks, card colour, as well as billing date. The card is aimed at users who are looking to enter the world of digital customisation while experiencing the benefits of a credit card.



PIXEL Go is a card for beginners looking to enter the world of credit cards and build their credit scores with flexibility of payments through Pay-in-Parts.

The HDFC Bank PIXEL credit cards range is being launched on the Visa payment network. The PIXEL card range will soon be accessible on additional card networks too. Zeta, a next-gen banking tech company, has partnered with the Bank to become the technology provider

for PIXEL. Speaking at the launch ceremony, Mr. Parag Rao, Country Head - Payments, Liability Products, Consumer Finance & Marketing said, "PIXEL represents a pivotal shift in our approach to banking solutions, crafted to resonate with Digital Natives. At HDFC Bank, we are excited to introduce this digital-first credit card that offers flexibility and customisation. With PIXEL, we are not just launching a product, we are shaping the future of digital banking, ensuring our offerings are as dynamic and innovative as the customers we serve."

Sandeep Ghosh, Group Country Manager, India and South Asia said, "We are excited to deepen our partnership with HDFC Bank with the PIXEL credit cards initiative, a testament to our digital-first, customer-centric approach to payment innovation. Backed by the trust consumers place in both HDFC Bank and Visa, this range of cards enhances the banking experience and empowers today's digital consumer with unparalleled flexibility and seamless personalization."

Ramki Gaddipati, CEO APAC and Global CTO, Zeta added, "Zeta is privileged to deliver on HDFC Bank's vision to power the next generation of credit cards in India. From the completely digital application-to-issuance journey to real-time card controls, PIXEL leverages Zeta's modern core banking and payments processing platform - Tachyon - to power many unique credit card experiences. It leapfrogs card products built using legacy technology and raises the bar for digital-native credit cards globally."

Team of officers assess cleanliness, sanitation standards in AH GMC Doda



J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 15

On the direction of Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh, a team of officers of district administration today inspected the cleanliness and sanitation standards in Associated Hospital Government Medical College Doda.

The team comprised Dr. Tanveer (MS AH GMC Doda), Mukesh Kumar (AEE R&B), Arshad Ahmed (AEE PHE), Amir Qazi (Treasury Officer Thathri) and Umar Anayat (District Epidemiologist).

During the visit, the team thoroughly monitored the drainage system, overall sanitation and the management of biomedical waste (both solid and liquid) within the premises of AH GMC Doda. The inspection aimed to

assess the current standards and identify areas needing improvement to maintain a hygienic environment in the hospital.

Following a detailed examination, the team gave several recommendations to enhance the biomedical waste management protocols in the hospital. Their suggestions focused on improving waste segregation, disposal methods, and overall cleanliness practices to ensure a safer and healthier environment for both patients and staff.

This initiative underscores the administration's commitment to maintaining high standards of sanitation and healthcare services at AH GMC Doda, reflecting the ongoing efforts to provide better medical facilities and care to the community.

ZPEO Basohli organizes Inter-School Zonal Level Competition at HSS, Bhoond



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BASOHLI, MAY 15

With the direction & overall supervision of Worthy DYSSO Kathua Sunil Singh Sambyal, Inter School Zonal Level tournament held at GMHSS Basohli today under the chairmanship of Principal GMHSS Basohli Lalit Kumar Sharma & Tara Singh Incharge ZPEO with the cooperation of field staff in following events i.e:- Athletes and Yoga

from drugs. Along with physical education staff. The event showcased the talent and competitive spirit of the participating youth. The competition was held in various disciplines -Athletes and Yoga The detail of the players are given below:- U.14 Boys - 245 U.17 Boys - 204 Total - 449 total 593 players are take a participate in Zonal level tournament.

Results :- 100 meters Under 14 winner Kewal Singh GHSS Hutt. 200 meters Rakesh Kumar Winner from HS Janu. 200 meters Under Long jump under 14 Winner Sahil Kumar HSS Hutt. Under 17 Akshay Kumar. Short put Khem Singh HSS Hutt.

GDC Ramgarh organises one day Yoga Session

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAY 15

The National Service Scheme unit 'Prabha' of Government Degree College Ramgarh, in collaboration with Department of Physical Education & Sports organised a Yoga Session on the theme "Yoga aasans for Stress Management and Healthy Living" under the banner Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and NCORD.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, the Principal of the College.

Addressing the students, she stated that the objective of the yoga session is to raise awareness about the ancient practices of yoga and its



positive impact on physical and mental well being and she urged the participants to adopt yoga as a part of their daily routine. The session started with Dhvani "OM" followed by Surya Namaskar by expert Ashok Kumar, PTI. He further apprised the participants about different ways Yoga can be applied to daily life, like, presence of mind, scientific meditation, Will

Power, How to listen to a lecture, clapping therapy, breath control, self examination, precautions, a sound mind in a sound body, self motivation, personality improvement etc. He encouraged all the students to involve themselves in different types of Aasans and meditations.

Students performed various Yoga Aasans for management of stress

and healthy living. The participants felt very relaxed and positive after performing yoga and meditation sessions, as they shared it during the interactive session. The event was coordinated by Prof. Brham Dutt, NSS PO, and Ashok Kumar, PTI were the organizers of the event. The event was attended by the students and staff members.

Natrang completes eventful 41 Years, stages 'Bagia Bancharam Ki'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU 15TH MAY, 2024

The leading cultural movement of Jammu & Kashmir popularly known as 'NATRANG' celebrated its 42nd foundation day with huge fun and fare. Featuring senior actors of Natrang in the celebration performances, the occasion also marked a detailed presentation by Balwant Thakur tracing the exciting journey of 41 years of Natrang and cake cutting ceremony. The celebrations opened with the remarkable performances by Anil Tickoo and Neeraj Kant featuring both in Manoj Mitra's 'Bagia Bancharam Ki' under the direction of Adil Hussain. Both Anil Tickoo and Neeraj Kant mesmerised the audiences with their highly matured histrionics. This is the cultural institution which gave a new cultural identity to this part of the world globally, tirelessly worked day and night to become the most sought after cultural destination of India. With over record 7,310 events to its credit, Natrang created a history for having participated over 360 national/International cultural/theatre festivals.

atre to the National and International limelight and its highly acclaimed plays which vibrated the theatre world and proudly travelled the whole length and breadth of the country and also crossed the boundaries of India as well and won appreciation in Russia, Germany, U.K., Singapore, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, South Africa, Mauritius, Central Asia and UAE and thus established a globally acknowledged brand called NATRANG. This organization has been highly instrumental in giving a new cultural and intellectual identity to this part of the country and revolutionized the cultural life of the place through its out of the world creative initiatives. Last year Natrang accomplished the country's most prestigious task of showcasing J&K before global audiences in the G20 conference and won world acclaim for outstanding performances.

While narrating the journey of 41 action packed 41 years of Natrang, Balwant Thakur shared few inspiring movements which were instrumental in maintaining the consistency of its continuous growth and development. Prior to the inception of Natrang in Jammu, this region never witnessed the presence of a professionally managed cultural institution. Despite having seen lots of ups and downs, Natrang never stopped working even in challenging times. There is not even a single day in 41 years when Natrang was not working. On the occasion he thanked his



wife Deepika Thakur and daughters Aarushi and Gauri for supporting and strengthening his mission wholeheartedly. Fact remains that Natrang has been highly instrumental in giving a new flip to the cultural life of this region and shaped the career of many aspiring actors/directors and young professionals. Natrang pioneered in introducing Children Theatre, Theatre Camp, Weekly 'Sunday Theatre', 'Theatre Laboratory', 'Theatre Repertory', 'Script Bank', 'Documentation Centre' and 'Mega Productions' (Featuring over 500 performers).

Natrang was established on 15th May, 1983 with the presentation of two unique short plays 'Neeli Jheel' and 'Nanhen Kandhey Pair' directed by Balwant Thakur at Abhinav Theatre Jammu. The actors who featured in the first performance of Natrang included Vijay Atri, Aasha Arora, Arvind Anand, Mohan Singh, Prabodh Jamwal and Arun Sharma. In 41 years, the plays which vibrated the theatre scene of the country included 'Bawa Jitto' 'Ghumayee' 'Mahabhoj' 'Aap Hamare Hain

Kaun' 'Chauraha' 'Poster' 'Mere Hisse Ki Dhoop Kahan Hai' 'Sainyan Bhaye Kotwal' 'Raktbeej' 'Comedy of Terrors' 'Suno Eh Kahani' 'Kanjoos' 'Holi' 'Mind Games' 'Richard III' 'Choona Hai Aasmaan' 'Mata Ki Kahani', 'Gulab Gatha', 'Rangla Jammu' and 'Kaun Nachaye Naach' etc. Natrang has produced over two thousand actors and many have made their mark in films and TV world as well. Prominent among them include Bhanu Goswami, Anjali Abrol, Sunil Palwal, Harish Khanna, Neelu Dogra, Tajasvi Sharma, Ekta Kaul, Mansi Sharma, Vikram Sharma, Mridul Suri, Nariender Sachchar, Arvind Anand, Mohit Sharma, Pankush Verma, Ashok Verma, (Vrinda Gujral and Satyam Mehra, Child Artists). In addition to having Seven pass-outs of National School of Drama and Seven Masters in Dramatics, Natrang sent four for International studies which included Harish Khanna (London School of Acting and Speech), Aeishesh Nijhawan (London International School of performing Arts) Aarushi Thakur (University of Leicester,

UK & Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, London) and Vikram Sharma (Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute, Manhattan, New York USA). Out of near about 7310 shows by Natrang in Forty years, the credit of maximum number of participation is shared by Neeraj Kant, Anil Tickoo, Suresh Kumar, Arvind Anand, Sanjeev Gupta, Vikrant Sharma, Sumeet Sharma, Pankaj Sharma, Juhi Singh, Sat Salarbi, Vijay Bhat, Dimple Sharma, Mohit Sharma, Mohd. Yaseen, Rahul Singh, Gaurav Jamwal, Pawan Verma, Subash Jamwal, Gauri Thakur and Sajra Qadir and in these years over forty actors of Natrang brought National/ International honours and acclaims. From National scholarships to International fellowships, the recognition brought by Natrang artists gave a distinct identity and pride to Jammu theatre. Prominent honours included International fellowships to Balwant Thakur (Ford Foundation USA) Harish Khanna (British Council UK) Ashish Nijhawan (Inlaks), National Awards to Balwant Thakur (Padamshree, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Sanskriti Award, National Senior Fellowship, Gurushree Samaan, Abhinayak Samaan, World Theatre Day Honor). Anil Tickoo (Sangeet Natak Akademi Award & National Fellowship), Sanjeev Gupta, Sumeet Sharma, Ashish Nijhawan, Vikrant Sharma, Sunil Palwal (Sangeet Natak Akademi's Yuva Bismalla Khan Award) Deepika B. Thakur

(National Fellowship) Neeraj Kant (National Fellowship) Mohd Yaseen (National Fellowship and Scholarship), Rahul Singh (National Fellowship and Scholarship), Brij Mohan (Music) Suraj Ganjoo (Lights) Ankush Lakhnotra (Lights) Chandher Shekhar (Publicity Design) contributed immensely to the growth of Natrang. In the year 2016, Natrang brought yet another laurel for the State of Jammu & Kashmir by presenting its cultural diversity at London where these performances were cherished by more than 50000 audience at the historic Trafalgar Square. Director Natrang, Balwant Thakur expressed that Natrang has a dream for Jammu and a mission to establish this place as an international destination of theatre. The Institution is all set to create an International level campus in Jammu housing an auditorium, two Studio Theatres, theatre residences, resource centre and an exclusive centre for children. On the occasion he thanked all those who contributed to the making of this historic revolutionary creative journey a history for 'Natrang' and hoped that all admirers and patrons of Natrang will continue to shower their blessings. Show must go on.

Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCJL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Ramsoo, Neel, Ukhral, Khari and adjoining areas will remain affected from May 16 to 19 from 9 am to 5 pm (On daily basis).

Ustad Mohalla, Kachi Chawni and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 19 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Part of New Plot, Prem Nagar, High Court, Pamposh Colony, Main Chowk Janipur and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 19 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Shastri Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 17 from 8 am to 12 noon. Likewise, the power supply to Industrial Area SIDCO Ghatti, Channi, Marheen, Paharpur, Rajbagh, Chandwan, Haria-Chack, Nanan Barnoti, and adjoining areas and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 17 from 8.30 am to 9 am and 4.30 pm to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Sainik Colony, Deeli and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 18 from 8 am to 12 noon. Likewise, the power supply to Greater Kailash, Jallo Chak, Ratnu Chak and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 19 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Poonch House, Tangawali Gali, Jullaka Mohalla, Radio Station, CPO Office, Karan Nagar, Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCJL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Industrial Area Bhagthali and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 16 from 6 am to 12 noon.

CSIR-IIIM organizes health check-up under Phenome India

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine organised a health check-up camp called Phenome India CSIR Health Cohort Knowledge Base (PI-CHeCK) for the staff & pensioners of CSIR-IIIM and their spouses at Jammu here today. The significant objectives of this initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are to ensure swasth bharat viksit bharat through health and wellness check.

Director, CSIR-IIIM, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed inaugurated this health check-up camp of very unique type which is specifically aimed to integrate state-of-the-art AI/ML models with comprehensive health data, laying the foundation for precision medicine with personalized disease risk scores, for the Indian population. While speaking during the inaugural



event, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed said that CSIR is one of the largest research and development organisations of India and has a network of 37 laboratories situated across the whole country. "This is a Pan India programme running at the national laboratories and centres of CSIR, spread throughout the country" he added and mentioned that the data generated through Phenome India programme would also enable the team to develop various diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers for various health condi-

tions impacting the Indian population.

After the inauguration, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed went to all the testing stations and assessed the preparedness for the three-day sampling programme, expected to have about 200 voluntary participants from CSIR-IIIM, Jammu. He also interacted with the PI-CHeCK team and encouraged the volunteers to actively engage in the programme.

A spokesperson informed that under this programme, CSIR-IIIM has invited its employees, pensioners, and their spouses

to voluntarily participate in this unique opportunity for comprehensive health assessments, including gut microbiome analysis, transient elastography/fibroscan for liver health, electrocardiogram for heart health, spirometry and oscilometry

for lung function assessment and skin barrier testing, as well as complete blood biochemistry covering essential parameters like Liver function test (LFT), Kidney Function Test (KFT), Complete Blood Count (CBC), Lipid Profile, and many more.

PI-CHeCK sampling at Jammu is being coordinated by Dr. Sumit G. Gandhi, Senior Principal Scientist and Head of Infectious Diseases Division and Dr. Vamsi Yenamandra, Physician Scientist, CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-

IGIB), alongwith the active assistance of Rajendra Kumar and Sanjay Sharma (Principal Technical Officers). The programme is being spearheaded under the overall supervision of Dr. Shantanu Sengupta, Chief Scientist at CSIR-IGIB and Principal Investigator of this project.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM inaugurating 'Phenome India' CSIR Health Cohort Knowledge Base (PI-CHeCK) camp at Jammu

Body Composition analysis being done at 'Phenome India' CSIR Health Cohort Knowledge Base (PI-CHeCK) camp at CSIR-IIIM, Jammu.

Lung oscilometry being done at 'Phenome India' CSIR Health Cohort Knowledge Base (PI-CHeCK) camp at CSIR-IIIM, Jammu. Blood sampling being done at 'Phenome India' CSIR Health Cohort Knowledge Base (PI-CHeCK) camp at CSIR-IIIM, Jammu.

Time ripe for taking back PoJK from Pakistan: Kavinder urges Centre

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

In a bold assertion, Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, emphasized the urgent need for the government to initiate steps to reclaim Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) from the illegal occupation of Pakistan.

Amidst recent clashes between the Pakistani Army and residents of PoJK, Kavinder Gupta highlighted the dire situation exacerbated by skyrocketing inflation and the deprivation of basic rights. He underscored that these incidents vividly portray the urgency of liberating PoJK from the illegal occupation of Pakistan.

With a spotlight on recent clashes, he emphasized the urgent necessity of liberating PoJK from Pakistan's unlawful



PoJK underscores the imperative for reclaiming our rightful territory from Pakistan's clutches. The suffering of the people under Pakistan's rule cannot be ignored any longer."

Emphasizing this imperative, Kavinder said

it becomes evident that the liberation of PoJK is not merely a territorial issue but a moral obligation to alleviate the suffering of those living under oppressive conditions. He further added, "It is time for decisive action. The government must prioritize the liberation of PoJK to ensure the welfare and rights of its inhabitants."

Kavinder remarked, "The ongoing turmoil in

07 Cesarean surgeries conducted at Sub-District Hospital, Nowshera

J NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, MAY 15

Under the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Rajouri, Dr. M. L. Rana, and the supervision of the Block Medical Officer (BMO) Dr. Iqbal Malik, along with the dedicated efforts of Anesthetist Dr. Wasim Chouhan, 07 LSCS (Cesarean) surgeries were conducted today at the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Nowshera.

Out of the 07 surgeries, 06 were performed under spinal anesthesia, and 01 was conducted under general anesthesia. The Operation Theater (OT) team included Dr. Baba Singh (Gynecologist), and Kaushal Pankaj, both OT Assistants, as well as Sh. Sadiq Ji, the Nursing Officer (N.O.).

This collaborative effort showcases the commitment and expertise of the healthcare professionals



at SDH Nowshera, ensuring the provision of quality medical services to the community.

The community members of Nowshera are highly thankful to Dr. Wasim Chouhan, who travelled from Kalakote to perform the surgeries at SDH Nowshera.

Social activist Sh. Vinod

Kumar said that the poor patients cannot afford the surgeries at private nursing homes, and the community is highly thankful to Dr. Wasim and especially CMO Rajouri Dr. M.L. Rana, who deputed Dr. Wasim. They have also urged the government to fill the post of an anesthesiologist at SDH Nowshera.

Amit Dubey honored meritorious students of class 10th

J NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, MAY 15

Since the declaration of the results of class 10th CBSE board examination, there is a lot of enthusiasm among the children who have passed it with good marks. BJP's Samba District General Secretary Amit Dubey honored the meritorious students who performed well in class 10th CBSE board examination. Let it be known that in the results of class 10th declared by CBSE, Kamala resident of Stuti Sharma daughter of Vijay Sharma R/o Kamala secured 96% marks. Whereas Ansh Dubey, son of Raj Kumar Dubey, resident Kamala secured 93% marks. Adarsh Dubey, son of Rahul Dubey, R/o Kamala secured 75% marks. Piyush Bogal, son of Parshotam Singh, resident of Najwal has secured



76% marks. BJP leader Amit met all the students and honored them by garlanding them. While feeding sweets to the students, Amit Dubey wished them a bright future and assured them of all possible help. He said that the students have brought glory to the society. Amit Dubey said that this achievement definitely involves your hard work. The hard work of your teachers is also included, but the biggest credit for this goes to your guard-

ians, parents, including those who guided and encouraged you, especially your parents who gave you such an environment and such values to shape your future by giving up your big and small happiness. Such a big achievement has been achieved. These are the bright children who are taking the country forward, in the coming time they will make the name of Balod proud in the nation on the strength of their hard work.

NC leaders meet Pahari students, seek support for Mian Altaf



J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

National Conference leaders Ankush Abrol, Joint Secretary Jammu Province JKNC; and Dr. Vikas Sharma, Secretary Central Zone JKNC & Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) today held a series of meeting with Pahari students studying in Jammu University and city colleges and sought support for NC (India Bloc) candidate for Rajouri-Anantnag Parliamentary seat.

Both the NC leaders visited the University and Colleges and had one to one meeting with the Pahari students urging them to bring about change in the political system of the country. "Under the regime of BJP at Centre, all sections of society including

the unemployed youth are struggling hard in the absence of job opportunity and lack of government support for entrepreneurial activities," Abrol said.

He alleged that the political party in power has totally spoiled the earning pattern of locals of Jammu as all the Govt works including contracts of sand, bajri, wine shops, parking spots have been allotted to the people from outside JK UT jeopardizing the living standard of general public Jammu and Kashmir and drastically dwindling their livelihood.

Abrol asked the Pahari youth to take part in the voting with full enthusiasm and extend their full support to NC candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed who is contesting from Rajouri-Poonch-Anantnag Con-

stituency.

"Its high time to get rid of the BJP misrule and its duty of youth to play a major role in this scenario by supporting the India Bloc candidate and also motivating others to follow the same," said Dr Vikas Sharma.

He further said that all the important positions in the UT Govt sector and universities have deliberately been given and occupied by officers from outside JKUT under a well-knit conspiracy to make the lives of people here quite miserable with none to listen to their genuine grievances, Dr Vikas added.

He mentioned that NC was the only option before the people for representing the issues of J&K people in Parliament.

First set of citizenship certificates after notification of Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 issued

J NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 15

The first set of citizenship certificates after notification of Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 were issued today. Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla handed over citizenship certificates to some applicants in New Delhi today. Home Secretary congratulated the applicants and highlighted salient features of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024. Secretary Posts, Director (IB), Registrar General of India and senior officers were also present during the interactive session.

The Government of India had notified Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 on 11th March 2024. The Rules envisage manner of application form, procedure for processing applications by District Level Committee (DLC) and scrutiny and grant of citizenship by State Level Empowered Committee (EC). In pursuance of these rules, applications have been received from persons belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who have



entered into India up to 31.12.2014 on account of persecution on grounds of religion or fear of such persecution.

The District Level Committees (DLCs) chaired by Senior Superintendents of Post/Superintendents of Post as designated officers, on successful verification of documents, have administered oath of allegiance to the applicants. After processing as per rules, DLCs have forwarded the applications to State

Level Empowered Committee headed by Director (Census operation). Processing of application is completely done through the online portal.

The Empowered Committee, Delhi headed by Director (Census Operation), Delhi, after due scrutiny, have decided to grant citizenship to 14 applicants. Accordingly, Director (Census operation) granted certificates to these applicants.

JKEEGA & J&K Thalassaemia Society host blood donation camp at Gladni, Jammu



J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

JKEEGA as a corporate social responsibility measure collaborated with J&K Thalassaemia Society, and hosted a successful blood donation camp at PDD SLDC complex Gladni Jammu for voluntary blood donation from amongst employees of PDD here today.

The event brought together engineers and employees from across different corporations of Power Development Department to contribute for a lifesaving noble cause. Er. Sachin Tickoo, President JKEEGA among PDD employees instrumental in organising this first of kind camp in PDD and was first among the blood donors which witnessed a great enthusiasm from female employees as well. The initiative has a potential to positively impact the lives of numerous individuals battling Thalassaemia, a genetic disorder. The Senior Engineers from Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, AEEs, AEs JEs and Technical and clerical staff were among those present for blood donation.. It is pertinent to mention that such a camp assumes significance as one child is taking birth every hour in India who is suffering from Thalassaemia.

Er. Sudhir Sethi, President of the J&K Thalassaemia Society informed on the occasion that since blood is the only lifeline of such patients, some of whom require blood two to three times in a

month also. He appealed the people in general to come forward and mitigate the sufferings of the Thalassaemia patients by not only blood donation but by preventing birth of such children by creating awareness about genetic counseling and mass awareness in general on the subject.

Er. Sachin Tickoo, President JKEEGA on the occasion said, Blood donation is not just an act of kindness but a supreme act a human can perform and provide lifeline to those in need. The collective action today witnessed by good turnout among PDD employees reflects the willingness of the Power Employees fraternity to work for society in all respects and each donation shall contribute to mitigate the sufferings of Thalassaemia patients. This shall serve as ray of hope for more donations coming through in coming days from civil society as this camp travelled to the families of individuals and became a huge success, as volunteers were enthusiastic for the purposeful contribution.

He exuberated confidence that more and more people in future shall come forward and partner JKEEGA in this noble cause and not hesitate and dispel the myths on blood donation and work as role models in society. He extended vote of thanks to all the Executive committee members of JKEEGA And the esteemed blood donors/employees of PDD for their outstanding contribution to this noble cause.

PM Modi's politics of religion is destructive, for Ram belongs to all, says Farooq

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is doing politics of religion to save his chair and asserted that it will not last as people have for ages lived in this country as one despite their religious background.

Accosting PM Modi and BJP's "Ram Bhakti", Abdulah proclaimed that Lord Ram is not a Hindu "property" for he belongs to all and his essence has been felt everywhere in this country by all irrespective of their religion.

"Modi is trying to divide the nation for his chair unfortunately," Abdulah told media persons in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday.

When told that Modi has already denied this allegation, the NC chief



said: "Modi is trying to divide the nation for his chair unfortunately...chair doesn't stay, the nation survives? What the PM is saying is going to destroy.."

"We have to live together whether we are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs or any other to save the nation for the better future of our children," the senior leader said.

Replying to a question, he said: "I am not playing the religious card. What we are and what we should do -- our religion teaches good things. No religion is bad; it is the people who are bad."

Farooq asked "what Prime Minister Modi is doing .. Does he not go to Ram Temple and stay there? What is he trying to show? Is he not creating disturbance, hatred? Is Ram only for Hindus? Ram is not only for Hindus. Ram is visually around and he belongs to all. He wants to make (Ram) only their's (Hindus) and that is not true".

Asked that Peoples Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the National Conference provoked her to contest the parliamentary elections, Farooq said, "Does Farooq Abdullah have such a power to provoke her?"

"We were together in Mumbai and I told her we will talk. But she said we will talk in Kashmir. She was willing to contest the elections but she forgot her promise," Farooq added.

N S Bhau pays obeisance at Baglamukhi at Khara Madana

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

In a solemn ceremony held at the Maa Baglamukhi Temple in Khara Madana near Parmandal morh, President of All India Bhau Rajput Sabha, Narinder Singh Bhau, paid his respects during the auspicious occasion of Mother Baglamukhi's second Jayanti. Amidst the prayers and rituals performed, Narinder Singh Bhau emphasized the significance of Maa Baglamukhi in fulfilling prayers and granting wishes, highlighting the deep spiritual connection many devotees have with the deity.

During the commemoration of this special event, Narinder Singh Bhau also spoke about the vital role that activities like celebrating Jayanti, organizing Melas, and honoring the



Coronation of deities play in promoting and preserving the essence of Sanatan Dharma. These events not only serve as a means of cultural significance but also as a way to uphold the values and traditions that are integral to the fabric of society.

Among the distinguished individuals present at the ceremony were Advocate Pawan Khajuria, Shyam Singh Bhau, Shub-

ham Kotwal, Sakshi Sawhney, Rajwardhan Singh Bhau, Kewal Manhas, and others who joined Narinder Singh Bhau in expressing their reverence and devotion to Maa Baglamukhi. Their presence underscored the collective commitment to upholding and honoring the spiritual practices and beliefs that continue to resonate within the community and beyond.

Play active role in strengthening NC's base: Sunil Verma asks cadre



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 15

The district unit of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), Udhampur, convened a pivotal meeting under the chairmanship of Des Raj, ZEO (Retd) and District President of JKNC SC Cell, Udhampur.

On the occasion, Sunil Verma, District President JKNC Udhampur, presided over the meeting. The meeting witnessed active participation of party members including Manmohan Verma, Block President of Tikri; Capt (Retd) Rattan Singh, Block

President of Majalta; and Sudesh Kumar, District Secretary of Youth NC Udhampur.

Highlighting the importance of grassroots engagement, the meeting welcomed new members into the folds of the National Conference. Puran Dass, a retired Subadar, and Bindu Ram, a prominent social activist, formally joined the party, pledging to bolster Party's foundations and contribute to its growth.

Sunil Verma, in his address, underscored the significance of disseminating the policies and programs of the National

Conference at the grassroots level. He urged party workers to play an active role in strengthening the party's presence across every corner of the district.

He emphasized the need to rally behind the leadership of Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, reinforcing the party's commitment to the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and dedication among the attendees, signaling the party's unwavering commitment to its principles and the welfare of the region.

Kotmaira Cricket Club won final of Pahariwala Premier League

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KHOUR, MAY 15

Kotmaira Cricket Club won the final of Pahariwala Cricket Premier League held in Pahariwala village of Khour border area on Wednesday by defeating Shahpur Cricket Club by 6 wickets. In the final match, Congress leader Satish Sharma was present as the chief guest and Khour Brahmin Sabha President Chunni Lal Sharma was present as the guest of honor. They awarded the players of the winning and runner-up teams in the presence of hundreds of spectators.

On Wednesday, Shahpur cricket team won the toss and decided to bat first and their entire team was all out after scoring only 80 runs. Kotmaira Cricket Club, chasing the target, achieved the target by losing only four wickets and won the final match of this tournament. Rajan Sharma was awarded the Man of the Match award



for his excellent performance in the match and Keshav Rajput, who performed well in the entire competition, was awarded the Man of the Series award. A total of 12 teams participated in the tournament. The tournament was organized by Sahil Singh and Vikash Khajuria.

Addressing all the players and spectators present in the final match, chief guest Satish Sharma said that youth should make

sports an integral part of their lives. With this, they will remain physically and mentally healthy and will also stay away from any kind of social evils. He said that the rapid increase in drug addiction in the area can be overcome only through sports. Congratulating the players of the winning and runner-up teams, he assured that he will make every possible effort to increase sports facilities in the area.

Candidate imported to contest from south Kashmir: Mehbooba Mufti

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday hit out at National Conference saying they imported a candidate to contest from south Kashmir's Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat.

Mufti, contesting the Lok Sabha seat of Anantnag-Rajouri, is pitted against NC's Gujjar leader Mian Altaf and Apni Party's Zaffar Manhas.

"South Kashmir was made the crown of Kashmir by Mufti (Mohammad Sayeed) sahib. He created a lot of infrastructure for medical college and university. And now the member parliament from south Kashmir is being snatched. And a man is imported from outside to contest the elections," Mehbooba told media persons in Anantnag on Wednesday.

On recent polling in Srinagar, Mufti said that people voted in good numbers to express their anger against New Delhi's decision of August 5, 2019-when Article 370 was abrogated in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The people are angry about the decision made on August 5, 2019. That's why they (people) are coming out in large numbers to vote against the betrayal they feel and to send a message to Delhi

that they haven't accepted the August 5 decision," she told media.

"People feel that they have been deceived by the central government following the abrogation of Article 370 and they came out to vote to express their anger to register their protest to make New Delhi aware that what they did in 2019 was illegal and unconstitutional," she said.

"The Centre has to restore it (Article 370) today, tomorrow or day after," the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said.

Mehbooba urged people of Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary constituency to come out on the voting day on May 25 to exercise their franchise in a big way.

"A message should reach to Delhi that the uncertainty which is visible in Jammu and Kashmir as it has been turned into an open jail and there is unprecedented unemployment, youth are languishing in various jails of country and nobody is talking about them," she said.

She alleged that electricity exporting from the soil of Kashmir is being provided to other parts of the country free and here in Jammu and Kashmir people in various places are being charged 100 per cent fee hike.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled, 04 bovines rescued, 01 vehicle seized

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Jammu police continues tightening noose against bovine smugglers under operation Kamdhenu.

Police team of BPP Jogwan led by incharge PP foiled one bovine smuggling bid and rescued 04 bovines and 01 Mahinder load carrier bearing registration number JK11F-8451 seized from Thian Kamdani naka while driver of the said vehicle fled the spot. In this regard, FIR under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Khour and further investigation of the case is underway.

General public of the area appreciated the active role of police for taking tough actions against bovine smugglers.

Rahul Sahai interacts in RBI's ECM on MSME for UT of J&K, Ladakh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Rahul Sahai Chair PHDCCI Jammu interacted in 62nd Reserve Bank of India's Empowered Committee Meeting on MSME for UT of J&K and Ladakh in Jammu, suggested important points for overall Growth and Development of Msme's in J&K.

Today, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) convened the 62nd Empowered Committee Meeting on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Held at RBI Jammu, the meeting brought together various banks from Jammu and Kashmir alongside industry associations to deliberate on crucial matters impacting the MSME sector.

Meeting was chaired by Shri Chandra Shekhar Azad, Regional Director of RBI for UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the meeting saw active participation from representatives of the banking sector and industry association.

Rahul Sahai, Chair PHDCCI Jammu chapter, accompanied by Shri Ashish Jain, Co-chair

of the Jammu Chapter, Sh Mushtaq Mir Convenor of PHDCCI Kashmir and Mr. Pursharth Sharma, Resident Executive of PHDCCI Jammu chapter, represented PHDCCI J&K, Sahai expressed gratitude towards Sh Chander Shekhar Azad for inviting PHDCCI and taking suggestions and exchanging ideas for the over all development of Msme's in J&K.

During the meeting Sahai flagged lot of issues faced by Msme's at large which are Needy Msme's not getting funds because of little shaky Cibil Scores and he said large number of Msme's are in this condition for this he suggested that Bank's Branch Managers on ground should see the actual position of an Msme and should be allowed to take little risks he said Msme's who don't want loans are being approached again and again but needy is not getting, Sahai suggested to have awareness sessions on these important subjects regarding Importance of financial discipline so that msme can understand that how paying dues on time are beneficial for them, Awareness sessions on Benefits of Udyam registrations, benefits of Treds platforms, telling about



startup funding schemes in various higher education institutions like Jammu University, Cluster university, law colleges, IIT, IIM, Start up Associations Etc. Sahai also flagged that banks should introduce a product regarding Solar plants funding with easy and less Emi's equivalent to ones electricity bill to promote solar plants for non subsidized commercial and industrial establishments. Sahai said Ombudsman department of RBI should be more assessable and visible in adds with their email Id's, Phone numbers etc. so that Msme's

could report wrong doings of banks, further he suggested that before declaring an Msme an NPA it should be discussed in a committee in which industry associations representations should be part of Committee. Sahai said Government and Semi Government Departments should be on board on Tred's platforms so that Msme who has to take money from them could also avail bill discounting facility. Sahai also flagged that ease of shifting accounts from one bank to another bank for Msme's should be facilitated so that in this competitive

world one must explore various products of various banks and decide and a healthy competitive environment should be there, he also flagged that lot of banks are charging commitment charges on the un utilized CC limits which is a pain area for Msme's which should be addressed. Sahai also suggested that Udyam registrations should be linked with Gst returns so that more and more enterprises should be enrolled.

Mushtaq mir Convenor PHDCCI Kashmir highlighted various issues from Kashmir region one of that was handholding

to Stressed / NPA accounts should be taken care and mechanism to take them out of this mess is important.

During the meeting, Shri Chander Shekhar Azad Regional Director RBI extended his congratulations to the attendees and expressed confidence in their ability to contribute to the development of the region and said your concerns are noted we will surely see to it. He appreciated the contributions of the PHDCCI and others as an empowered committee member, highlighting their efforts in organizing programs on vital topics such as Treds, Udyam registrations, and Cgtmse, serving as a bridge between the government and entrepreneurs for policy advocacy and said it should be continued.

Notably, Rahul Sahai, Chair of the PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI) Jammu Chapter, accompanied by other officials, presented mementos to Shri Chandra Shekhar Azad as a gesture of appreciation. The meeting concluded with a commitment to address the raised issues and work towards fostering a conducive environment for the growth of MSMEs in the region.

Trends from four phases of LS polls indicate India Bloc set to form next Govt at Centre: Tony

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Tanrajit Singh Tony, General Secretary of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC Suchetgarh, has analyzed the trends emerging from the four phases of the Lok Sabha polls that the India Bloc is poised to form the next government at the Centre.

In a scathing critique of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Tony remarked that the BJP has drastically failed to meet the expectations of the people of India. He pointed out that issues such as unemployment, inflation, and India's poor performance in global hunger indices have deeply disillusioned the electorate, leading to a significant shift away from the BJP.

Tony highlighted that the electorate's disenchantment with the BJP has been palpable in the recent election phases, with voters decisively expressing their discontent at the ballot box. He emphasized that this time, people have cast their votes against the BJP,



seeking a change from the status quo.

Tony said that the resurgence of hope among various segments of society is primarily due to the progressive manifesto put forth by the India Bloc alliance. He noted that the Alliance's vision has resonated strongly with youth, women, farmers, the middle class, and businessmen, offering concrete solutions to their pressing concerns.

Asserting that the India Bloc represents the only viable option for the people of India, Tony called upon voters to rally behind the alliance in order to usher in a new era of progress, prosperity, and inclusivity for the nation.

INDIA Alliance pledged to fill 30 lakh Govt job vacancies, if voted to power: Rattan Lal

JI NEWS SERVICE
SURANKOTE MAY 15

INDIA Alliance has committed to usher a new era of employment in Government sector if voted to power by the people of the nation in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President J&K National Conference Jammu while intensifying an election campaign meeting in support of India Alliance Candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed in Surankote area of district Poonch. During the meeting, senior NC leaders Dr Mumtaz Bhukhari, Provincial Vice President, Mumtaz Bajjard Ex chairman MC Surankote, DDC Member Riyaz, Block President Buzfiyaz Shadi Khan, Block President Tariq Manhas, Rakesh Singh Raka and others were present.

Addressing a gathering of enthusiastic party functionaries, Rattan Lal emphasized the INDIA Alliance's pledge to address the pressing issue of unemployment by opening the doors of opportunity wide for the youth of the Nation. He underscored the alliance's



promise to fill 30 lakh government job vacancies, a vital step towards empowering young Indians and revitalizing the nation's workforce.

Rattan Lal drew attention to the alarming number of vacant positions across various government departments with nearly 9,64,000 posts lying vacant in 78 government departments. "If we consider the data presented by the central government in Parliament, then 9,64,000 posts are vacant in 78 departments. If we look at important departments only, 2.93 lakh posts are vacant in the railways, 1.43 lakh in the home ministry and 2.64 lakh in the defence minis-

try," he added.

Gupta emphasized the urgent need for action to address this issue. He expressed concern over the failure of the current administration to fill these vacancies, emphasizing the impact on the aspirations and livelihoods of millions of young Indians. He reaffirmed the INDIA Alliance's unwavering commitment to rectify this situation and provide meaningful employment opportunities to the country's youth.

Rattan Lal Gupta asserted that unemployment is at peak in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the youth of this Union Territory have become the worst victims of the mul-

tipl recruitment scams under the incumbent administration of which FAA, fire emergency services and SI exams and several other recruitment exams were cancelled and the LG Govt can't disown the responsibility of having utterly failed in ensuring fair, transparent and timely exams as well as the recruitment process as a result of which the youth can only see a bleak future in front of them.

"Not only this even the daily wagers are the worst victims of the incompetence of the J&K Govt and they too have been compelled on roads for their genuine demand of regularization. It is really an irony that these daily wagers who spend the whole life serving in Govt departments are still without any job security and benefit of Govt schemes because of their non-regularization," he said and questioned the Govt asking the BJP Led govt that what will be the future of youth in Jammu and Kashmir if the things regarding recruitments and regularization keep on going in such a mess and chaotic situation.

The Provincial President urged party cadre to remain visible in public and briefed them about the misdeeds of the current administration. He emphasized that the time has come for the people to respond to the BJP's anti-people and anti-youth actions by supporting and voting the Alliance candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed, aiming to end the misrule of the BJP.

Varinderjeet amplifies support for Modi Govt's developmental initiatives in Punjab Heartland



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU/PUNJAB (MAY 15, 2024)

Bharatiya Janata Party Senior leader and Vice president Jammu and Kashmir, S. Varinderjeet Singh, embarked on a dynamic visit to the Gurdaspur parliamentary constituency, underscoring the party's commitment to engaging with diverse segments of society. Throughout his tour, Singh interacted fervently with constituents from various walks of life, discussing the transformative developmental schemes and programs spearheaded by the Modi government. In a series of impactful gatherings across Gurdaspur, Singh, alongside esteemed party leaders such as punet chowdhary vice

president kissan Morcha Jammu kashmir delved into the intricacies of Modi government's initiatives, highlighting their far-reaching implications for the region's progress and prosperity. Emphasizing the significance of informed electoral decisions, Singh passionately urged the public to cast their votes in favor of BJP parliamentary candidates vying for representation in the upcoming elections.

The visit witnessed a fervent exchange of ideas and aspirations as Singh and fellow BJP leaders traversed through pivotal locales, including the villages of Fatehgarh Churhiya area such as Kala Afghana, Kaniya K Bhanagar, and Kurali. Engaging with residents on a grassroots level, the lead-

ers addressed pertinent concerns and aspirations, fostering a spirit of collaboration and empowerment. Speaking on the occasion, S. Varinderjeet Singh remarked, "Our visit to Gurdaspur underscores our unwavering commitment to grassroots engagement and inclusive governance. Through dialogue and advocacy, we aim to amplify the voices of the people, advocating for policies and programs that catalyze holistic development and prosperity."

The vibrant discourse witnessed during the visit underscores the BJP's steadfast dedication to fostering meaningful connections with citizens, bridging gaps, and forging pathways towards a brighter, more inclusive future.

POJKLF condemns Pakistan's brutality on peaceful protesters in POJK



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

The Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (POJKLF) vehemently condemned the recent incident of brutal use of force by Pakistani Rangers against peaceful protesters in Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) while killing at least 13 innocent people.

In a statement issued Pritam Lal Sharma convener POJKLF said, this excessive and violent response to a democratic demonstration is an affront to human rights and an egregious violation of the fundamental freedoms of expression and assembly.

POJKLF Convener while expressing his profound outrage and sorrow over the incident, called upon the United Nation Human Right Council (UNHRC) to take immediate cognisance of the matter and bring justice to the people of POJKLF who are bearing the brunt of Pakistani oppression.

"The use of brute force against civilians exercising their democratic right to protest is utterly unacceptable. This vio-

lent crackdown is a stark reminder of the oppressive tactics employed to silence the voices of the people of POJK. We demand an immediate cessation of these repressive actions and call for the release of all detained individuals."

Pertinently, thousands of residents of POJK yesterday took to the streets to peacefully demand their rights and voice their grievances against systemic injustices and neglect by the authorities. In a shocking display of state repression, Pakistani Rangers used disproportionate force, including tear gas, rubber bullets, and physical violence, to disperse the unarmed protesters. Numerous reports indicate that many demonstrators were injured, some critically, and several were unjustly detained.

The POJKLF calls on the international community, human rights organizations, and global leaders to take urgent notice of the situation in POJK and to exert pressure on the Pakistani government to uphold human rights and democratic principles. The organization also urges an indepen-

dent investigation into the events of May 14 to ensure accountability for those responsible for the violence against peaceful protesters.

"The people of POJK have the right to live in dignity and peace, free from fear and repression," added Sharma. "We stand in solidarity with the brave individuals who have risked their lives to demand justice and we will continue to advocate for their rights on every available platform."

In recent times, reports have surfaced detailing harrowing accounts of human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, extrajudicial killings, and forced disappearances, inflicted upon the peace-loving people of POJK. These reprehensible actions, carried out by Pakistani authorities, represent a blatant disregard for the fundamental rights and dignity of the individuals residing in the region. The POJKLF reaffirms its commitment to a peaceful and democratic resolution of the issues facing the people of Jammu and Kashmir and will not rest until justice and freedom are secured for all, he concluded.

CUJ kick-starts Indo-Swiss Aerosol Research Project with ETH-Zurich, Switzerland

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

In another giant step towards achieving excellence in the field of atmospheric and climate science, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) is all set to conduct high altitude aerosol and trace gases research in the North-Western Himalayas under the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Project titled "Ice nucleating particles and cloud condensation nuclei properties in the North-Western Himalayas (ICE-CRUNCH)" with ETH Zürich, Switzerland, funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, GoI and Swiss National Science Foundation, Switzerland.

Aerosols are the suspended particulates which not only cause air pollution but also have important implications on clouds microphysics, the Earth's radiation budget, climate and overall ecosystem health. According to IPCC, Aerosol-cloud interactions play a key role in climate forcing, but are the most uncertain of all forcing agents. This gap arises from a lack of fundamental understanding on ice-containing clouds and there is an urgent need for increased spatial coverage of in-situ (field) measurements.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice-



Chancellor, CUJ chaired the kick-off meeting of the project which took place from 10th to 14th May, 2024 in CUJ Campus and shared that this project will lead to establishment of a High Altitude - Himalayan Atmospheric and Climate Research Station (above 2000 mts. from mean sea level) and has a potential to bring Jammu & Kashmir on the global map of atmospheric science and climate research.

Detailed discussion took place on project planning and execution between Dr.Zamin A. Kanji (Swiss-Principal Investigator), Dr. Michael Rösch (Technical partner) and Ms Tuuli Lehmusjärvi (PhD Scholar) from ETH Zürich and Dr. Shweta Yadav (Indian-Principal Investigator), Dr. Ankit Tandon (Project partner), Mr Sajan Bandral (PhD Scholar) and Sachidanand Sharma (Project JRF) from CUJ. Dr. Kristy Diener (ETH Zurich) and Prof. S. N. Tripathi (IIT

Kanpur) also took part in the deliberations.

The overarching goal of ICE-CRUNCH is to understand the overall contribution of aerosol to liquid and ice forming clouds in the North-Western Himalayan Region. Emphasizing upon the importance of the planned measurements, Dr Kanji (Swiss PI) shared that ICE-CRUNCH involves simultaneous measurements of physical, chemical, biological, cloud forming and ice nucleating properties of aerosols and such comprehensive measurements are essential to protect the vulnerable Himalayan ecosystem, as the Himalayas are abode to many fresh water towers (glaciers) and have unique biodiversity and climate settings.

Dr. Yadav (PI) who is also Associate Dean, International Affairs, CUJ shared that this collaborative research initiative between ETH Zurich, Switzerland, and Central Uni-

versity of Jammu will certainly serve as foundation for long-term research collaboration and continued knowledge exchange between both institutions. She underlined that the Himalayan ecosystem is very sensitive and vulnerable to micro modifications in climate and weather systems induced by various anthropogenic and natural processes and thus this project will help in answering fundamental science questions pertaining to implications of aerosols on climate modifications at regional and global scale. She thanked Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ for his continued guidance and technical suggestions in planning the execution of the project. She also thanked all the support received from all sectors of administration of UT of J&K to head start the project. The ICE-CRUNCH Team is excited and looking forward to successful execution of this project

Notorious criminal & habitual offender slapped PSA

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Continuing its spear-headed campaign against criminals and habitual offenders, the police in Akhnoor subdivision of Jammu District have slapped PSA against a notorious criminal. A police team from Akhnoor Police Station, acting on specific information, arrested Arun Kumar S/O Kalu Ram, R/O Ward No. 5, Raja Bazar, Akhnoor, and detained him under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Jammu Police in subdivision Akhnoor has taken stringent measures against criminals, detaining 18 offenders under the Public Safety Act and PITNDPS Act, besides attaching properties worth crores as per sections 68 A ii(d) E, & F, and 82 & 83 CrPC. Arun Kumar, a notorious criminal and history-sheeter of Akhnoor Police Station, is involved in numerous heinous criminal cases, including criminal trespass, stabbing, and criminal intimidation.

It is pertinent to mention that multiple FIRs have been registered against the above-mentioned criminal at PS Akhnoor, highlighting his involvement in various serious offenses.

DPS Kathua NCC Cadets Awarded Scholarships by NCC Group HQ Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Delhi Public School Kathua proudly announces the commendable achievement of three of its NCC cadets who have been awarded scholarships by the NCC Group Headquarters in Jammu.

The distinguished cadets, Pratik Sharma with Regimental no. JK22/JDA/0059, Abhinav Sharma with Regimental no. JK22/JDA/0074,



and Rudra Sharma with Regimental no. JK22/JDA/0065, were invited to the NCC Group Headquarters in Jammu, where they were presented with scholarships by Brigadier

P.S Cheema SM, VSM, and Lieutenant Colonel M.S Sekhon. Each scholarship carries a financial award of Rs 6000.

Smt. Kanta Andotra, Former MLA and Founder

Chairperson, Mrs. Gauri Thakur, Director, and Mr. Vivek Arora, Principal of DPS Kathua, express their heartfelt appreciation for the remarkable dedication and exemplary per-

formance of these cadets. They extend their sincere gratitude to ANO Mr. Jagmohan, PGT PHE, for his outstanding guidance and mentorship, which played a pivotal role in the success of these students.

In addition, Mr. Vikram Singh Sathia, CBSE Coordinator, and Social Media Incharge, also extend their warm congratulations to the students for this remarkable accomplishment.

DDMA discusses District Disaster Management Plan for Kishtwar

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 15

The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Kishtwar met in the conference hall of the DC office complex here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, to review and discuss the District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP).

The goal was to establish an effective standard operating procedure to handle disaster situations in the district.

The meeting was attended by SSP Abdul Qayoom; ADC Pawan Kotwal; ADM Idrees Ahmed Lone; SDM Marwah Mohd Ashraf; ACD Phulail Singh; SDM Paddar Amit Kumar, AD Food Shafiq Keen; Dy. SP (DAR) Sajjad Khan; Accounts Officer DC Office Satender Singh Chouhan; Red Cross official Sheikh Asgar, officers from the district departments and representatives from the SDRF, Red Cross and Apda Mitras. Extensive discus-



sions were held on establishing a responsive and effective disaster management mechanism through a robust institutional framework in the district.

The discussions covered various aspects, including the duties and responsibilities of different departments and officers, necessary resources, and their effective utilization under a well-organized guiding mechanism.

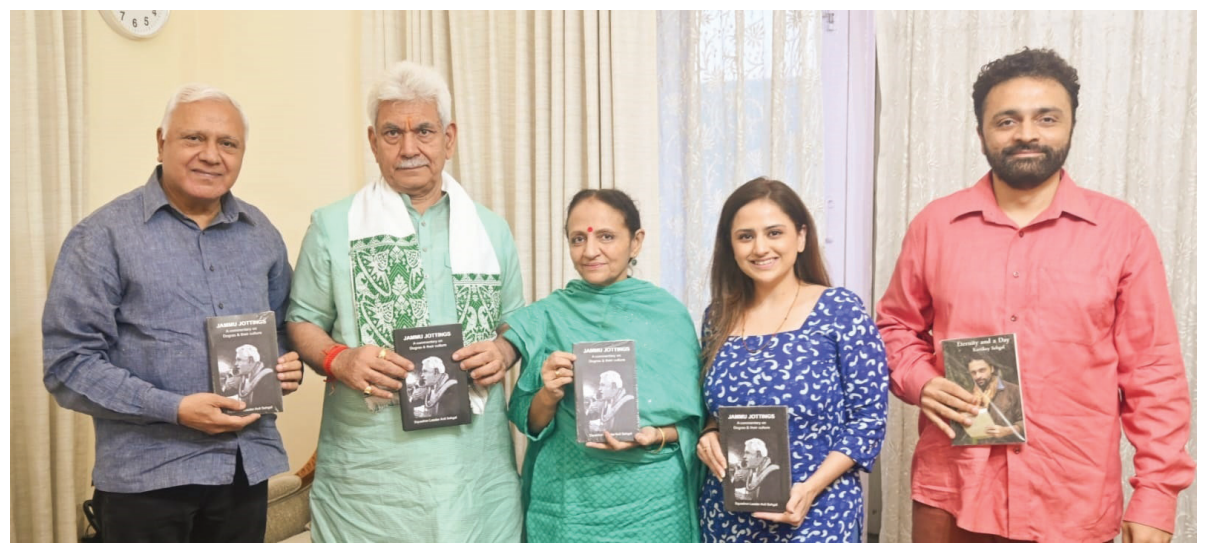
The DC highlighted that in addition to the government workforce, Apda Mitras should be prepared for any situation at the ground level.

Several other aspects and requirements were also discussed, including regular training programs with the police department, disaster drills, and the development of generic task force teams at block, sub-division, and

tehsil levels to strengthen and finalize the disaster management plan for the district.

The formation of Quick Response Teams and advisory committees at district, block, and tehsil levels was emphasized upon.

It was decided that necessary disaster management kits will be provided to Apda Mitras and volunteers.



Squadron Leader Anil Sehgal called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today and presented his book titled 'Jammu Jottings'.

Chairman JKBOSE conducts extensive tour of District Doda

JNEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 15

Chairman, JKBOSE, Prof Parikshat Singh Manhas, accompanied by senior officers of JKBOSE, was on an extensive tour of District Doda.

During the tour he conducted the administrative inspection of Sub/ Branch Offices of JKBOSE and to ensure smooth conduct of ongoing annual examinations pertaining to HSP-I (11th Class) of designated hard zone areas of District Doda.

After receiving an overwhelming welcome from the Officers / Officials of Branch Office, Bhalra, the Chairman JKBOSE reviewed the functioning of the office and motivated the staff to work with zeal and passion.

The Chairman, JKBOSE was also keenly interested to reach out to the examination centres constituted in hilly terrains of Bhalra area and to take the stock of the arrangements made in such remote and



distant examination centres and after exhaustive outreach, the Chairman JKBOSE visited the Govt. Hr. Secondary School Bhalra where the examination of HSP-I (11th Class) was being conducted in a conducive environment. Govt. HSS Bhalra was established in the 1940s and is situated at an altitude of around 6,000 feet. The squad accompanied with the Chairman, JKBOSE randomly checked the admit cards and attendance sheets of the examinees in the exam centre constituted at Govt. HSS Bhalra.

The Chairman further visited another examination centre constituted at

Govt. HSS Saringal where the entire squad enquired about the arrangements put in place including proper seating arrangements, availability of potable water, lighting, availability of adequate stationery and other facilities. Prof. Manhas directed the staff including invigilator, Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents besides Supervisors to strictly adhere to examination code of conduct and avoid any dereliction of duty.

Prof Manhas stressed upon the need to discourage the use of any incriminating material or any impersonation in the examination centres "The

staff including teachers of particular schools, who are not engaged for exam duty, where examination centres have been constituted, should stay off from the exam centre," he added and also said that supervisory staff is bound to ensure fair conduct of examinations and should keep a proper vigil.

Prof. Manhas while speaking to the examinees also encouraged and consoled them to not panic during exams and to do their best. "Without caring for the end result, all the examinees must perform according to their abilities and prepare for next examinations without any burden" he said.

DHS Jammu reviews Healthcare services delivery in Ramban

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 15

Director Health Services Jammu, Dr Rakesh Magotra today visited Ramban to conduct a comprehensive review of Health Services and functioning of Health Institutions in the district. The Director also reviewed the progress on infrastructural Development projects sanctioned and taken up under different Schemes, besides discussing preparedness for ensuing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, 2024 at designated sites.

The Director informed that extra efforts are being made at Government, Directorate and district level to strengthen the health infrastructure and services to facilitate patients with modern technology.

The Director instructed the CMO to prepare a plan to depute adequate doctors and paramedical staff in medical camps at identified locations to facilitate the Yatries during SANJY, 2024 in the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kamal Je Zadu, Medical Superintendent, Dr. Varinder Trisal and Block Medical Officers of respective blocks of District Ramban.

The Director reviewed the activities of the health department and enjoined upon the staff to work cordially in implementing all schemes of the health sector successfully on the ground, so that better and accessible health care facilities will be provided to the people in all the 122 Government Health Institutions in the district. He also reviewed the staff position of all health instructions and mechanism of monitoring and surveillance of private labs.

The Director was informed that Rs. 419 lakh were expended on Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yagna against 6790 claims. Moreover under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme a total 919 Dialysis sessions were held



in the year 2023-24.

Additionally, under Janani Suraksha Yojana a total 4232 institutional deliveries were held besides 597040 OPD were held in health institutions across the district in the year 2023-24. Further 10024 major and minor surgeries were performed in health institutions.

It was informed that, a total of 100630 children (0 to 18 years) were screened under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram in district Ramban during the year 2023-24.

The meeting was informed that the Drug De addiction centre was made functional from September 2022 at DH Ramban and got converted into Addiction Treatment Facility Centre from February 2024.

The Director took note of status of National Health Programmes/Centrally Sponsored Schemes and directed the concerned to put in more efforts to achieve targets in the stipulated time under respective schemes.

Regarding the increase in institutional deliveries at block level, the Director asked the BMOs to put in their best to utilize the services of ASHAs to motivate the pregnant ladies to go for institutional and safe delivery. Emphasis was also laid on immunization, antenatal check up and wide awareness about family planning methods.

The Director urged upon health functionaries to come up to the expectations of the patients and focus on quality, assured, accessible, affordable health care in the dis-

trict by providing benefit from the scale of health schemes launched by the UT government as well as Gol.

Further, he said that punctuality of staff as well as maintaining hygienic conditions in health facilities is indispensable, and lackadaisical approach in this regard will not be tolerated.

The Director directed the BMOs to start a planning section in their office to properly monitor the planning and developmental works for its timely executions.

During his visit to NTPHC Chanderkote, the Director took a round of all sections of the Health institution to assess the public health care delivery system in the Health institution. He checked the records and registers and interacted with the Medical officer, paramedical staff and patients.

Earlier, CMO, MS DH Ramban and BMOs briefed the Director about implementation of various schemes and functioning of health institutions in their respective jurisdictions.

ADDC reviews developmental scenario in Banihal, Ramssoo Blocks

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 15

Additional District Development Commissioner, Ramban Roshan Lal today chaired a meeting of officers and technical staff of Rural Development

Department to review the progress of developmental works being executed in block Ramssoo and Banihal.

Assistant Commissioner Development, Srinath Suman, BDOs, and other staff present during the meeting.

Discussing various aspects, which include execution of development schemes of the RDD sector under the Capex budget, the ADDC stressed on maintaining quality of works and timely completion to benefit the common

masses in a hassle free manner.

The review underscored the commitment of RDD towards ensuring transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the implementation of rural development projects.

NATIONAL DENGUE DAY

16TH May, 2024

Theme: "Connect with Community, Control Dengue"

DENGUE	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	PREVENTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dengue is a viral disease. It is transmitted by the bite of Aedes mosquito. Dengue Fever is a severe, flu-like illness. Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) & Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) are more severe forms of disease, which may even cause death if left untreated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High fever. Frontal headache. Pain behind the eyes which worsens with eye movement. Muscle and joint pains. Rash on the body. Pain abdomen. Nausea and vomiting. Bleeding & low B.P in severe cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid water stagnation in & around the house. Empty water reservoirs regularly like storage utensils, air coolers, plant pots, drums, flower pots and bird baths etc. Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids. Use mosquito repellents/ Anti mosquito creams. Do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs. Use mosquito nets while sleeping. Use netted screens for doors & windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person suspected of having Dengue should visit nearby Health Facility. The Tests and treatment are available free of cost at Govt. Health Institutions 		
		
<p>ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY: STATE PROGRAMME OFFICER/STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K, DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU</p>		

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