

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## PM Modi outlines 1,000-year vision, says BJP will win historic mandate

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

"If you want to achieve big then think big," Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told NDTV, outlining how thinking ahead at this point of time might benefit India a thousand years from now. "This is Bharat's time, which should not be squandered," he added, while outlining how the blueprint for India 100 years after Independence can lay the foundation for the country.

As an example, he cited the need to rethink how



the bureaucracy functions -- "promotion should not be the only target". "Change is necessary in

the recruitment and training of officers -- promotion should not be the only target... they should know what is the purpose of their lives," PM Modi told he told NDTV's Editor-in-Chief Sanjay Pugalia in an exclusive interview.

That he intends to take together Virasat (heritage) and Vikas (development) was said first from the ramparts of Red Fort, he said.

"And I am saying this again today. There have been incidents which compelled us to live... in the last 1000 years," he said.

"What's happening now will take India towards a brighter future for the coming 1000 years. In my mind, it is clear that this is our time. This is Bharat's time and we must not lose the opportunity," he added.

In the wide-ranging interview, PM Modi said in the life of a nation, as with people, there are turning points, "I thought we should utilise that".

**Plan and Preparations**  
The government, he indicated, is already on

## Lt Governor interacts with members of Apex Committee on Agriculture Development



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 19

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with the members of Apex Committee for Holistic Development of Agriculture & Allied sec-

tors in the UT of J&K. The committee is headed by Dr. Mangala Rai, former Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

The Lt Governor discussed with the members about area specific inter-

ventions and projects under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The Apex Committee Members lauded the committed efforts of the UT Administration

## Former J&K spokesperson surrenders in 2019 attempted jailbreak case

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 19

A former spokesperson of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami who faced multiple cases has surrendered before police in connection with an attempted jailbreak in 2019, police said on Sunday.

They said Ali Mohammad Lone alias Zahid Ali surrendered before the police in Srinagar.

A police spokesman said, "The accused person namely Ali Mohd Lone @ Advocate

## ADGP, IG CRPF visit Pahalgam, Shopian after twin terror attacks

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 19

ADGP Law and Order in Jammu and Kashmir Vijay Kumar on Sunday visited Pahalgam where terrorists fired upon and injured a couple from Jaipur on Saturday evening.

An official said that the AGDP along with DIG south Kashmir, SSP Anantnag and other senior officers visited Pahalgam to take stock of the situation.

On Saturday evening a couple identified as Farah and Tabrez from Rajasthan's Jaipur were injured after being fired upon by terrorists in Yannar area



of Pahalgam. Officials said that the condition of Tabrez, who has been shifted to Srinagar from GMC Anantnag, continues to be critical, while condition of Farah is stable.

Meanwhile, IGP CRPF K Ganender Verma and

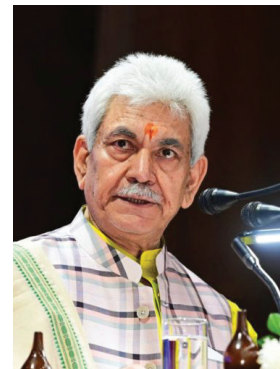
## Security forces given free hand to bring perpetrators to justice: LG Sinha

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 19

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Sunday strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Shopian and Pahalgam and said security forces have been given a free hand to bring the perpetrators of these attacks to justice.

Terrorists struck at two places in Kashmir on Saturday night, killing a former sarpanch in Shopian and injuring a tourist couple from Rajasthan in Anantnag, two days ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in Baramulla.

"I am deeply shocked



at the terrorist attack and the brutal killing of former sarpanch Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh. He was an exemplary grassroots leader and will be remembered for his selfless service to the people. My thoughts and prayers are with his

family, friends and admirers. We stand in solidarity with the family at this difficult hour," Sinha said in a statement here.

He said the heinous attack on tourists in Pahalgam is also distressing.

"I have already instructed the administrative and police officials to provide the best possible treatment to the injured couple. Praying for their speedy recovery," he said.

Sinha said he has complete faith in the security forces and the terrorists will be punished soon.

"The government has given a free hand to the J&K Police and

## SED orders change in school timing in Jammu's summer zones

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 19

In view of intense heat wave, the School Education Department Sunday directed to observe class work from 8 Am to 12 noon in summer zone areas of Jammu region from Monday (May 20).

School Education Department said it has instructed the concerned CEOs to revise the timing in consultation with concerned Deputy Commissioners.

Talking to microblogging site, X, the department said, "Due to

## Govt Employee dismissed, 4 others suspended over poll code violation

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 19

The Jammu and Kashmir election department has dismissed a government employee from services and suspended four others for violation of Model Code of Conduct, officials said on Sunday.

The swift action against these employees of different departments of J&K has been initiated in response to the daily online reports being furnished by the district election officers concerned and offline complaints received in the office of

J&K Chief Electoral Officer, an official spokesperson said here.

"Four employees have been suspended, disciplinary action has been initiated against one, while one employee has been disengaged from services. Besides, inquiry has been started against 34 employees," the spokesperson said.

He said the move is aimed to ensure free and fair conduct of ongoing general elections while adhering to zero tolerance policy of the Election Commission of India against such violations.

Of the four suspended employees, two employees have been placed under suspension in Kupwara, and one each in Ganderbal and Doda districts with initiation of inquiry against them.

"Disciplinary action has been recommended against one employee whose involvement in political activities was proved while one chowkidar has been disengaged/dismissed from services for proved involvement in political activities," the spokesperson said. The concerned

## Search operation launched after suspicious movement near ib in Kathua



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 19

Security forces have launched a massive search operation after picking up

movement of three suspicious persons, believed to be terrorists, near the International Border in Kathua district of

## PoJK belongs to us, will take it back: Union Home Minister Amit Shah

**AGENCIES**  
PRAYAGRAJ (UP), MAY 19

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asserted that Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) belongs to India, and "we will take it back".

Shah was addressing an election rally in Prayagraj to seek votes for BJP candidate Neeraj Tripathi.

"Farooq Abdullah and Mani Shankar Aiyar say give respect to Pakistan because it has atom bomb...Rahul baba, today from the sacred land of Prayagraj I will say this PoJK is ours, will remain

ours, and we will take it back," he said while referring to Aiyar's atom bomb remark that has sparked a political row.

In a purported video clip that has gone viral on social media, Aiyar was heard saying that India should give respect to Pakistan as it is a sov-

ereign nation and engage with it as it also possesses the atom bomb.

While Aiyar has said the video was old and dredged up now as the BJP's election campaign is faltering, the Congress had said it totally disagreed with the remarks made by Aiyar some months ago.

Shah also said that the opposition alliance has been wiped out in the four phases of Lok Sabha polls.

"Four phases of polling have been completed. In these four phases, the 'INDI alliance' has been wiped out and Modi ji

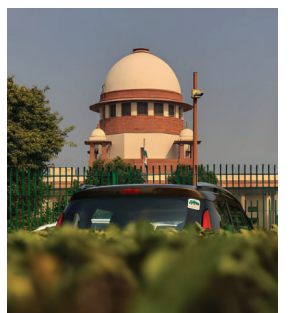
## SC to hear on Monday plea against new criminal laws passed by parliament

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a petition challenging the enactment of three new laws that seek to overhaul India's penal codes claiming that they suffer from many "defects and discrepancies".

A vacation bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mishra is likely to hear the matter.

The Lok Sabha, on



December 21 last year, passed three key legislations -- the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik

Suraksha (Second) Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill. President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the bills on December 25.

These new laws -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act -- will replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act respectively.

## Bodies of two missing youths recovered from Tawi river

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 19

Bodies of two youths were fished out from the Tawi river here, two days after they were reported missing, police said on Sunday.

Follow the Daily Excelsior channel on WhatsApp

The belongings of Rajinder Singh and Abhikash Singh were found on the banks of Tawi river near their village at Kishanpur-Manwal on Friday, shortly after they went for a bath in

the water body, they said.

The police, on getting information, launched a search operation and were joined by teams of the SDRF and NDRF, following which Rajinder's body was recovered on Saturday, the officials said.

They said a team of the Army's nine para unit also joined the search operation which culminated with the recovery of the second body this afternoon. The bodies of both the deceased

## 3,300 CISF contingent to take full charge of parliament security from May 20; CRPF exits

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

More than 3,300 CISF personnel will take over the complete counter-terrorism and anti-sabotage security duties at the Parliament complex from Monday following the withdrawal of over 1,400 CRPF staff from the country's most important symbol of democracy, official sources said.

The parliament duty group (PDG) of the CRPF wound up its entire admin-



istrative and operational paraphernalia -- vehicles, weapons and commandos

from of the complex on Friday and its

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

# Home Voting facility for elderly, PwDs witness overwhelming response in Kulgam

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, MAY 19

Following the groundbreaking initiative of "Vote from Home" by the Election Commission of India, the Senior Citizens (85+) and Specially-abled voters of Kulgam District who had opted for the facility casted their votes at their respective homes today.

Through out the day polling teams braved treacherous and steep terrains to reach eligible voters in different areas.

The voters after availing the facility expressed immense gratitude to the ECI for this initiative.

A 91-year-old voter from Assembly Constituency D. H. Pora, residing in a hilly area, shared his joy and appreciation when a poll-



ing party visited his home. He expressed his overwhelming gratitude for being given the opportunity to cast his vote despite the challenging geography.

Similarly, voters from Devsar, Kulgam, Kund, Hallan and other areas were delighted to see polling teams arrive at their homes, enabling them to participate in the democratic process.

Special measures were implemented to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the voting process during the home voting.

The initiative of home voting marks a decisive step by the ECI towards facilitating a more equitable and representative democracy.

# GDC Anantnag organises extension lecture on 'Microbial Biotechnology'

J I NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, MAY 19

An extension Lecture was today organized by Department of Biotechnology of Shaheed Himayun Muzamil Memorial Government Degree College (GDC) Anantnag under the patronage of Principal, Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat.

Assistant Professor Microbiology, Centre of research and Development (CORD)University of Kashmir, Dr. Zaffar Bashir was the guest speaker on the occasion who deliber-



ants including faculty members and students from different departments.

The deliberation was followed by an interactive question answer session where students asked thought provoking questions that were well addressed by the speaker.

On the occasion, head department of Biotechnology, Dr. Nazia Khurshheed highlighted the need of such lectures for fostering the knowledge and innovations in the field of microbial biotechnology.

ated on the theme 'Microbial Biotechnology'.

Dr Zaffar, in his lecture provided a comprehensive overview of microbial biotechnology emphasizing the critical role microbes play in various

biotechnology processes. The lecture showcased the cutting-edge application of microbes in health, agriculture and environmental sustainability. The lecture was attended by more than 100 partici-

# Lok Sabha Elections 2024: Election teams reach all polling stations of Kupwara

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, MAY 19

In a significant progress towards ensuring the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections, on May 20, in Kupwara district all the poll parties along with election material have reached to their respective polling stations successfully.

The process of dispatching Poll Parties along with material from Dispatch cum Receipt Centers (DCRCs) established for 6 assembly segments of the district was conducted smoothly under the meticulous supervision of the District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi



Sudan. The poll parties were warmly welcomed and received by concerned Panchayat Secretaries (Nodal officer For AMFs and Stay arrangements), BLOs, field functionaries of PHE and PDD.

Earlier, the District Election Officer visited DCRCs of the district where She interacted with polling parties and urged them to adhere to Election Commission's guidelines strictly and execute their assigned tasks with dedication & integrity.

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

# Lok Sabha Elections 2024: Mega SVEEP event held at Keran, Kupwara

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, MAY 19

In a last-mile effort to boost voter awareness and participation, a mega awareness programme was organized under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative, at picturesque border area Keran in Kupwara district.

Enthusiastic voters thronged the Mega (SVEEP) Programme, conveying their enthusiasm and eagerness to participate in Lok Sabha elections on May 20th.

The mega event, which was organized on the directions of District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, featured multiple activities, including, sports activities, Tug of War and cultural performances like folk dance and folk songs exhibited the vibrant talent among the local youth and the students.

A massive Tiranga rally was organized which started from Higher Secondary schools and marched through the Keran Market, along the Kishanganga River. Chief



Education Officer Kupwara, Abdul Majeed Dar, who is also District Nodal Officer SVEEP, appreciated the local residents of Keran for their commitment towards strengthening democracy. He urged

them to come out and vote in huge numbers so that Kupwara district achieves highest voter turnout.

The CEO further said that SVEEP activities across the district have inspired the young voters

towards the electoral process. Meanwhile, voters' pledge was taken by the participants.

Mega event was attended by first-time voters, students besides other officers.

# Lok Sabha Elections 2024

## Home Voting held for Senior citizen, PwD Voters of Zainapora segment at Shopian

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, MAY 19

To ensure inclusive participation of eligible voters, Postal Ballot Voting under the Absent voters of Essential Services an Home voting for Senior Citizens and PwDs commenced today across Zainapora AC of the Anantnag-Rajouri PC.

17 Polling parties for home voting were dispatched early morning from Mini-Secretariat Shopian by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz. The parties visited various villages of the Zainapora AC and registered votes of Senior Citizens, aged 85 plus and Persons with Disabilities voters at 17 locations.

Besides, 306 employees from different essential services departments, who opted for the postal ballot voting, availed the facility at Postal Voting Centre, Shopian and exercised their franchise during the day one and shall continue till May, 21.

The Postal Ballot option is allowing employees to fulfill their



government services on the Poll Day, without the constraints of physical presence at their actual Polling Stations.

In Zainapora Assem-

bly Segment of Shopian district, part of Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat, people availed voting rights through the Home Voting facility.

Polling teams travelled far off areas to reach PwDs and elderly persons of these areas for casting their votes in a free and fair manner.

# Power shutdown

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 19

Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Rajbagh, Jasrota, Amala, Dhaloti, Hamirpur, Mangtian, Rakh Hoshary, Hardo Muthi, Channi and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 20 and 22 from 6 am to 8 am.

Similarly, the power supply to the Industrial area of Barnoti, Local area of Barnoti and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 20 and 22 from 6 am to 8 am.

# CAO Directorate of School Education Jammu holds interaction with DDOs at Kathua

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, MAY 19

Chief Accounts Officer Directorate of School Education Jammu Monika Bhandari today visited Kathua and held threadbare discussion with stakeholders regarding formulation of RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26, besides financial codes related to making budget exercise easy and effective. She addressed certain critical issues on the spot and cleared doubts raised by the DDOs. She was accompanied by AAO DSEJ Jugal Kumar. At the outset, the Chief Education officer Kishore Kumar welcomed the guest with a bouquet of flowers and requested

her to enlighten the august officers regarding financial management of institutions.

The chief guest not only very eloquently elaborated on various points of financial matters, but also held an interaction session with all DDOs.

The one-to-one discussion took quite a good time to make the whole session fruitful.

In her address, she emphasized on better management and timely and judicial expenditure of funds released to them. She also stressed to make purchases whenever required only from the Government e Marketplace (GeM). She elaborated on various rules



to be kept in mind while placing orders on GeM and cautioned against any irregularity on the part of DDOs while purchasing goods on GeM.

The officers present expressed satisfaction over the session held and added that many of their doubts regarding the financial management of institutions have been cleared.

All members of the District budget team including Satender Singh Pathania (District Budget Master), Sohan Lal Sharma, Suresh Sharma, Sandeep Kumar, Deepak Singh, Susheel Kumar, Naveen Sharma, Dayal Singh and Raman Kant were present on the occasion.

# District Bar Association, Shopian; Civil Society, Traders condemn Shopian terror Attack

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, MAY 19

District Bar Association, Shopian and various other associations including Traders Federation, Growers' Associations, and other civil society groups condemned the terror attack on a civilian, Aijaz Ahmad Shiekh of Heerpora, Shopian.

President, District Bar Association in a message conveyed his heartfelt condolences & expressed solidarity with the bereaved family.

He said that this heinous act of violence has no place in a civilized society and added that it should be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

Similarly, other associations and civil society members also condemned this inhuman, tragic and senseless terror act against a civilian and expressed dismay over it.

The associations asked people to unite against the forces vitiating the peaceful atmosphere in the district.

## Regional parties neglecting crucial public issues: Azad

'We will raise developmental demands in Parliament'



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, MAY 19

Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Ghulam Nabi Azad, today criticized regional parties for neglecting crucial public issues in their election campaigns. During a series of roadshows in Bijbehra Anantnag, Azad expressed his discontent with the current political discourse, stating that these parties claim the election is not about fundamental issues like water and electricity. "Why are these parties contesting elections if they are not addressing the real problems faced by the people?" Azad questioned. "Are they here to exploit the innocent people once again?" He highlighted the pressing concerns that affect everyday life, noting a significant rise in electricity bills, lack of water facilities in rural areas, increasing unemployment, and the growing problem of drug abuse among youth. He emphasized that young people are forced to compete with outsiders for jobs, further exacerbating their struggles. "Why are these

critical issues not part of the election agenda?" Azad asked. He urged the electorate to demand accountability and focus on real solutions to the challenges they face daily. He stated, "It has become their habit to fool Kashmiris. For years they fooled them with self-rule and autonomy, and now they are fooling them with Article 370. I want to ask them, if you are serious about Article 370, why didn't you file an appeal in the Supreme Court? Why didn't you speak in Parliament? Do you expect BJP or Congress to restore Article 370? They don't even talk about it anymore. In fact, many Congress leaders, including sitting MPs and Chief Ministers, supported BJP on Article 370, and even many opposition parties like AAP and others. Now you expect them to get Article 370 back? They haven't put it in their manifesto. So enough of fooling people. I promise if we come to power, we will pass the land and job protection law." He concluded by promising that if DPAP comes to power, they will pass laws to protect land and jobs for the people of the

region. "Enough of fooling people. We will take concrete steps to ensure the rights and well-being of our citizens." Meanwhile urged the people to support his candidate, Advocate Saleem Parray, in the upcoming Lok Sabha election. He assured the electorate that Saleem Parray is committed to raising their issues and demands in Parliament. He further emphasized his commitment to empowering young leaders and giving young Kashmiris the opportunity to represent their communities. "I have given the opportunity to these young leaders to stand up for their people," he stated. "Other parties only promote their children, but my children are here to support me, not to contest elections." He further criticized regional parties, accusing them of preventing common people from rising to top positions. "For how long will the innocent people of Kashmir be fooled?" Among others who were present on the occasion were Adv Saleem Parray Candidate, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, DPAP Senior leader Mufti Sarwar and others.

## Varinderjeet leads BJP campaign tour in Punjab



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 19

S. Varinderjeet Singh, Senior Vice President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir, has been actively campaigning across several parliamentary constituencies in Punjab. Accompanied by senior BJP leaders, including Sh. Pardeep Chaudhary, Vice-President Kissan Morcha BJP Jammu and Kashmir. S.Varinderjeet Singh has addressed numerous public rallies and engaged in extensive door-to-door outreach in cities like Batala, Gurdaspur and Fatehgarh Churian. During his addresses, Singh made a strong appeal to the general populace, with a particular focus on the Sikh community, to support the BJP in the forthcoming elections. He highlighted the Modi government's notable efforts to uphold Sikh traditions and sentiments. One significant

action he mentioned was the respectful repatriation of the holy Saroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib from Afghanistan during a period of crisis, underscoring the government's dedication to preserving Sikh heritage. Singh also emphasized the historic opening of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, a project that fulfilled a longstanding demand of the Sikh community, facilitating easier access to one of their holiest sites. This move, according to Singh, exemplifies the BJP's commitment to addressing and resolving key issues faced by the Sikh community. In interactions with villagers in Talwandi Sabo, Rialy Kalan, Gujjar Pura, and Bajpur, Singh reiterated the government's initiatives aimed at the socio-economic upliftment of the Sikh community. He assured them of continued support and development under the BJP's leadership, aiming

to foster a more inclusive and prosperous society. Pardeep Chaudhary also took the opportunity to praise various policies and programs implemented by the Modi government, which are designed to uplift the poorer, weaker, and downtrodden sections of society. He highlighted the significant impact these initiatives have had on improving the lives of these communities, showcasing the BJP's focus on inclusive growth and social justice. The BJP's concerted efforts in Punjab are part of a broader strategy to strengthen its base and expand its influence across diverse communities, as the party gears up for the upcoming elections. This proactive engagement reflects the BJP's aim to garner widespread support and reinforce its commitment to the development and welfare of all sections of society.

## Pak occupied Kashmir is ours: Rana

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DINANAGAR PUNJAB MAY 19

Referring to the unanimous Parliament Resolution of 1994 and growing anger of the persecuted people across the Line of Control against Pakistan atrocities, Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today said PoK is ours and belongs to us.

"PoK is an integral part of India", Mr Rana said while addressing booth meetings under day-long Booth Sampark Abhiyan in Doaba in Dinanagar assembly constituency seeking vote and support for the party candidate for Gurdaspur Parliamentary Constituency Mr. Dinesh Singh Babbu alongwith DDC Vice Chairman Jammu Mr. Suraj Singh.

He said that the Indian nation has unwavering commitment to realize the unanimous Parliament resolution on PoK, an integral and inseparable part of



the country. He castigated Pakistan and her notorious ISI for inflicting miseries to the people of slave PoK and using the soil for terror camps to engage with India and the people on this side. Devender Rana said that PoK has always been a part of the erstwhile Dogra state of Jammu and Kashmir, which acceded to India in 1947. But for the treachery of Pakistan the people of PoK would not have suffered humiliation for over seven decades at the hands of the rogue nation. Pakistan has now touched the lowest depths of human values and subjected the people to the worst type of human rights violations, he added.

He said the BJP's vision for a strong, prosperous, and inclusive Bharat resonates deeply with the aspirations of millions of Indians across the country. From vibrant global reputation, robust economic reforms to decisive actions on national security, the BJP's agenda reflects its unflinching commitment to serve every segment of Indian society. While the past decade has been India's tryst with development and economic resurgence, the next term under Prime Minister Modi will witness the nation growing as a world leader, he added.

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

**Poonam Chauhan presented Hanuman statue to Narendra Modi**  
**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 19

Bharatiya Janata Party District President Poonam Chauhan, while presenting the statue of Lord Hanuman to the glorious Prime Minister of the country, Mr. Narendra Modi, said on the stage that we will make North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari victorious with a record vote of five lakhs. will send to parliament

On this occasion, sitting MP Manoj Tiwari, MP candidate Harsh Malhotra, MP candidate Praveen Khandelwal, Lok Sabha in-charge Vishnu Mittal, District President Scheduled Caste Morcha Chandrapal Chandel Yogendra Rajora Guruji Raju Chandel were present on the stage.

Dignitaries Forum including Deepika Chandel were present at

Poonam Chauhan, who was present on the stage while addressing the public, said that this time 400 people will cross the threshold to form Modi Sanatan Sarkar.

This is our promise to you that we are going to launch our popular MP elder brother Manoj Tiwari ji by making him victorious with a record number of votes and sending him to the Lok Sabha from North East Delhi seat.

On this occasion, Chandrapal Chandel said that the Valmiki Samaj of the entire country is with Modi ji and in this Lok Sabha election, the Bharatiya Janata Party will win with the maximum votes of the Valmiki Samaj and the biggest contribution of the Valmiki Samaj on all the seven seats of Delhi. will remain.

## Panchayats in Nowshera take pledge to support Zafar Iqbal Manhas

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NOWSHERA (RAJOURI)

The people of various Panchayats in Nowshera have pledged to extend their full support to the Apni Party candidate, Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahib in the Lok Sabha elections from the Rajouri - Anantnag seat.

As per a press release, the Apni Party leaders led by Provincial President of the Party in Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh addressed the people in various panchayats, especially at Bareri, Paatli, Dabad etc. These meetings were organized by Party leader, Vicky Sudan in Nowshera.

In these public meetings, the Party received support from the people, who were fed up with the traditional parties and they extended their full support to Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahib.

Impressed with the Party's developmental agenda, and commitment to fight for representation in the Lok Sabha if elected to the



Parliament, the people took a pledge that they would vote in favour of Zafar Iqbal Manhas and strengthen the Party at the grass root level in the border belt.

Speaking on the occasion, S. Manjit Singh expressed his gratitude to the people, who came forward and extended their support to the Party candidate, and the leadership of the Party expressing faith in the policy and agenda that would lead them to peace, and prosperity.

He said that the Party and

its leadership would work for their overall development, promotion of tourism, boost to the local economy and generate employment.

He further said that if Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahib gets elected to Lok Sabha, the Party would leave no stone unturned to fight for a separate Lok Sabha seat for Rajouri - Poonch, fast laying of railway line linking Jammu - Poonch, establishment of Hill Development Council, and to end the migration of the local youth

to other states, and outside the country in search of jobs.

Meanwhile, other leaders also addressed the meetings whereas the people extended their support to the Party candidate expressing their faith in Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahib.

Vice President Youth Wing J&K, Vishal Nariana, District President, Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti, Youth Wing, District President, Samba, Mangat Ram, Surjeet Kumar and others were also present.

## NC-PDP no more advocating autonomy, self-rule in J&K: Zafar Iqbal Manhas

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, MAY 19

Apni Party Vice President, and Party's candidate from Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas on Sunday accused National Conference, and Peoples Democratic Party for promoting dynastic rule in Jammu and Kashmir by suppressing aspiration of the people of Pir Panjal and other parts of the erstwhile State.

As a part of election campaign, Zafar Iqbal Manhas addressed largely attended public meetings at Fazalabad as well as in Surankote, District Poonch of Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional General Secretary of the Party, Arun Kumar Chibber among others were present in the public meeting.

Speaking in front of the enthusiastic Party workers, and general masses, Manhas recalled how the NC and PDP compromised the democratic values to stay in power and misled the people by exploiting them emotionally in the name of autonomy and self-rule.

He said that both these



traditional regional parties have forgotten to promote their respective agenda of autonomy and self-rule in the ongoing elections because they know that they have been exposed and the people are not going to believe them anymore.

"Both of these parties, NC, and PDP denied constitutional rights to the Pahari tribes for decades. These regional parties humiliated the leaders who raised their voice in favour of the Pahari tribe to keep their dynastic regime unchallenged in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the situation has changed now as the Pahari tribes have got their due constitutional rights," he stated.

He held the politicians from NC and PDP responsible for terrorism in Pir

Panjal region as well as in Kashmir that resulted in the killing of innocent people.

He said that the NC leadership shall be held accountable for their misdeeds from 1931 till date in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the role of NC and PDP leaderships is questionable as they promoted instability in Pir Panjal, and parts of the valley in which innocent lives were lost.

Exposing the double standard of the PDP leadership, he recalled how the PDP President had said that the people would not raise the national flag, if the special status is touched.

"Contrary to the claim of their Party President, it was her PDP's Jammu Unit that hoisted the national flag at their office prem-



ises in the year 2020," he said.

At the same time, the role of NC has continued to remain doubtful because it wanted to keep the dynastic regime intact while compromising the peace.

Challenged the dynastic rule of NC and PDP, he said that these Parties have maintained silence over the killing of innocent youth in Kashmir valley during respective regimes.

He said the people were kept busy with divisive agenda so that they do not ask for basic amenities.

"The Pir Panjal does not have railway link, proper road connectivity, and medical care. However, if I am voted to the Lok Sabha, I will leave no stone unturned to get a separate Parliamentary seat

for Rajouri-Poonch, Hill Development Council, fast completion of the railway line to connect Jammu - Poonch, promotion of the tourism spots, exploration of new tourism sites to boost local economy and explore employment, stop migration of the people, construction of two tunnels i.e., Peer Ki Gali, and Dera Ke Gali on Mughal road, to provide basic amenities, and improve health and educational infrastructure," he said, while making a plea to the people vote and support him to the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

Expressing gratitude to the people for their support, he asked them to bring positive change for themselves and their future generation by casting their votes in his favour.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## PM Modi outlines...

the job - with the people's contribution, and the work on a blueprint is fairly advanced. "We have done a very big exercise, a mega brainstorming. I have been doing this exercise for so long that some officers who were a part of it have retired. We have taken suggestions from ministers, secretaries and experts," he said.

These plans, he added, have been broken up into achievable tranches. "I have segregated that too into 25 years, 5 years, 1 year and 100 days in a stage-wise manner. There'll be additions to it, we might have to drop a thing or two too, but we have a big picture with us," he told NDTV.

His visualisation of the country at the age of 100 started while planning for 75 years of Independence, he said.

"I was not thinking of 75 years. I was thinking of 100," he told NDTV. "So this is the question I asked wherever I went. I asked institutes, 'What will you do when the country turns 100? Where will your institution be... RBI (Reserve Bank of India) had a 90-year-plan. I said, 'Fine, what will you do when the country turns 100?'"

## CHANNELIZING THE ENERGY OF YOUTH

The key to this, PM Modi said, is to think big.

"I don't think in pieces. I have a very comprehensive and integrated approach. Secondly, I don't have the habit of working for media attention.

Talking about the enthusiasm he has observed among the young people, he said he has even devised a plan to harness it. "In the coming days, I want to focus on how to connect the youth, how to instil a habit of dreaming big in them, and how to bring a change in their habit to make big dreams come true. I believe these efforts will bring results," he said.

## PM SAYS VICTORY AHEAD

Phase 5 of the Lok Sabha election due tomorrow and two more phases to go, PM Modi has told NDTV that the NDA will get a historic mandate with 400 seats already under its belt.

In the exclusive interview, he also said the Opposition claim that the NDA will change the Constitution once they have 400 seats, is completely off the mark.

Asked about the Opposition claims, PM Modi said, "Linking 400 seats and Constitution is stupidity. The issue is they don't want the House to function".

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"First things first, there are already 400 seats, from 2019 to 2024, under the leadership of the BJP. NDA had won 360 seats and NDA-plus has consistently been above 400," he said.

## Lt Governor interacts...

for the effective on-ground implementation of HADP in Jammu Kashmir. The members of the apex committee also interacted with Sh Khuram Mir, Horticultural Entrepreneur from Shopian who briefed them about his endeavours and the private investment he brought in horticulture sector of the district.

Dr Mangala Rai; Dr Ashok Dalwai, CEO NRAA; Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Sh Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Dr PK Joshi, Secretary NAAS; Dr HS Gupta, former Director IARI; Dr BN Tripathi, VC SKUAST Jammu; Dr Nazir Ahmed Ganai, VC SKUAST Kashmir and Dr JP Sharma, former VC SKUAST Jammu were present.

Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor and Ms Yasha Mudgal, Mission Director HADP were also present during the meeting at Raj Bhawan.

## Former Jel spokesperson...

Zahid Ali son of Habibullah Lone resident of Nihama Pulwama, who was involved in Case FIR No. 19/2019 under section 13 of UAP Act" surrendered before the police station concerned and was arrested on May 16 in the jailbreak case.

He was also booked at Rainawari Police Station under various sections of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC).

The spokesman said the accused was allegedly involved in conspiracy and commission of crimes involving arson, rioting, an attempt to jailbreak, raising anti-national slogans and stone pelting in Srinagar Central Jail in 2019.

A former chief of the Jel had recently said the outfit would contest future elections if the Centre lifts the ban on the outfit imposed in 2019.

Lone was released from custody in April after five years of detention under Public Safety Act.

The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, while ordering his release a month ago, had directed the union territory administration to pay a compensation of Rs five lakh to the former spokesman of banned Jamaat-e-Islami outfit for his illegal detention under the Public Safety Act.

Lone, who was spokesperson of Jamaat-e-Islami for a long time, was first arrested in March 2019 but his preventive detention was quashed by the court in July that year. However, he was detained again under preventive laws within six days but the order was set aside by the court in 2020. Within three months, he was again booked under preventive laws but the detention was again set aside by the court in 2021.

He was booked for the fourth time in 2021 under the PSA which was quashed by the court last month.

"Now if three judgments of this Court quashing preventive detention of the petitioner made three times hereto before have not been spared a passing glance, lest an application of mind, by and on the part of the SSP Pulwama, the respondent No.2- District Magistrate Pulwama and last by the respondent No.1- Govt. of UT of J&K as well, then how can it be claimed by the said three authorities at their respective end that the fourth time preventive detention of the petitioner is an outcome of an open and fair mindset acting upon changed factual scenario," the court had observed in its 13-page order. (Agencies)

## Security forces...

security forces to crush terrorists and their associates. I have complete faith in the bravery of our personnel and the perpetrators of this attack will be punished soon. Our security forces will also hunt down those elements who are helping the terrorists and trying to disrupt J&K's developmental journey," he said.

## SED orders change...

the intense heat wave, all schools falling in the Summer zone shall observe timing from 8 AM to 12 Noon from 20.5.2024 till further orders." (SIC)

It reads, "Regarding, the winter Zones in the Jammu Division, requests have been received to adjust school timings. Chief Education Officers (CEOs) are instructed to revise the timings in consultation with the respective Deputy Commissioner, following past practices, wherever required." (KNO)

## Govt Employee dismissed...

authority has issued warning to one employee to remain careful in future who has pleaded to have committed the mistake unknowingly.

In addition, inquiries are underway against 34 employees including six gazetted employees which will be taken to logical conclusion as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, the officials said.

The highest number of violations have been reported from Srinagar district followed by Kulgam and Rajouri (second highest) and Udhampur and Ganderbal districts as third highest while the lowest number of violations have been reported from Kishtwar, Bandipora, Reasi and Samba districts, the spokesperson said.

## Search operation...

Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.

Follow the Daily Excelsior channel on WhatsApp  
A Special Police Officer (SPO) reported the movement of suspected persons in Tarnah nallah near Jangi chak in Hiranagar sector during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, the officials said.

An alert was immediately sounded in the entire area of the border police post Sanyal and reinforcements from the police, army and BSF were rushed for a joint search and cordon operation, they said.

The searches are underway in Tarnah nallah and adjoining villages, including Rakh Sarkar Palhi and Pathwal when last reports were received, the officials said.

## PoJK belongs to...

is rapidly moving towards crossing 400 (Lok Sabha seats)," he said.

"The main contest in Allahabad is between BJP's Neeraj Tripathi, son of former Governor of West Bengal and Speaker of UP Legislative Assembly Keshari Nath Tripathi, and Ujjwal Ram Singh, son of former Samajwadi Party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Reoti Raman Singh.

Polling in Allahabad Lok Sabha constituency will take place in the sixth phase of the ongoing elections on May 25. (PTI)

## SC to hear on Monday...

Seeking a stay on the operation of the three new laws, the PIL filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari has said they were enacted without any parliamentary debate as most of the opposition members were under suspension.

The plea has sought directions from the court for the immediate constitution of an expert committee that will assess the viability of the three new criminal laws.

"The new criminal laws are far more draconian and establish a police state in reality and violate every provision of fundamental rights of the people of India. If the British laws were considered colonial and draconian, then the Indian laws stand now far more draconian as, in the British period, you could keep a person in police custody for a maximum of 15 days. Extending 15 days to 90 days and more is a shocking provision enabling police torture," the plea has said.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita encompasses offences, such as acts of secession, armed rebellion, subversive activities, separatist activities or endangering the sovereignty or unity of the country, in a new avatar of the sedition law.

According to the new laws, anyone purposely or knowingly, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, by visible representation, by electronic communication, by use of financial means, or otherwise, excites or attempts to excite secession or an armed rebellion or subversive activities, or encourages feelings of separatist activities or endangers the sovereignty or unity and integrity of India or indulges in or commits any such act shall be punished with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment that may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

According to IPC section 124A, which deals with sedition, anyone involved in the crime may be punished with life imprisonment or with a three-year jail term. Under the new laws, "Rajdroh" has got a new term, "Deshdroh", doing away with the reference to the British crown. Loosely explained, "Rajdroh" refers to a rebellion or an act against the ruler, while "Deshdroh" represents such acts against the nation.

Also, for the first time, the word "terrorism" has been defined in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. It was absent in the IPC. Under the new laws, the magistrate's power to impose fines has been increased as well as the scope for declaring a proclaimed offender.

## Bodies of two missing...

were handed over to their families after completion of legal formalities, the officials added.

## 3,300 CISF contingent...

commander, a deputy inspector general (DIG)-rank officer, handed over all the security points in the complex to the incoming CISF group, the sources said.

A total of 3,317 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel are being inducted for securing both the old and new Parliament buildings and the associated structures in this complex located in central Delhi after the government directed it to take over the task from the CRPF following the December 13 security breach incident of last year, a senior officer told PTI.

In a major security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack, two persons jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery during Zero Hour on December 13, 2023, released yellow smoke from canisters and shouted slogans before being overpowered by MPs.

Outside the Parliament premises around the same time that day, two other persons sprayed coloured smoke from canisters while shouting slogans.

Following this incident, a committee under the chairmanship of CRPF DG was setup to look into the overall security issues of the Parliament complex and make suitable recommendations.

The CISF counterterrorism security unit will take over the full charge of the Parliament complex from 6 am on Monday, May 20, the officer said, requesting anonymity.

It has deployed its staff to guard all the flap entry gates of the complex, posted canine squads, fire fighting personnel along with fire tenders, manpower at CCTV monitoring control room and communication centre apart from the pass section, watch towers apart from specialists to undertake anti-sabotage checks and other operations at the Parliament complex, he said.

With this, the CRPF PDG, Delhi Police (about 150 personnel) and the parliament security staff (PSS) who jointly secured the Parliament till now, stand withdrawn, a senior CISF officer said.

He said the CISF personnel have been undertaking familiarisation exercise of the complex for the last 10 days and the men and women personnel of the force who will man reception areas have been given light blue full sleeved shirts and brown pants apart from safari suits as their new uniform.

The first officer quoted above added that the PDG unit is expected to be merged with the six battalion strong VIP security wing of the CRPF, while the PSS staff could be tasked afresh for rendering security and protocol duties at other central government installations.

Some PSS staff could be retained for manning the lobbies of the house for marshal duties but a final decision is yet to be taken, he said.

The CISF contingent, according to sources, has been deployed on a temporary manner called the 'internal security duty pattern' and it is expected that it will be granted a full-fledged sanction as new government assumes office after the ongoing general elections, sources said.

The CISF personnel have been imparted refresher training in baggage screening, personal frisking, bomb detection and disposal, quick reaction terrorist counter, sniper task and public interaction and courtesy before being sent for the Parliament duty.

They have also trained recently with the 'black cat' commandos of the National Security Guard (NSG) who were air-dropped from an IAF helicopter on the new Parliament complex to simulate a terrorist attack, the sources said.

A CRPF officer said PDG troops who left the Parliament complex on May 17 clicked selfies and took photographs as a token of remembrance of "efficiently" guarding the country's highest temple of democracy.

"During the 2001 terrorist attack, CRPF personnel showed extreme bravery alongwith personnel from other agencies to defeat the dastardly assault with one personnel laying down her life in the line of duty while some others receiving gallantry medals and in 2023 they were not responsible for the breach that took place." "The PDG personnel felt sad that they had to surrender this duty despite giving their best," the CRPF officer said.

## Lallan Ms. play by Rama Pandey staged in GCW Parade Auditorium

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 19

A play titled "Lallan Ms." written and directed by the esteemed theatre personality Rama Pandey was enacted in the Auditorium of GCW Parade Ground Jammu, India.



Rama Pandey is a revered figure in the Indian theatre scene, renowned for her poignant storytelling and dedication to social issues. With a career spanning decades, Pandey has left an indelible mark on the world of performing arts, captivating audiences with her profound narratives and powerful performances.

Lallan Ms transcends the boundaries of conventional theatre by seamlessly blending authentic music from rural and urban India. With a strong ensemble of 30 artists representing diverse age groups and cultural backgrounds from Delhi and Rajasthan, the play offers a mesmerizing tapestry of talent and cultural richness.

At its heart, Lallan Ms is a compelling narrative that follows the remarkable journey of Lallan, a transgender educator, as they courageously navigate societal discrimination to establish a school for underprivileged children.

Through Lallan's resilience and unwavering determination, the audience is taken on a poignant exploration of empowerment, compassion, and the transformative power of education.

The Play serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of acceptance

and equality, urging viewers to reflect on their own roles in creating a more inclusive society. This special presentation aims to ignite the imaginations of our future leaders, inspiring them to embrace diversity, advocate for social justice, and become agents of positive change in their communities. Through Lallan's journey, young minds will learn invaluable lessons about resilience, compassion, and the transformative power of education, empowering them to challenge societal norms and strive for a more inclusive society. This play also serves as a catalyst for dialogue and action, motivating leaders to champion inclusivity and pave the way for a more equitable future for all.

Heartfelt gratitude was extended to The Indian Oil Corporation and Brand Servo for their generous support as the event title sponsors. Additionally, special thanks was offered to Dr. Hemla Agarwal, ex-Principal of GCW Parade Ground Jammu, and convenor of the event in Jammu, and Namami Barua for production conceptualization and advisory roles, along with Nihar Saqib for his time and support.

## Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu

e-mail: [xennorth@gmail.com](mailto:xennorth@gmail.com)

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 45 of 2024-25

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in ₹)	Cost of document/tender fee (in ₹)	Earnest money (in ₹)	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Replacement of damaged parts of 50000 GPH x 152 meters head x 240 HP HC pump set (unit -2)along with allied works at CPS Bantalab.	84,600/-	200/-	1700/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

Position of AAA: **Accorded**

Position of TS: **Sanctioned**

Date of Publishing : **18-05-2024 (02.00 pm).**

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from **18-05-2024 (02.00 pm).**
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from **18-05-2024 (02.00 pm) to 30-05-2024 (02.00 pm).**
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on **31-05-2024 (02.00 pm)** or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bidder should make payment for cost of bidding document in shape of single window challan of JMC / online payment through the JMC website link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html> in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L<sub>1</sub> bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L<sub>1</sub> bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.

**JSMDNJ/638-40**  
**Dated: 17-05-2024**

**DIP/J-571/24**  
**Date: 19-5-24**

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Mech. Division North  
Jammu

# Natrang's Sunday Theatre reaches Kashmir, stages 'Girgit'

JI NEWS SERVICE  
VERINAG, MAY 19

Hindi play 'Girgit' directed by Neeraj Kant featured here today in Natrang's weekly Theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at the Historical Mughal Garden, Verinag, Anantnag (Kashmir) Based on a Russian short Story by Anton Chekhov the play proved to be shining example of a hard hitting satire on the present socio-political system of the region. The adaptation of the play was deeply rooted in the soil of Kashmir and its dramatic text made the audience feel as if they are watching their own story. Every time the play is staged, some highly contemporary and situational aspect is added to it which refines its beauty. Natrang has been endeavoring to showcase highly relevant political and social satires and today's play demonstrated this vision statement of the institution.

The play Girgit revolves around a Dog and corrupt Police Officer, who changes colours like a chameleon, every time as the situation changes irrespective of right or wrong. The stage action starts when a Dog bites a pickpocket



who approaches the officers to help him to round-up owner but in vain. A passerby hints that the dog belongs to the local Minister as he saw a similar dog moving around his Bungalow. On getting his clue, the officer starts beating the pickpocket for teasing a respectable dog. The officer claims that a dog of minister cannot bite unless and until forced to do so. While he is beating the pickpocket, another man from the crowd observes that the local minister cannot keep such dog, as

he is known to have pointer-hunting dogs only. On this, dog is thrashed and search continues for the owner of the dog to enable the pickpocket to claim the compensation. The beating of dog continues until a servant of the minister appears on the scene. At first he refuses to recognize the dog but later identifies him as the minister's brother's dog who has visited from Delhi. Here the dog is escorted back home with full official protocol.

Brijesh Avtar Sharma as Police Officer portrayed

aesthetically the changes of colours of the central character who was equally supported by Aadesh Dhar as his subordinate. Neeraj Kant as the senior officer successfully exhibited the complexities of the senior bureaucrats. Among others who gave impressive performances included Sanket Bhagat as thief, Kushal Bhat as Minister's Servant, Vansh Pandotra as Dog, Vishal Sharma, Mihir Gujral, Vandana Thakur, Priya Kashyap, Subash Jamwal and Mohd. Yaseen.

# Women and heart disease in rural India - A Silent threat: Dr Sushil

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 19

In view of rising incidence of cardiac ailments in rural areas particularly among women Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long Cardiac awareness cum health Check up camp at Kanjak Devi Devstan village Sulatanpur Tehsil Bishnah, Jammu with main focus on educating women about adopting cardiac friendly lifestyle and henceforth decreasing morbidity and mortality.

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil stated that the cardiovascular health of individuals living in rural communities has long been noted to be worse than their more urban dwelling counterparts. There is a higher prevalence of having at least one chronic heart disease among rural individuals, 14.2% compared to 11.2% among small metropolitan residents and 9.9% among urban residents. In addition to more disease burden, rural individuals have higher cardiovascular death rates. Further, although the rates of cardiovascular death are declining, it is declining more rapidly among urban populations. When looking a gender differences, the higher maternal mortality rate among rural women appears to be driven by an increase in cardiovascular death in the peripartum period. Possible explanations for the higher prevalence of angina in females may include gender differences in health perceptions or differential health-seeking behaviour or that these



symptoms in females may not always indicate severe disease.

He elaborated that there are several factors that contribute to the increased risk of heart disease in women in India. One key factor is the high prevalence of risk factors such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes among women. The prevalence of diabetes in particular, appears to be higher in Indian women compared to women in other countries (approximately 12% versus the global average of 9% according to the Demographic and Health Surveys Program and International Diabetes Federation). It is important to note that diabetes is a complex condition influenced by various genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. Indian women often face unique challenges such as lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, and increased stress due to societal and cultural norms, which can contribute to the development of risk factors for heart disease.

Additionally, hormonal changes during pregnancy and menopause can also impact a woman's cardiovascular health. Conditions like diabetes during pregnancy (gestational diabetes), and hypertensive disorders during pregnancy (preeclampsia and gestational hypertension) can increase the risk of heart disease. The risk of heart disease in women increases significantly after menopause, and menopause at a young age is an additional risk factor for heart disease.

Dr Sushil Sharma highlighted the importance of recognizing the disparities in managing chronic cardiovascular diseases in a rural environment, with particular focus on coronary artery disease management in rural women, and an example of telemedicine as a critical opportunity to improve healthcare and access to healthcare. Compared to women in urban areas, women in rural communities have higher cardiovascular disease risk, are more likely to have obesity and tend to have

less access to health care and healthy food. Distinct aspects of rural life that might make a heart attack more deadly, such as the travel distance to an emergency room, may not account for the difference in death rates in rural women, according to the researchers, he said.

Prominent members of the area Darbari Lal Sharma, Bishan Dass Sharma, Mulkh Raj, Rajkumar, Mukesh Sharma, Tarsem Lal and Deepak Sharma appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil Sharma and his team for conducting cardiac Awareness cum health Check up camp and shows their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this humane effort included Dr Yashwant Sharma and Dr Dhaneshwar Kapoor. Paramedics and Volunteers who were part of the team included Kamal Sharma, Raghav Rajput, Rohit Nayyar, Rajinder Singh, Arun Singh, Jatin Bhasin, Rajkumar, Maninder Singh, Gourav Sharma, Vikas Kumar and Nirvair Singh Bali.

# Apni Party gets encouraging response in Nowshera, Rajouri, says S. Manjit Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE  
NOWSHERA (RAJOURI), MAY 19

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has continued election campaign in support of Party's candidate for Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahab in which they received tremendous response.

As a part of their ongoing election campaign, a meeting was held at village Paatli in Nowshera to educate people about the policy and agenda of the Party that would be implemented to bring prosperity in Pir Panjal that has been ignored for the last seven decades.

The meeting was organized by Party leader, Vicky Sudan at village Paatli, Nowshera.

Addressing the public meeting, the Former Min-



ister asked the people to vote and support the Party candidate to bring positive change in the region that has faced years of deliberate ignorance regarding development, tourism, and employment.

He said that the people have shown their support to the Apni Party candidate, Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahab because of the equitable developmental agenda.

"The Party has received overwhelming response from all the sections of society in Nowshera and

other areas of the region. The region has remained lacking basic amenities because the traditional parties never returned to their voters after being elected to the Parliament," he said, asking the people that Manhas sahab is a local candidate and he shall be voted to Lok Sabha to get the representation and redressal of their longstanding issues.

Party's Provincial Vice President, Jammu, Ex-MLA Prem Lal also addressed the people and highlighted the Party agenda that

would be implemented for the development of the region.

Meanwhile, the SC Wing President Bodh Raj Bhagat also spoke on the occasion and referred to the condition of localities of Schedule Caste communities in the region.

"The Apni Party has committed to revamp the development and provide basic amenities to the people in neglected areas of Line of Control and other hilly areas without electricity, clean drinking water and roads," he added. Other leaders of the party also spoke on the occasion.

Besides, Vice President Youth Wing J&K, Vishal Nariana, District President, Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti, Youth Wing, District President, Samba, Mangat Ram, Surjeet Kumar and others were also present.

# Nehru, Sheikh responsible for creation of LoC: Khatana



JI NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, MAY 19

Taking a dig at the Congress and National Conference (NC), senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana on Sunday said that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah were responsible for the creation of Line of Control (LoC) in J&K as these leaders had vested interests and self-centric plans to enjoy the rule like a prince.

Addressing a number of closed door and other public meetings in Loran, Mandi and other areas of mountainous Poonch district, Khatana said that Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) is also a part of J&K.

"People of PoJK are very much familiar with the developments and progress Jammu and Kashmir has made under the leadership of PM Modi and they are willing to again be part of this progressive J&K as condition there are not good while prices of essential commodities in

PoJK are touching skies," the BJP leader said.

He said that as far as developments are concerned Loran and Mandi areas of Poonch have been badly discriminated by the successive governments led by NC, Congress and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). "Had Congress, NC and PDP honest in their rule, Loran, Mandi and other areas of Poonch might be developed on the pattern of Gulmarg," the BJP leader maintained adding: "BJP has a vision for these areas and big hotels, gondola etc can be thought over for such beautiful places to bring sky changes in tourist footfall which may boost the economy of this area and may also help in lowering the unemployment."

Khatana informed that NC and PDP are working hard on false and fictitious propaganda against BJP for political reasons and by doing so they are keeping the public away from the developmental schemes and welfare measures started by PM Modi led BJP government for the poor

and marginalised section of the society.

He said that faith of the public on PM Modi is going to give the top leader of our country a third chance to helm the office of PM for taking our nation to new heights of developments and progress so that we may become the third largest economy in the world from the fifth.

"Not only India but the entire world will progress under the leadership of PM Modi as his extraordinary and unique ways of leadership is going to help the world to come out from the international problems like pollution, global warming, terrorism, unemployment etc," Gulam Ali Khatana continued.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Ch. Mohd Ashraf, State Vice President BJP ST Morcha; Shazad Ahmed Khan, State Secretary BJP; Senior Leaders-Lala Manzoor Ahmed lone, Mohd Akram Lone, Ex Sarpanch Pirea Ajaz Tantary and many others including Ex-Sarpanches, Panches and prominent citizens of the area.

# Shiv Sena demands preference to local peoples in Amarnath Yatra arrangements

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 19

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded preference to local people for the arrangements and facilities of the Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra to be held from 29 June to 19 August.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that contracts are being given to companies from outside states for the arrangement of temporary toilets, bathing, tents etc. for the Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra 2024, even the selection of blacklisted companies is not being avoided.

Sahni said that the local people of Pahalgam and Baltal areas wait for the Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra for the whole year so that they can get the contract for the arrangements of tents, horses, toilets etc. But for the last few years, the local people are being ignored. He said that the Shrine Board should remember that when terrorism was at its peak and no outside companies were ready to come here, then the entire arrangement was done by the local people only. Which was also seen as Hindu Muslim brotherhood.

# Vijay Bakaya holds meeting with migrant KPs in Gangyal

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 19

Continuing door-to-door campaign in Jammu's migrant Kashmiri Pandit's inhabited areas, the Apni Party today held several meetings with them to garner support for the Party's candidate from Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas. As a part of the intensified election campaign that is being carried out across Rajouri - Anantnag parliamentary seat, the meetings of the Party were chaired by State General Secretary of the Apni Party, Vijay Bakaya at Shanker Colony in Gangyal, District Jammu.

In this meeting, Vijay Bakaya informed the migrant voters about the value of casting their vote to ensure their safe, and honourable return and rehabilitation in Kashmir valley. He said that the



migrant Kashmiri Pandits feel betrayed by the political parties, which promised them political representation, redressal of their camp and non-camp issues, and return and

rehabilitation in Kashmir valley.

"These parties exploited the migrant KP's vote bank to return to power. Hence, the migrants feel that they were misled," he

said, addressing the meeting. He said that the migrant KPs have committed to vote in favour of the Apni Party candidate for Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary seat. Meanwhile, prominent social activist, and senior leader of the Apni Party, M.K. Yogi, and State General Secretary of Youth Wing / Spokesperson, Abhay Bakaya also spoke on the occasion while seeking vote and support in favour of Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahab. Party leaders Nanaji Wattal, Pawan Kaul, Ashok Bannoo and others also attended the meeting.

## EDITORIAL

## Jammu turning smart with e-buses!

In the backdrop of the complexities of urbanization and environmental sustainability, the introduction of electric bus (e-bus) services in Jammu emerges as a transformative initiative with the potential to redefine public transportation in the region. With its unique geographical and environmental challenges, Jammu stands to benefit significantly from embracing e-bus technology, paving the way for cleaner, more efficient, and accessible mobility solutions. Now, there are reports that e-bus services are being started to the holy town of Katra and Udhampur to provide much-needed relief to the commuters. Residents of Katra and Udhampur, along with pilgrims flocking to the revered shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, will have reasons to rejoice. The much-anticipated arrival of air-conditioned, environmentally friendly e-buses heralds a new era of transportation in the region. With five of these modern vehicles already in operation in Kathua district, and plans to expand their reach to Katra and Udhampur, Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) is driving forward a sustainable and efficient mode of travel. These e-buses, with a seating capacity for 34 passengers each, signify a significant step towards reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality in the region. Powered by clean electricity, they offer a refreshing alternative to traditional diesel buses, aligning with global efforts to combat climate change and promote eco-friendly transportation solutions. Rahul Yadav, Chief Executive Officer of JSCL, expressed optimism about the imminent launch of e-bus services to Katra and Udhampur. With documentation for Fastags underway and plans for a fleet of 4-5 buses on each route, the initiative is poised to revolutionize travel for residents and pilgrims alike. While initially starting from Bus Stand Jammu, plans are in place to extend services to Railway Station Jammu, pending adequate parking facilities for these emission-free vehicles. Beyond urban centers, JSCL is also exploring opportunities to extend e-bus services to tourist destinations and pilgrimage sites such as Suchetgarh and Purmandal-Uttarbehni. Charging stations at key locations like Udhampur, Kathua, and Katra ensure operational efficiency, with large e-buses capable of covering up to 225 km on a single charge—a testament to the technological advancements driving this initiative forward. Accessibility and convenience are at the forefront of JSCL's priorities, with e-buses equipped with CCTV cameras, lifts for physically challenged passengers, and live tracking capabilities. Digital ticketing options, including mobile apps and National Common Mobility Cards, streamline the travel experience, with incentives for digital payments further incentivizing adoption. Lastly, public awareness and engagement are crucial for the widespread acceptance of e-bus services in Jammu. As these sleek, environmentally friendly e-buses grace the streets of Katra and Udhampur, they represent more than just a mode of transportation—they symbolize a commitment to sustainability, innovation, and inclusive urban development. With JSCL leading the charge, the journey towards a cleaner, greener future for Jammu and Kashmir is well underway. As Jammu in particular embarks on this journey towards a greener and more prosperous future, the potential benefits of e-bus services are indeed electrifying.

NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

Fifteen years ago, on a day like today, the final bullet was fired, bringing an end to the 30-year-long war in Sri Lanka. The harrowing memories we witnessed have become a thing of the past, but their echoes still reverberate in our minds. However, I don't intend to offer a political analysis; instead, I aim to reflect on the unimaginable suffering endured by fellow human beings in this troubled land. Pain was not unique to the location where this brutal war took place, nor was any specific community singled out for oppression. The entire country, in various ways, was haunted by enemies in different forms.

In my memory, there's a chilling scene that's deeply ingrained, a moment of unspeakable horror from my childhood innocence. At just six years old, I held tight to my mother's hand, driven by morbid curiosity like the others in our village who gathered hastily. Together, we witnessed the grim sight of a half-charred corpse, a stark reminder of the darkness plaguing our land. The overpowering smell of death overwhelmed us, defying our feeble attempts to shield ourselves from its grip. By the roadside, where our community thrived, lay the lifeless body of a man, his agonising death a haunting echo of the brutality lurking in the shadows. As the fire consumed his flesh, the echoes of his cries pierced the night, mourning a future stolen by merciless hands. To this day, the identity of his attackers remains a mystery, their cruelty matched only by their cowardice. In their relentless pursuit of violence, they showed no regard for the family he left behind, extinguishing life with a cold indifference that sends shivers down the spine.

That fateful day remains a solemn reminder of the darkness within the human heart, a stark acknowledgement of life's fragility in a world torn by chaos and despair. The sight of a skull, once full of life, now a grotesque symbol of agony, serves as a testament to the depths of human cruelty. Its gaping maw and charred teeth tell of the unspeakable suffering endured by its unfortunate owner—a chilling reminder of the atrocities committed by those in power. Illuminat-



ed by a burning tyre, this macabre scene exposes the brutality of oppressors who sought to crush dissent with an iron fist.

Yet, this is just one episode in the chaos that engulfed Sri Lanka during the second uprising of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP). The horrors of that time still linger in my mind, a grim reminder of the generation born into a world besieged by violence and despair. For the parents of this generation, survival was the sole pursuit, each day a desperate struggle against the spectre of death. To stand with the State was to invite the wrath of revolutionaries who lurked in the shadows, waiting to mete out their brand of justice in the dead of night. Conversely, to align oneself with the revolutionaries was to invite swift and merciless retribution from the State apparatus, which spared no effort in its quest to crush dissent with utmost brutality. This was the grim reality that defined an era—a reality where horror knew no bounds and mercy was but a distant memory.

In the Sinhalese-dominated areas of the country, flames of rebellion raged unchecked, while in the north and east, where Tamils and Muslims held sway, the spectre of terror loomed large, casting a pall of fear over all who dared to defy the status quo. In this fractured landscape, where lines of ethnicity

and ideology blurred in the face of unrelenting violence, the suffering of innocent lives knew no bounds.

In the crucible of my high school years, the Tamil Armed groups, notably the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), cast a long shadow over the land, their reign of terror reaching its zenith. Following the peace talks convened in Thimpu, Bhutan, the LTTE embarked on a ruthless campaign to assert their dominance, ruthlessly eliminating rival Tamil factions that dared to challenge their authority. Even those groups previously supported by the central Government under the leadership of Indira Gandhi and the State Government of Tamil Nadu were not spared from their wrath, as the LTTE sought to establish itself as the sole arbiter of Tamil interests.

Concurrently, amidst this bloody power struggle, the LTTE unleashed a wave of terror aimed at forcibly displacing Sinhalese and Muslim communities from the Northern peninsula, affording them scant hours to abandon their homes and livelihoods. Many Muslims scrambled to escape the impending violence, seizing whatever means of transportation they could find to flee to Government-controlled territories, where they hoped to find sanctuary from the chaos engulfing their homeland.

Among these displaced individuals emerged tales of resilience and triumph, as some managed to rebuild their lives, ultimately ascending to positions of prominence as successful businesspersons and influential politicians. Yet, these stories of triumph are tempered by the grim reality of displacement and loss, serving as poignant reminders of the human cost exacted by the unrelenting tide of conflict and upheaval.

The reign of terror orchestrated by the LTTE unfolded with chilling precision, sparing none who dared to oppose its fascist ideology. Beginning with the systematic elimination of rival armed factions, the LTTE's campaign of violence soon expanded to target not only other ethnic communities but also Tamil intellectuals who dared to advocate for political solutions and the right to self-determination. Rajani Thiarangama, a revered intellect and champion of Tamil rights, met a tragic end at the hands of LTTE militants in Jaffna—stark evidence of their ruthless intolerance of dissenting voices.

In my discussions with her father, A Rajasingham, years later in Colombo, the heartbreaking tale of his daughter's untimely demise offered a glimpse into the insidious tactics employed by the LTTE to silence its critics. This chilling account serves as

but one example of the lengths to which the LTTE would go to impose its will upon the Tamil people, resorting to violence and coercion to enforce compliance.

As the ranks of Tamil intellectuals dwindled, the LTTE turned its sinister gaze towards a new target: the recruitment of children into its ranks. Thousands of innocent youths were forcibly torn from their families, subjected to relentless indoctrination and thrust onto the battlefield, their tender frames bearing the weight of weapons far beyond their years.

Tragically, some would be groomed as suicide bombers, indiscriminately targeting politicians and unarmed civilians alike in a twisted bid for supremacy. As a war reporter, I witnessed the grim reality of child soldiers within the LTTE and its breakaway faction; some of them were even unable to hold their weapons properly. Many of them were malnourished, their skeletal frames visible and for them, attending school was a dream that never came true.

The horrors unleashed by the LTTE knew no bounds, wreaking havoc upon innocent lives while lining the pockets of those who profited from the chaos. Even in distant Western nations, Tamil communities were subjected to extortion and

intimidation, coerced into financing the LTTE's reign of terror under threat of violence or retribution against their loved ones back home. Despite damning reports by organisations like Human Rights Watch exposing these atrocities, the truth was often overshadowed by pro-LTTE propaganda, whitewashing the brutality of their so-called "liberation struggle." Consequently, those who fought against this unimaginable terror of tyranny were blamed. That is why, understanding this brutal reality and the plight Tamils were forced to endure is essential homework before succumbing to prejudice.

War came to an end in May 2009, after a prolonged conflict that lasted for over three decades. Since then, numerous discussions have been held regarding the identification and condemnation of those actively involved. In the aftermath, countries have rapidly developed, logistics have been enhanced and connectivity has tremendously improved. Simultaneously, thousands of ex-LTTE members have been rehabilitated and reintegrated into society, with some even marrying Sinhalese individuals. However, the victory over terror has not been wisely utilised to address systemic issues within the State structure. Excessive politicisation and the exploitation of this "victory" for personal gain by certain parties have undermined social responsibilities.

The Government's failure to effectively respond to false allegations regarding casualties and mission details has had lasting repercussions. Many misconceptions and fabricated stories, propagated by vested interests aiming to distort the true nature of this brutal period, have further complicated matters. Regrettably, there is a glaring absence of discussions on safeguarding peace and averting the recurrence of past atrocities. There is no meaning in celebrating 'victory' over the loss of human lives, but rather in building a national conscience to unite everyone towards a common goal, where peace is a precious gem cherished by all, to safeguard for generations to come.

(The writer is a Sri Lanka journalist and author; Views are personal)

## Finding Divine Inspiration

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

I was looking out one very cold morning in January when it was raining lightly also. What I saw inspired me greatly. One woman, not appearing well off was walking purposefully holding her child oblivious of the rain falling. What struck me was the beauty of the Lord's creation. This woman, not so fortunate in material terms, had still something very precious—a soul in the form of a dear child. She would be able to accept all her hardships in the hope that her dear child would look after her in her later years. What is the message from the Lord? That He punishes but never condemns anyone. Ultimately, reformation is the goal of all punishments. What else? We should follow God's example. All those placed lower than us have already been punished. Be very

kind and generous towards them. It is not for us to compound their misery with ill behaviour. We will be punished for sure if we do that. If anything, those, who personally serve us due to their unfortunate circumstances, should be treated with respect in addition to giving them reasonable remuneration.

My next example is the mind—a faculty given to us to think, will and feel. It has a double use. This mind can dream of anything far from reality. It can help us to do very difficult tasks and it can make us feel very good also. Lord Krishna describes, "A person, having consciousness unattached to external sense objects, enjoys that happiness within, which is extraordinary. He, having consciousness linked to the Brahman, experiences eternal bliss." (The Bhagavad-Geeta 5.2) Now the opposite role of the mind. It can make one



highly depressed even in the most opulent surroundings.

The strongest man can feel completely helpless like Arjuna did who was depressed, affected by compassion and thus suffering; his eyes were full of tears. (2.1) Lord Krishna had to preach to him to bring him around. He did, "My delusion has been dispelled by Your

mercy; my memory has been restored. I, free from doubt, am composed." (18.73) God is very kind to us human beings. It is up to us to make proper use of this faculty, which is subtle and very powerful, much more than our bodies can be. God has guided us in great detail how to make the best use of it. Most everyone feels that good times can con-

tinue indefinitely. What is the reality? They don't, because we bring from our past life/lives both good and bad karmaphalas. Their manifestations are destined. No one has only good Karmaphalas, because, then, such a person would have qualified for liberation. Therefore, both good and bad ones keep on maturing. What happens then to one who has a faulty expectation when bad times come? He or she becomes highly depressed, sad, etc. with no preparation to deal with them. God has provided a solution, which is to take His shelter. This will ensure God's help to deal with bad times. Pains/sufferings will become tolerable and one will not break down.

God's help to those, who preach God's message is almost unlimited. Why? Because, "He, who will preach this supreme knowledge amongst. My

devotees will be doing highest devotion towards Me." (18.68) Many highly advanced preachers have travelled to the West and spread God's consciousness. They have gained great success thanks to God's support to them.

I will cite one more example of God's magnificent creation. We all suffer due to our egos and others causing us lots of botheration. But there is one superb use of this faculty of ego if we take shelter from God. Lord Krishna tells Arjuna, "Having My consciousness, you will cross all impediments by My 'kripa' (grace). But if you will not heed on account of the feeling of being the doer (egoist), you will perish." (18.58) As mentioned earlier, God can and will help if we can drop our false sense of ego.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

# INDIA alliance will wipe out BJP from J&K: Bhalla

JNEWS SERVICE  
SUCHETGARH, MAY 19

The BJP will be wiped out from J&K, declared JKPC Working President and Congress contesting candidate from Jammu-Reasi parliamentary seat Raman Bhalla on Sunday in an impressive programme at Suchetgarh organized by Block President Ajaib Singh Motton to facilitate booth agents of Panchayat Deewangarh. Prominent among those present on the occasion include DDC Member and General Secretary JKPC TS Tony, General Secretary JKPC Amrit Bali, BDC Chairman Dalip Kumar, Working President Charanjeet Bhagat, Ashok Kumar Sarpanch, Harbans Singh Gill Sarpanch, Des Raj Panch, Ghara Ram Mottan, Ravi Targotra, S. Balkar Singh, Sohan Lal, Sardari Lal Bhagat, Sham Singh, Sunil Kumar Azad, besides others.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said every promise made by the BJP turned out false and that the "wind from J&K" would change the country in all phases of elections. INDIA alliance will wipe out BJP from J&K. Today, every section of society is upset as all the promises of BJP turned out to be fake," said Bhalla. "INDIA alliance is the new hope in the elections. As Rahul ji said that there are many things in his manifesto that can eradicate poverty. All political parties, especially the partners of the INDIA alliance, are saying that they will give MSP guarantee, the day the Indian government increases the income of the farmers, poverty will

go away," said Bhalla. He also announced that a 10 kg free ration (monthly provision) will be distributed to the poor once the INDIA Alliance government is formed. "They are giving a 5 kg free ration. We will double it and give 10 kg when the alliance government is formed," he said.

Bhalla exuded confidence of winning the Lok Sabha elections 2024 and said the people of the country have decided to let go of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said, "In four phases of elections that have been completed, INDIA Alliance is in a strong position and people have decided to let go of PM Modi. I can say with full confidence that on June 4, the INDIA Alliance will form the government. This election is an important one to save democracy and the Constitution," Bhalla said. He said that the Opposition's INDIA alliance is fighting this battle against unemployment and inflation. "On one side, there are parties fighting for the poor. On the other side, there are people standing in favour of the rich. Our fight is on behalf of the poor, who do not get food and do not get jobs. Our alliance is fighting this battle against unemployment and inflation spreading in the country," he said.

Calling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) "Abki baar 400 paar" slogan hollow, Bhalla said the Opposition INDIA bloc alliance will get at least 350 seats in the Lok Sabha polls to form the government at the Centre. BJP fool people with false promises that they failed to fulfil. So, people made



up their minds to replace the government with INDIA alliance-led new government. He lashed out at BJP for resorting to divisive politics in order to concentrate on majority votes, he said that it is dangerous for the peace, harmony and religious brothers. BJP is badly loosing this election's and INDIA alliance will form the government at the centre. He hit out at BJP for its politics of hate & division and said that people of country have realized the dangers of BJP politics.

Bhalla said winds of change have already started which has further frustrated the top leadership of BJP. He said that Congress is truly secular party and only it can keep the country united and strong. He said that Congress is in the hearts of people and the false propaganda of BJP against Congress won't work any longer. He said congress is committed not only to safeguard Constitution but further strengthen it as announced in the guarantee card of this election. All people especially the downtown sections, women and youth,

farmers & workers should go through the guarantee card minutely as congress has very sincerely committed various important things for them which shall transform their lives. He termed the BJP Manifesto as bunch of Jumlas which does not mention fulfilling of earlier commitments with the people, the price rise and unemployment the biggest challenges.

Bhalla also alleged that the BJP has a "forked tongue" with which it conveys two messages -- one for public decorum and the other its "Mann Ki Baat". The BJP believes in imposing duties on citizens, while snatching away their fundamental rights, he said. He said, adding that democracy however is in the veins of Indian society and it will reject these anti-Constitutional forces who look to destroy Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution. "The people of weaker sections of society should understand and realize the difference brought about by the latest struggle of Rahul Gandhi and Congress party for the betterment and due share of the weaker sections, into

the main stream politics of the country. Congress party has lot of contributions towards the participation and upliftment of the Dalits, backward, marginalized communities in every sphere including reservation in services, professional courses and in political sphere of the country right from parliament, state legislatures and PRIs, as it all started from Nehru era and continued and improved further, added Bhalla.

Block President Ajaib Singh Motton in his address said that under the dynamic leadership of Rahul Gandhi, Congress has started a movement to bring Dalits, backward, marginalized communities into the centre stage of mainstream politics, when the entire politics of all political parties and the country now revolves around the oppressed classes and weaker sections and it will change the destiny of our people and ensure real justice to them. It is time for the poor and weaker sections to pick up thread and rally around congress and Rahul Gandhi's leader-

ship for the betterment of their future generations. Terming Modi Guarantees as Election Jumlas, the senior Congress leader asked people to trust Congress guarantees to the youth, women, farmers and common people like disbanding Agniveer and holding regular recruitments, filling 30 lacs Centre Govt. jobs, one lakh to each woman of poor family per year, doubling the salary of Anganwadi, Asha workers, recruitment in each Panchayat for legal aid to women, MSP, legal guarantee to farmers etc, which will transform the life of common people.

DDC Member and General Secretary JKPC TS Tony, General Secretary JKPC Amrit Bali, BDC Chairman Dalip Kumar in their address said BJP & Modi have cheated people and gave so many guarantees before 2014 elections but all proved false & election jumlas. Now they don't refer to black money, 2 crore jobs, 15 lac to each account, checking price rise, women security & MSP guarantee. All sections felt cheated by the BJP's slogans while during elections, as BJP's strategy is to raise emotional & religious issues for exploiting voters. BJP has cheated Daily Wagers, need based, temporary, contractual employees, Anganwadi, Asha workers & others in J&K, brought miseries to all sections of society in Jammu and Kashmir. The people lost their identity as a state besides loosing their rights to land and jobs, as result we all are suffering a lot while our future generations suffer more, they added.

# Workshop on translation, Poetic Meet held at Kala Kendra



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 19

A day-long workshop on "Changing Techniques of Literary Translation" was held in the main hall of Kala Kendra here today. Organized by Yuganugoonj Parkashan in collaboration with Kala Kendra Society, the event brought together prominent literary figures and scholars.

The presidium featured eminent writers and academicians, including Dr. Arvinder Singh, Dr. Kapil Anirud, Prof. Ankur Rastugi, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary of Kala Kendra Society Jammu, and Vijaya Thakur, representing the Jammu chapter of Yuganugoonj Parkashan.

Vijaya Thakur welcomed the guests and highlighted that the seminar aimed to explore various tools and techniques essential for literary translation. She said by Yuganugoonj Parkashan organising a series of event to bind languages intelligentsia together.

Dr. Javaid Rahi emphasized the objectives of the workshop was to encourage cross-cultural under-

standing and collaboration through translation. He this is for the first time the writers from different linguistic backgrounds assembled at Kala Kendra to discuss evolving techniques in translation and transcription.

Dr. Arvinder Singh remarked that while numerous software tools can assist with translation, human intervention is essential to address the philosophical, literary, and cultural nuances of the community from which the original text originates.

Participants in the workshop included Kapil Anirud, Raj Kumar Behrophiya, Swami Antar Nirav, Naseem Akhter, Chanchal Bhasin, Dimpal Verma, and Ms. Monika and Balvinder Deep.

Following the workshop a multi-lingual poetic meet was organized, celebrating the region's rich linguistic diversity. Poets recited their creations in various languages and dialects, including Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Dogri, Gojri, among others, creating a rich tapestry of poetic expression.

# BJP will not succeed in deceiving community anymore; our people will be deciding factor in all future elections: Chuni

JNEWS SERVICE  
NOWSHERA, MAY 19

The SOS International, a leading organization fighting for the rights of PoJK displaced persons, today came down heavily on the BJP for maintaining a 'criminal silence' on the legitimate issues concerning PoJK refugees, saying "The party will no longer succeed in deceiving community members."

In a fervent appeal, the SOS International urged all PoJK displaced persons in Rajouri and Poonch districts not to become proxies for any particular political party. It made it clear that the lakhs of community members would be a decisive factor in all upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a largely-attended mass awareness rally in Nowshera town ahead of Lok Sabha poll on Anantnag-Rajouri seat, Rajiv Chuni, chairman of the SOS International, expressed serious concerns over the continued neglect of the PoJK displaced persons by the political parties, particularly the ruling BJP at the Centre, saying "it (BJP) failed to keep its promises made with the community".

"No political party is worried about PoJK displaced persons. While the concerns of every section or community are being addressed, nobody is ready to speak on the legitimate issues of PoJK refugees," Mr Chuni said, adding "Our biggest grievance is with the BJP, which had always enjoyed the wholehearted support of PoJK people in Rajouri and Poonch districts. Our



issues have been pushed to the backburner and put in the cold storage. All promises made to PoJK refugees remained unfulfilled".

The senior refugee leader said, "The list of broken promises was long and painful. Our land rights were snatched away, a promised relief package for PoJK displaced persons was abruptly stopped, and the commitment to provide employment to educated youth from the community went unheeded. Additionally, the promised Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for Paharis was granted selectively and purely on political considerations, benefiting only those living in Rajouri and Poonch while excluding their relatives and loved ones in other parts of Jammu and the country".

Mr Chuni pointed out there was nowhere in the Act that only people living in Rajouri and Poonch would be granted ST status.

The chairman of the organisation also took a dig at the BJP for seeking votes in favour of a newly-floated Kashmir political party. "The BJP should have contested from the Anantnag-Rajouri seat to see the real picture—whether the people supported their decisions and agenda. The BJP made us servants and now servants of servants. Firstly,

you used to seek votes for yourself, but now the BJP is seeking votes for a Kashmir-based political party. This is a political farce. You need to understand this well-orchestrated conspiracy. We want to ask, if one Kashmiri is wrong, the second one is wrong, how come the third Kashmiri can be right?"

Mr Chuni said the people who are being labeled as wrong have remained the part of the BJP government. "This is sheer politics. We don't get into this dirty politics. Our concern is why our issues have been pushed to the backburner. Nobody is talking about our genuine issues. It feels bad to see our people suffering. Through today's rally, we are here to make our people aware as well as make them a fervent appeal to get united. This is not the last election. Thereafter, Assembly elections will be held, and then Lok Sabha polls again".

He emphasized the power of the vote, urging his community to recognize their potential influence. "If you are united and have the power of vote, the political parties will start feeling that you are the deciding factor in the victory or defeat of their candidates. They will come to you and bow down before you", Mr Chuni said as his words met with a chorus of agree-

ment and applause.

He emphasized the importance of unity and strategic voting, saying "We have data of every individual of the PoJK community living in Rajouri and Poonch districts. We need to decide collectively and vote unanimously for a single party to ensure its victory".

Recalling the past support and obstacles, he added, "We must remember the political parties and leaders who announced and helped distribute relief packages for us. We should also not forget those who always created hurdles in resolving our issues, extending all facilities for displaced persons from Kashmir, particularly Kashmiri Pandits".

Mr Chuni reiterated the community's long-standing demand for political empowerment. "We have repeatedly made it clear that we are being forced to fight for our rights on roads. The PoJK people should be politically empowered. Numerous committees and commissions have recommended reserving eight seats in the J&K Assembly for PoJK refugees. Unfortunately, we were given only one seat, while KPs still residing in Kashmir have been allocated two seats", he said.

He urged the PoJK community to learn from past mistakes and stand united

against politicians who have shown discriminatory and indifferent attitudes. "We want to reiterate our support for the political parties or politicians who have openly supported our cause and announced relief packages for us," Mr Chuni declared.

"This will send a clear message to all political parties: they will get our support and votes only if they commit to protecting our interests, securing our children's future, and addressing our issues. Our support will be the deciding factor in the victory of Lok Sabha and Assembly candidates," he said.

Expressing frustration with the current political discourse, Mr Chuni said, "Shamelessly, politicians have not uttered a single word about the genuine issues confronting the PoJK community, yet they seek votes for a particular candidate. We will not tolerate this anymore. People are now fully aware politically. We need to unite on a single platform and send a strong message to political parties that they can't deceive PoJK refugees anymore. There is no need to be a proxy for any political party".

"It is time to return their support with interest," he said, adding "Whatever SOS International decides will be communicated through WhatsApp groups and other social media platforms".

Others who addressed the meeting are V K Datta, Ved Raj Bali, Jagjit Singh, Daleep Chib, Satinder Dev Gupta, Dr. Daleep Choudhary, Gurdip Bhardwaj, Dheeraj Sharma, Pritam Sharma, Aakash Sharma, Sanjay Choudhary & Tarvinder Kumar.

# Shahnaz Parveen makes history at 8th Asian Taekwondo Poomsae Championship in Vietnam

JNEWS SERVICE  
KARGIL, MAY 19

Shahnaz Parveen from Sankoo, Kargil, UT Ladakh, has made a historic mark at the 8th Asian Taekwondo Poomsae Championship held in Vietnam. Shahnaz showcased her exceptional skills and determination, winning her semifinal match in the Team Under 30 Female category and making history by qualifying for the final round. She secured an impressive 8th place in the finals in group women under 30 category.

The Secretary of the District Kargil Olympic Association Syed Mehraj Uddin Shah extended his heartfelt congratulations to Shahnaz for her outstanding achievement. He remarked that her success is a proud moment for the entire region. He also expressed gratitude to India Taekwondo for their exceptional support and for providing Shahnaz the platform to compete internationally.



Shahnaz Parveen thanked her coach, Master Atul Pangotra, for his unwavering support and guidance, without which she believes such a milestone would not have been possible. She also expressed her appreciation to Namdev Shirgaonkar, President of India Taekwondo, for his support and overall management, which fostered a positive and encouraging atmosphere for the

athletes. Shahnaz highlighted that Namdev Sir's motivation and encouragement were instrumental in her achievement and in India's overall success at the Asian Championship. Her journey is an inspiration to young athletes across the country, particularly the newly formed UT Ladakh, proving that dedication and hard work can lead to extraordinary accomplishments.

# SMVDU Katra ranked in Times Higher Education's Asia and Young University Rank 2024

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 19

In the recent Times Higher Education Asia Ranking 2024 by the prestigious Times Higher Education, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra was ranked in 251-300 band. THE Asia Ranking 2024 ranking includes 739 universities from 31 territories in Asia in which 91 institutes including SMVDU

from India were included. THE has also released Young University Ranking 2024 in which Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University has been ranked in 201-250th Band. 673 institutes from all over the world were included in this ranking and 55 institutes from India including SMVDU have been given place. In the World University Ranking 2024 released earlier by THE, the university

was ranked 801-1000th in the world and was ranked 25th in the India Ranking 2024. SMVDU is among the select institutions of India which are continuously achieving heights in the world rankings. Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar extended best wishes to the university family and inspired them to continue progressing and setting new standards.

## Five-year roadmap ready, running projects to be completed during initial phase: Rao Inderjeet Singh

AGENCIES

GURUGRAM, MAY 19

Sitting MP and BJP candidate from the Gurgaon Lok Sabha constituency, Rao Inderjit Singh, said on Sunday that the party, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has prepared a roadmap for development projects that will be taken up during his third term.

"The pace of development will be doubled in five years. Modi ji has prepared the agenda for the first 100 days," he said.

Inderjit on Sunday visited Gurgaon and Badshahpur assemblies including Kanhai, Wazirabad, Sector 56, Sector 46, Begumpur Khatola, Hiranagar Baldev Nagar, 4/8 Marla, Ambed-



kar Nagar, Laxman Vihar, Shivpuri and Arjun Nagar and appealed to the voters to support the BJP.

"In the coming five years, the country will be made the third-largest superpower. The PM has dedicated his first two

taking it forward on the path of progress," he said.

"If the opposition wants to see development, then they should enjoy the journey on the Dwarka Expressway and Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. In future, they should try to get themselves treated at the AIIMS which will be built in Rewari," he added.

Inderjit said that the work of soil testing of pillars of Old Gurugram Metro has started, and the work of making pillars will start soon. Attacking Congress, he said that the grand old party has neither a vision nor a development policy for the country. "Therefore, it wants to entangle the people of the country in false scams," he added.

terms to the economic progress of the country. He has made the country the fifth economic superpower from number 11," the BJP MP said.

"In the next five years, the country will be developed as a third power by

## People of Punjab benefited from Centre's funds: State BJP chief Jakhar

AGENCIES

CHANDIGARH, MAY 19

People of Punjab have benefited from funds provided by the Modi government in the past 10 years, state BJP President Sunil Jakhar said here on Sunday.

The benefits of the funds under flagship and other schemes penetrated right up to the last mile, he said.

"Be it social security, agriculture, health, infrastructure, welfare, railways, housing, power or employment, Punjab received enormous central assistance in the last

decade that has been instrumental in elevating Punjab on the socio-economic front," Sunil Jakhar told the media.

Highlighting the schemes and their impact, both economic and social, he said while the Centre continued to help Punjab grow without bias, the people can now see through the fake narrative propelled by the ruling AAP dispensation under Bhagwant Mann which has failed to live up to many of its poll promises.

"Funds from the Centre to Punjab have been the lifeline of development all three years. Its benefits

have percolated to the last man standing," he said.

He said the BJP, with its schemes and funds, has connected each household.

"Funds for building houses, water supply, electrification, toilet, etc. have been provided by the BJP," he said.

In the agriculture sector, he said under the Centre's Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, nearly 22.5 lakh farmers in Punjab received a whopping Rs 56,754 crore in the past 10 years.

The KCC Scheme aims at providing adequate and timely credit to the farm-

ers for their agricultural operations. "Under the Kissan Sammaan Nidhi scheme, the Centre has provided Rs 4,758 crore to farmers. Under the Soil Health Card scheme, 24.50 cards were made in Punjab for farmers," he said.

"The Mann-led AAP government has failed to deliver. Development in Punjab is largely because of the schemes and funds provided by the Modi-led BJP government," the BJP chief added.

Punjab is slated to go to Lok Sabha polls on June 1 and the counting of votes will be done on June 4.

## 'Bulawa Tolis' to be activated in booths with low voting percentages in UP

AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, MAY 19

To increase the voting percentage in Uttar Pradesh, the Election Commission has issued instructions to form 'Bulawa Toli' for all the remaining phases of the Lok Sabha election.

The 'Bulawa Tolis' will include BLOs, local-level ASHA and Anganwadi workers, Yuvak Mangal Dal, and Panchayat-level personnel.

'Bulawa Tolis' will be activated in the control rooms established in the



district and the booths with low voting percentages. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi recently encouraged workers in Varanasi to increase the

voting percentage through 'Bulawa Tolis'.

For the remaining three phases, the Election Commission has issued directives to ensure fearless, fair, and peaceful voting. District Election Officers have been provided necessary guidelines for this purpose. UP Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa said on Sunday that instructions have been given to increase voter awareness activities and programs for the remaining phases of the Lok Sabha election.

## 328 LS candidates allotted election symbols in Punjab: CEO

AGENCIES

CHANDIGARH, MAY 19

Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sibin C on Sunday said that 328 candidates contesting for 13 Lok Sabha seats in the state have been allotted election symbols.

Out of 328 candidates, 169 are Independent candidates.

Sibin C said 26 candidates are contesting from Gurdaspur, including 14 Independents, while 30 candidates are contesting from Amritsar, out of which 18 are Independents.

Likewise, 27 candidates are in the fray from Khadoor Sahib, of which 18 are Independents.

There are 20 candidates in the fray from Jalandhar, including eight Independents. Sixteen candidates are contesting from Hoshiarpur, comprising four Independents. Out of the total 28 candidates



from Anandpur Sahib, 13 are Independents.

Of the 43 candidates in Ludhiana, 26 are Independents. Fourteen candidates are in the fray from Fatehgarh Sahib, seven are Independents. Out of 28 candidates from Faridkot, 12 are Independents, including 17 Independents, are con-

testing from Ferozepur. Of 18 candidates from Bathinda, eight are Independents. Out of 23 candidates in Sangrur, nine are Independents, while 15 Independent out of 26 candidates are contesting from Patiala. He said election preparations are in final stages and polling will be held on June 1 from 7 am to 6 pm.

## Drama at Rahul-Akhilesh joint poll rally in UP's Phulpur, duo leave without addressing crowd

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 19

A huge drama unfolded at the joint poll rally in the Phulpur parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj district on Sunday as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav were forced to return from the venue without addressing the public gathering.

The video, emerging from the venue showed a stampede-like situation with people breaking the barricades and attempting to reach the podium.

Rahul and Akhilesh though appealed to the volunteers and supporters to keep calm but their



appeals went unheard. Police and security personnel also found it difficult to contain the swelling crowd.

Following this, Rahul and Akhilesh decided to leave the venue to avoid further chaos and commotion at the venue.

However, reports suggest that the reason for the high drama at the joint rally of Rahul and Akhilesh was not the unrest among the public but a serious lapse on the part of the organisers.

The mic fiasco at the venue was apparently the

reason, why Rahul and Akhilesh left in a jiffy.

According to reports, the mic malfunctioned at the INDIA alliance rally in Phulpur, leaving the do 'UP ke ladke' embarrassed and at the loss of words.

The fuming SP Chief blasted the organiser and directed him to fix the technical glitch but to no avail.

The swelling crowd got restless and jumped the barricades to reach near the stage, following which the two leaders sensing security trouble, left the venue.

The SP District Head and other party office bearers are likely to face the music over such awkwardness and embarrassment before the public.

## NDA will not win a single seat in Bihar: Tejashwi Yadav

AGENCIES

PATNA, MAY 19

Bihar Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will not win a single seat in Bihar in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. "The (NDA) will not win a single seat in Bihar. They will also win only 35 to 40 seats in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh. Their condition is bad in Uttar Pradesh as well," said Tejashwi Yadav, who uploaded a video on his official X handle of his interaction with Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) Chief Mukesh Sahani.

"BJP will be wiped out in Bihar. INDIA bloc will



the politics of hatred. This type of politics does not last long," the Bihar LoP said during his conversation with Sahani. Tejashwi Yadav

win more than 300 seats," Tejashwi Yadav said.

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Tejashwi Yadav said that the public is bored due to his (PM Modi) policies.

"He is making the same boring speeches and making old hollow promises. This time it is the people who want to remove the BJP at the Centre. The people of the country no longer want

said he along with Mukesh Sahani have addressed more than 180 public meetings since the election campaigning started a few months ago.

He said that women have voted in large in the last four phases of the Lok Sabha elections.

"We gave jobs to youth in our 17 months tenure which has raised hopes among them," Tejashwi Yadav said.

## Rs 50 lakh seized near Nepal border, two held

AGENCIES

PATNA, MAY 19

Bihar's East Champaran Police said that they have seized Indian and Nepalese currencies to the tune of Rs 50 lakh near the Indo-Nepal border in Raxaul on Sunday.

"We have detained two persons. They were travelling in a four-wheeler. We have seized Indian and Nepalese currencies to the tune of Rs 50 lakh. Counting machines were also seized from them," East Champaran SP Kanish Kumar Mishra said.

He said that both the accused were arrested during a naka checking in the area.

## Ex-Raj Minister Vishwendra Singh alleges torture by wife, son; demands maintenance

AGENCIES

JAIPUR, MAY 19

Former Rajasthan Minister and a member of the royal family of Bharatpur, Vishwendra Singh has sought maintenance from his wife and son and alleged that they beat him, do not give him sufficient food and also do not allow him to meet people.

His wife and son have, however, refuted the allegations and said that they are the real victims in the whole case. "It is nothing but pressurising tactics on the SDM. My mother and I have the highest faith in the SDM Court and on the

Hon'ble Judge to handle the matter with alacrity and fairness. The matter is not new. It has been going on since 6 March 2024," posted his son Anirudh Singh on social media.

Vishwendra Singh had earlier given an application in the Subdivision Officer Tribunal against his wife Divya Singh, a former MP, and son Anirudh Singh.

In his application, he said: "I have been forced to leave my house (Moti Mahal). I am living a nomad's life. Sometimes I have to stay in a government house and sometimes in a hotel. I have been confined to one room. When

I come to Bharatpur, I am not even allowed to enter the house. It is no longer possible to live with my wife and son at home."

Singh has demanded Rs 5 lakh per month from both of them.

In the application given to the court, Vishwendra Singh has accused his wife and son of conspiring to kill him. "Their intention is to end my life. After which they can grab all the property. I was hoping that maybe their behaviour would improve in the future, but it did not happen. My wife and son even locked one of my rooms and forcibly threw

me out of the house, so I had to leave the house. I brought whatever clothes I had while leaving the house. I have been living like this since then."

Singh has written that he is a heart patient. "I cannot bear tension due to two stents inserted during treatment. Tension is fatal for my life. I got Corona twice in the years 2021 and 2022, but my son and wife did not provide any physical, mental or financial help."

"I own the properties inherited from my father through a will. My wife and son threw my clothes in the well. They tore up

papers, records etc., and threw out the stuff from the rooms. They have stopped providing tea and water. He told the court that his wife and son should also be stopped from defaming him through social media," he said.

Singh has demanded that the properties of Moti Mahal Palace be returned to him in the application given to the SDM. This includes Moti Mahal, Kothi Darbar, Golbagh Complex, and Suraj Mahal located in the Mathura Gate police station area.

However, his son, Anirudh Singh has termed the allegations false.

## Four-day long 'Sant Shivr' concludes at BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Gujarat's Sarangpur

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 19

The four-day long 'Sant Shivr' at BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Gujarat's Sarangpur concluded this weekend.

The intensive program saw the participation of about 650 Santo, Parshado (trainee saints) and Sadhako (trainees desiring to take diksha), in the presence of Mahant Swami ji Maharaj and Sadguru Santo.

Sarangpur is the seat of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha's unique training centre, where all those seeking 'diksha' for becoming saints have

to undergo compulsory training for a period of about six years before being initiated into the BAPS Swaminarayan's saintly order.

This 'Sant Shivr' program was the second such initiative by Sarangpur-based Swaminarayan Sanstha to impart 'diksha'. So far, a total of 1400 Santo, Parshado and Sadhako have collectively participated in the training program.

Earlier, this month, a Divya Sannidhi Parva was organised here which was attended by 1700 senior volunteers from BAPS' Children's Activities wing. During the five

sessions of the program, organised with the theme of 'Antar Akshardham', the Swamishri blessed each volunteer and appreciated their 'seva'.

Throughout the Divya Sannidhi Parva, the volunteers were enlightened and informed about various aspects of nishtha, niyam-dharma, divyabhao and other spiritual endeavours as practised by sadguru swamis and other experienced swamis.

The Divya Sannidhi Parva, inspired by Mahant Swami ji Maharaj, was an unforgettable experience for all the participants.



## Helicopter carrying Iranian President Raisi suffers 'hard landing' in Azerbaijan

**AGENCIES**  
TEHRAN, MAY 19

A helicopter carrying Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi experienced an incident in the country's east Azerbaijan on Sunday, local media reported.

Raisi, who is on a one-day trip to neighbouring Azerbaijan, met his Azeri counterpart Ilham Aliyev and the two leaders inaugurated the Qiz Qalasi Dam, which is a joint project of both countries.

Iran's Tasnim News Agency said that there were three helicopters in the convoy, two of which carrying ministers and officials "arrived at their destination safely". The agency said that Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian was also reportedly on the helicopter with Raisi.

"However, some of the president's companions



on this helicopter were able to communicate with Central Headquarters, raising hopes that the incident could have ended without casualties," it said in a post on X.

Without elaborating on the details, Iranian state television also reported that the helicopter carrying the Iranian President suffered a "hard landing".

Meanwhile, Iran's Mehr News Agency reported that Raisi has labelled

reports of the accident as a "rumour" and said that the President and his convoy were travelling from Kho-daafarin to Tabriz by land.

"Mehr reporter's investigations indicate that a few minutes ago, the helicopter carrying the President landed on the ground due to the foggy weather in the northern region of east Azarbaijan, and now the President's convoy is on its way to Tabriz," it said.

## Musk meets Sri Lankan President in Indonesia, discusses Starlink implementation

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Sunday met Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe in Indonesia during the 10th World Water Forum, Sri Lankan President's Media Division (PMD) said.

In a post on X, PMD mentioned that Wickremesinghe discussed the implementation of Starlink service in Sri Lanka with the tech billionaire and also mentioned that he is committed to fast-tracking the application process to connect the country with the global Starlink network.



"During the 10th World Water Forum High-Level Meeting in Indonesia, President Ranil Wickremesinghe met with @elonmusk to discuss the implementation of @Starlink in Sri Lanka," PMD wrote.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development Jeevan Thondaman, who accompanied Wickremesinghe to Indo-

nesia, took to X and wrote that the president and Musk discussed Sri Lanka's recovery, economic potential and new investment opportunities.

"President @RW\_UNP met with @elonmusk today during his 2-day visit to Bali with me for the World Water Forum. President and Elon discussed Sri Lanka's recovery, economic potential, and new opportunities for investment," Thondaman said.

The tech billionaire arrived in Indonesia on Sunday morning ahead of the planned launch of SpaceX's Starlink Internet service in the Southeast Asian country.

## Israel continues Rafah operation, tunnels from Gaza to Egypt found

**AGENCIES**  
GAZA/TEL.AVIV, MAY 19

Israel continued its military operation in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip over the weekend, with Israeli army radio reporting on Sunday that troops had found several smuggling tunnels in the border area between Gaza and Egypt.

Tunnels were also discovered that had been used by Hamas on October 7 - the day Hamas and others massacred more than 1,200 people in Israel. Some of the tunnels have already been destroyed.

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), around 8,000,000 people have left the city since the military operation in Rafah began around a fortnight ago.

Once again, almost half of the population of Rafah is on the streets, lamented UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini on X on Saturday evening. Lazzarini stressed that there is no safe place for civilians in Gaza.

The Israeli leadership believes the last remaining Hamas battalions are in Rafah, and it wants to smash them. Israel's main ally, the US, and others have repeatedly warned Israel against a large-scale attack on the city, which borders Egypt, due to the large number of civilians taking refuge there. However, Israel's leadership is sticking to its attack plans for Rafah.

Israel wants to report to US President Joe Biden's security adviser Jake Sullivan the number of Palestinians who have already fled Rafah when Sullivan visits Israel on Sunday, army radio said.

## UK govt 'worried' about pro-Palestinian marches: Defence Secretary

**AGENCIES**  
LONDON, MAY 19

Police should be "all over" pro-Palestinian marches, UK Defence Secretary Grant Shapps said.

He said the marches, which have been regularly held on the streets of London and other cities since the Israel-Hamas conflict began, could "spill over" into hate speech and anti-Semitism.

John Zak Woodcock, the government's political violence tsar, said he was concerned about the "limited" police response to the protests.

There were seven arrests as thousands of people marched in London on Saturday, including a man seen carrying a coffin with offensive language written on it and another leading a chant of "intifada revolution."

Scotland Yard said officers also arrested a 74-year-old man at a counter-protest on suspicion of provocation of violence.

Woodcock, who is due to publish a long-awaited report into political violence and disruption this week, told Sky News: "I've been concerned over many months now that the police do seem limited in what they are able to do to balance people's right to protest with the cumulative impact of having marches through central London on a weekly basis."

"This is making substantial parts of the community, sizeable parts of our Jewish community in London, apprehensive at



best about going into the centre of the city."

"That is a deeply uncomfortable position."

"There has been a substantial level of criminality and disorder and antisemitic content around the margins of the marches."

Shapps told GB News: "It worries me, it worries the government a lot."

"I was pleased to see there were ten or so arrests made yesterday. We have said in the past, I think the police need to be very much all over these things."

"We see the impact on people. It makes people feel very uncomfortable when these marches sometimes spill over from the legitimate right to protest and make a point - that is not an issue - when they spill over into anti-Semitism, hate speech, racism, that is where there is a problem, and we absolutely back 100 per cent police taking the necessary action."

"I see now that they have charged hundreds and hundreds of people over the last few months, and there were a significant number of arrests yesterday, which I think

was the right way to deal with these things."

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's main political rival, Benny Gantz, has threatened to leave the war cabinet if a plan is not drawn up by June 8 that includes an international administration for post-war Gaza.

Shapps told Times Radio: "The point we constantly make to Israel is it's incredibly important we have a plan - a Gaza run not by Hamas, a terrorist organisation, but by Palestinians."

"It can't be in anyone's interest, least of all Israel's, to be in Gaza in the long run."

The Cabinet Minister also defended the UK's efforts to get aid into Gaza, although he acknowledged the new US-built pier would only have a limited impact. He told the BBC it would be "ridiculous" to suggest the pier was the answer but added: "Does that mean we shouldn't be doing it? Not at all. Of course, we should be doing it."

"We have, the United Kingdom, without much fanfare, been delivering aid by sea, by air, by road, and the pier is just another way of getting aid in, and we're helping to organise the dispatch of that from Cyprus."

"We have the command and control ship RFA Cardigan Bay in the Mediterranean, and so we're assisting with getting that aid onto the land in Gaza."

"Of course, it's not enough. I mean, it would be ridiculous to suggest otherwise."

## Slovakian PM Fico is out of danger: Deputy Prime Minister Kalinak

**AGENCIES**  
BRATISLAVA, MAY 19

Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico is out of danger following an attempt on his life on Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister Robert Kalinak told the news agency TASR on Sunday.

"Based on the adviser to the medical consultation this morning, we can state that the patient is currently not in a life-threatening condition," the deputy head of the university hospital in Banska Bystrica, Milan Urbani, told journalists.

"However, his condition is still very serious, and he will need a long time and rest to recover."

Kalinak, also the Defence Minister, said the transfer of the 59-year-old, Fico, to a hospital in



the capital, Bratislava, is not possible in the near future and is therefore not planned.

"We are all convinced that his physical condition is so strong that we can expect a further recovery day by day, even if the road to recovery will take several weeks," Kalinak

said.

Fico was shot at close range after a Cabinet meeting in the small town of Handlova when he had stepped in front of a waiting crowd to shake hands.

The alleged perpetrator, identified as 71-year-old Juraj C, acted on political motives stemming from

## Kumbhabhishekam of Seetha Amman temple in Sri Lanka held with holy Saryu water from Ayodhya

**AGENCIES**  
KANDY (SRI LANKA) MAY 19

Thousands of devotees from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in Kumbhabhishekam -- a ritual reverentially performed to re-energise the spiritual powers -- of the Seetha Amman temple in Sri Lanka's Central Province district of Nuwara Eliya on Sunday.

Spiritual guru and founder of Art of Living Foundation Sri Sri Ravi Shankar along with High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha, were among the top dignitaries who witnessed the consecration ceremony with the holy Saryu water which was flown in from Ayodhya.

High Commissioner Jha had flagged off the rath yatra carrying Saryu water to Seeta Amman temple from Mayurapathi Sri Badrakali Amman Kovil



temple in Colombo on Friday.

Large groups of devotees from different corners of the world travelled especially for the ceremony, marking the civilisational heritage and values that India and Sri Lanka have shared for millennia.

The Seetha Amman temple is believed to signify the place of Ashok Vatika in the epic Ramayana is yet another symbol of the age-old and diverse ties between the people of the two countries.

Meanwhile, Sri Sri

Ravi Shankar, currently on a three-day visit to the island nation, met Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena at his official residence Temple Trees in Colombo on Saturday.

"We discussed future collaborations to support the people of Sri Lanka in areas such as skilling, agriculture, tourism, environmental conservation, and holistic well-being. Called upon all Asian countries to unite in promoting indigenous medicine," the spiritual guru posted on X.

## Iraqi Shiite militia claims drone attack on Israel

**AGENCIES**  
BAGHDAD, MAY 19

A Shiite militia in Iraq, on Sunday, claimed responsibility for a drone attack on a site in Eilat in southern Israel.

The militia, known as the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, said in an online statement that its fighters launched a drone attack "on a vital site in Eilat at dawn on Sunday," Xinhua news agency reported.



The statement stressed that the attack was carried out "in solidarity with the people of Gaza," and the militia pledged to persist in targeting "the enemy's strongholds."

The statement did not provide additional details about the specific location targeted nor any resulting casualties.

Since the outbreak of the Gaza war on October 7, 2023, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq has launched multiple attacks on Israeli and US bases in the region.

## Israeli attack in Gaza kills 24

**AGENCIES**  
TEL.AVIV, MAY 19

At least 24 people have been killed in an Israeli attack in the refugee camp of Nuseirat in the central part of the Gaza Strip, according to Palestinian reports.

The health authority, controlled by the Palestinian Islamist Hamas movement, said on Sunday that at least 24 Palestinians were killed when a residential building was hit by an attack during the night.

Meanwhile, an Israeli army spokesman said that the report was being investigated.

Moreover, a senior member of the Hamas police and his companion have also been killed in another targeted attack by Israel in the central Gaza Strip.

At the al-Aqsa hospital in Deir al-Balah, further south, grieving relatives could be seen next to bodies in white bags.

Last month, the Israeli army was deployed in



Nuseirat for a week and then withdrew again. Residents reported enormous destruction.

The Israeli military repeatedly speaks of operations against terrorists and terrorist infrastructure in various parts of the Gaza Strip.

The war was triggered by the unprecedented massacre of more than 1,200 people killed by militants from Hamas and other groups in Israel on October 7.

According to the health authorities, 35,386 Palestinians have been killed so far in the ensuing war, although the number, which is almost impossible to verify independently, does not distinguish between civilians and fighters.

## Saudi King suffering from 'high fever', to undergo tests

**AGENCIES**  
RIYADH, MAY 19

King Salman is suffering from "high fever and joint pain" and will undergo a medical examination on Sunday, the Saudi Arabian court said.

"The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques will undergo medical examinations today, May 19, at the Royal Clinics of Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah due to a high fever and joint pain. The medical team will



conduct tests to diagnose his condition and monitor his health," the royal court said in a statement, the Saudi Press Agency

reported.

The court had also announced last month that King Salman, 88, had been admitted to King Faisal Specialist Hospital for "routine examinations" but was discharged later that day.

As per the SPA, the Saudi King, who has been reigning since 2015, was admitted to hospital in May 2022 for a colonoscopy and stayed for just over a week for other tests and "some time to rest".

## US: Six killed, 10 injured in truck-van collision in Idaho

**AGENCIES**  
SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 19

Six people were killed and 10 others injured due to a car accident in the northwestern US state of Idaho, local authorities said.

The accident occurred in Idaho Falls in Bonneville County at 5:29 a.m. local time (1129 GMT) on Saturday, when a pickup truck collided with a Chevrolet passenger van, said the Idaho State Police in a statement, reports Xinhua news agency.

The van's driver and five passengers died at the scene, and nine other passengers in the van and the pickup's driver were hospitalised, according to police.

This crash is still under investigation by the Idaho State Police.

# Elon Musk launches Starlink in Indonesia

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, on Sunday, launched his satellite-based internet service provider Starlink in Indonesia, with the aim to improve access in remote parts of the archipelago.

"Honoured to launch @Starlink in Indonesia!" Musk posted on X.

The tech billionaire arrived on the Indonesian resort island of Bali by private jet on Sunday morning, before attending the launch ceremony at a community health centre in the provincial capital of Denpasar.

Indonesia's Coordinating Maritime Affairs and Investment Minister Luhut Pandjaitan met Musk at the airport and said the two would discuss several important collaborations, including the inauguration of Starlink.

"I had the opportunity to



pick up Elon at the airport this morning, then discuss some of his agendas while he's here and, of course, some important collaborations. One of them is the inauguration of Starlink internet service capable of reaching all corners of Indonesia," the Minister wrote on his official Instagram account.

"Through the availability of internet access throughout the province, the digitalisation in the implementation of healthcare and education in Indonesia can continue to improve," he

added. Earlier this month, Starlink warned users of a "degraded service" as the biggest geomagnetic storm struck the Earth due to solar activity.

"Starlink is currently experiencing degraded service. Our team is investigating," the company wrote on its website.

Musk also highlighted the severity of the storm in a post on X, saying that it has put Starlink satellite fleet under intense pressure and described it as "the biggest in a long time."

# 'Above normal' monsoon prediction put these stocks in top gear

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

The Indian Metrology Department has predicted an 'above normal' monsoon for 2024.

A good monsoon always gives a boost to the stock market, because it revives demand for consumer goods, vehicles, and farm equipment. The Nifty FMCG index has risen over 1.5 per cent so far in May and outperformed the benchmark Nifty 50 by nearly two per cent. This showcases market sentiment for FMCG sectors.

FMCG company Marico's shares were up by 17.95 per cent last month.

After the fourth quarter results, Marico had said in its guidance that rural demand is improving and the growth in revenue from domestic business can be in double digits in the current financial year.

Hindustan Unilever's stock was up by 4.5 per cent last month. The company had said in its com-



mentary after the results that there is an improvement in demand.

The Reserve Bank of India had also said in its April monetary policy that rural demand is returning in the economy.

The shares of auto company Hero MotoCorp were up by 21 per cent last month. The company had said that more inquiries regarding new vehicles are coming from rural areas. Mahindra & Mahindra's

shares were up by 20 per cent last month. Due to good results of the fourth quarter, the stock had increased by more than 6 per cent last Friday.

Shares of Tractor market Escorts Kubota were up by 25 per cent return last month.

According to data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations, sales of two-wheelers in India rose 33 per cent in April on a YoY basis.

# Elon Musk arrives in Indonesia, to launch satellite internet service Starlink



AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Sunday arrived in Indonesia where he aims to launch his satellite-based internet service Starlink. Musk, who is visiting Indonesia for the first time, is scheduled to launch Starlink alongside the country's President Joko Widodo.

"I had the opportunity to pick up Elon at the Airport this morning, then discuss some of his agendas while he's here and of course some important collaborations. One of them is the inauguration of Starlink internet service capable of reaching all corners of Indonesia," Coordinating Maritime Affairs and Investment Minister Luhut Pandjaitan wrote on his official Instagram account.

"Through the avail-

ability of internet access throughout the province, the digitalisation in the implementation of healthcare and education in Indonesia can continue to improve," he added.

The minister also mentioned that the tech billionaire will also be speaking at the World Water Forum, which will be held in Bali. Earlier this month, Starlink warned users of a "degraded service" as the biggest geomagnetic storm struck the Earth due to solar activity.

"Starlink is currently experiencing degraded service. Our team is investigating," the company wrote on its website.

Musk also highlighted the severity of the storm in a post on X, saying that it has put Starlink satellite fleet under intense pressure and described it as "the biggest in a long time".

# WhatsApp working on several new features to enhance user experience

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

Meta-owned WhatsApp is reportedly working on several new features to enhance the user experience on the chatting platform.

The feature, which the company presently working on includes -- locked chats on linked devices, status updates of up to 1 minute, explore new channels, autoplay animated images, and hidden community group chats, according to WABetaInfo.

Currently available to some beta testers, the "locked chats on linked devices" feature will let users protect their conversations from their linked devices. However, users will be required to create a secret code to open the locked chats folder from their linked devices.

Another feature -- "status updates of up to 1 minute" will allow users to share videos of up to 1 minute in length via status updates. Earlier, the limit to share videos on status



updates was 30 seconds. The feature is presently available to some beta testers and will roll out to more people over the coming weeks, the report said.

Further, WhatsApp introduced a new shortcut to "explore new channels", with an aim to make it promptly visible and accessible. According to the report, making the ability to explore channels more visible offers the advantage of improving user engagement with content discovery.

The explore new channels feature is available to some beta testers.

In addition, the messag-

ing platform is working on a feature to manage the "autoplay of animated images" right within the app settings. Specifically, this feature will disable all animations for emojis, stickers, and avatars, providing them with enhanced control over their chat experience.

Presently, this feature is under development and it will be available in a future update of the app, the report mentioned.

Lastly, WhatsApp is developing a feature that will allow users to mark "community group chats as hidden". This feature will be available in the future update of the app.

# Over \$239 mn raised by 26 Indian startups in funding last week

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

More than \$239 million was raised by 26 Indian startups in funding last week, which includes nine growth-stage deals and 15 early-stage deals.

Two early-stage startups did not disclose the amount raised, reports Entracker. In the week of May 6-11, around 24 early and growth-stage startups collectively raised nearly \$320 million in funding.

Among the growth-stage deals, seven startups secured around \$207.2 million in funding last week. Microfinance firm Annapurna Finance secured the highest funding of \$72 million.

This was followed by battery tech startup Battery Smart, Propellid, which provides education loans to borrowers via online channels, and ambulance service provider Red.

Health and manufactures drones for applications in agriculture,



defence, and enterprise sectors Dhaksha, which raised \$45 million, \$25 million, \$20 million, and \$18 million, respectively.

Moreover, 15 early-stage startups secured funding worth \$32.5 million last week.

Domestic aggregator providing end-to-end cold-chain solutions Celcius Logistics topped the list, followed by mobility and energy solutions startup Matel, authentication and access management plat-

form OTPless, marketing SaaS (software-as-a-service) platform Higherformr.ai, and sports tech company Stupa Sports.

The list of early-stage startups also includes -- Duro Green and Trezi, which kept the funding amount undisclosed.

City-wise, Bengaluru-based startups led with nine deals, followed by Delhi-NCR, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Bhubaneswar, among others.

# With a three-day week, expect momentum to break

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

Markets were on a roll during the last week and the volatility seems to have reduced. The visible change was the fact that they just rose and were moving towards a nice set-up where they could go in either direction.

With last week's moves, they are within striking distance of new lifetime highs. The broad markets more than regained the previous week's losses. BSESENSEX gained 1,341.47 points or 1.85 per cent to close at 74,005.94 points, while NIFTY gained 446.80 points or 2.03 per cent to close at 22,502.00 points.

The broader markets saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 gain 2.40 per cent, 2.91 per cent and 3.23 per cent, respectively. BSEMI-DICAP was up 4.92 per cent, while BSESMALLCAP was up 5.65 per cent. Markets gained on five of the six trading sessions during the week. They were open on Saturday as well, with a view to testing the disaster recovery site that the exchanges have.

The Indian Rupee gained 16 paise or 0.19 per cent to close at Rs 83.34 to the US Dollar. Dow Jones continued its strong showing and crossed the 40,000 mark. It gained on three of the five trading sessions and lost on two.

It was up 490.95 points or 1.24 per cent to close at 40,003.59 points.

There were three listings during the week. The first was Indegene Limited, which had issued shares at Rs 452. The share made its debut on Monday at BSE at Rs 659.70, a gain of Rs 207.70 or 45.95 per cent.

It then made a low of Rs 527.80 and closed at Rs 570.65. On NSE, it debuted at Rs 655, on debut day, made a low of Rs 527.10 and closed at Rs 570.90, a gain of Rs 118.90 or 26.30 per cent. By Saturday, the share lost further ground and closed at Rs 556.05, a gain of Rs 104.05 or 23.02 per cent.

The second share to list was TBO TEK Limited, which had issued shares at Rs 920. The share debuted at Rs 1,380 on BSE and Rs 1,426 on NSE. It closed on Wednesday, debut day at Rs 1,404.85, a gain of Rs



484.85 or 52.70 per cent. On NSE, the close was at Rs 1,406.30. The share gained further ground and closed at Rs 1,463.90, a gain of Rs 543.90 or 59.12 per cent on Saturday.

The third share to list was Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, which had issued shares at Rs 315. The debut price was 314.30 on BSE and Rs 315 on NSE. The low the share made was Rs 293.35 on BSE and Rs 292 on NSE.

The high was Rs 343.20 on BSE and Rs 343.70 on NSE. The share closed on Wednesday at Rs 329.55, a gain of 14.55 or 4.61 per cent. By Saturday, the share gained marginally and closed at Rs 348.60, a gain of Rs 33.60 or 10.67

per cent.

The issue from Go Digit General Insurance Limited, which had tapped the markets during the week, saw the issue get overall subscribed 9.6 times. The price band was Rs 258-272. The QIB portion was subscribed 12.56 times, the HNI portion was subscribed 7.24 times, and the Retail portion was subscribed 4.27 times. There were 5.85 lakh applications in all.

The week ahead has two trading holidays and, therefore, will have just three trading sessions. The week begins with a holiday on account of voting for the fifth round of elections to be held on Monday, amongst other places in

Mumbai. This would be followed by a holiday on Thursday as well, breaking the momentum which one saw being built up during the previous week.

Post the week, we would have entered the business end of the general elections with just the sixth and seventh rounds left. The final round is on June 1, which is a Saturday. That evening, we would be bombarded by exit polls of all colours and hues, and markets would get a fair sense of what results would be like on Tuesday when they are finally declared.

As of the time of writing, the markets very firmly believe that the ruling dispensation would win the elections and have a consecutive third term. The ruling party, which won 303 seats in the 2019 elections, is expected to win around 330 seats, and the allies another 45-50 seats. This is what the markets believe, and that gives the strength and momentum being witnessed. This would get fine-tuned as the week ahead progresses.

Coming to the markets in the short three-day

period ahead, expect markets to remain volatile and choppy. We have immediate support at the lows made over the last month at 21,800-21,900 on NIFTY. While they look far away currently, a week ago, they were almost there. On the resistance side, with just a three-day week, all-time highs of 22,800 points would act as strong resistances.

The strategy for the week would be to enter select midcap and small-cap stocks, which have had good results for the quarter and year ended March 2024. Markets are on a strong wicket, and with institutional players either long or short, there would have to be some sort of reversal of roles from FPIs sooner or later. The domestic institutions, because of very strong domestic flows, would have to continue to invest in the near term.

In conclusion, the climb upwards will be slow but certain. This bull run is unlikely to end very shortly, even though there would be profit-taking at every level.

Trade cautiously.

# Air India Express flight's engine catches fire, makes emergency landing

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

The Air India Express flight from Bengaluru to Kochi had to make a full-scale emergency landing at Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) due to a fire in one of its engines. The sources said that the crew members alerted the Air Traffic Controller after a fire was noticed soon after the take off.

"As flames were seen emanating from the right engine after takeoff, the Bengaluru-Kochi flight elected to return and carried out a precautionary landing at Bengaluru on Saturday night. The ground services also reported flames, resulting in an evacuation," said Air India's spokesperson.

"The crew accomplished an evacuation with no injuries to any guests. We regret the inconvenience this has caused and are working to provide alternative arrangements for our guests to reach their destination as soon as possible," said the spokesperson.

"A thorough investigation with the regulator shall be accomplished to establish the cause," the spokesperson added.

## PGA Championships: Theegala third as Schauffele, Morikawa lead; Scheffler falls back

AGENCIES  
LOUISVILLE (USA), MAY 19

Indian American Sahith Theegala put himself in perfect position to make a bid for his maiden Major, as he was sole third and one shot behind Xander Schauffele (68) and Collin Morikawa (67) after three rounds of the 106th PGA Championships. Theegala after 65-67 on the first two days, turned in a 67 on third to 14-under as Morikawa, winner of 2002 PGA and 2021 Open, is looking for a third Major, and Schauffele seeking his first Major, was at 15 under.

Theegala may have just one PGA TOUR win to his name, but he has been second twice this season and both times in Signature events (The Sentry and RBC Heritage).

The 26-year-old Theegala's best Major finish has been T-9 on his Masters debut in 2023, leads the Par-3 scoring has scrambled well from the rough, and is the best this week in 3-putt avoidance.

With three others, the 2019 Open winner, Shane



Lowry (62), the 2020 US Open winner, Bryson DeChambeau (67) and Viktor Hovland (66) at 13-under, and two more, the 2013 US Open winner Justin Rose (64) and Robert MacIntyre (66) at 12-under, there are eight players with three off the lead.

Yet the man missing from this mix is World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler, who had his streak of par or under rounds broken after 42 rounds. He went four-over for three holes between the second and fourth and ended the day at 2-over 73 and was T-24 at 7-under.

The top Asians were Tom Kim (68) and Hideki Matsuyama (70) at

8-under in T-19th place.

Scheffler coming off after a tense second round that included an arrest and a brief visit to the jail, before carding 66 never really recovered from his disappointing start in the third round. "Too many mistakes," Scheffler told CBS, as he skipped speaking to reporters. "I came out here hoping to have a good round and didn't get it done."

He opened with a par and then went double bogey-bogey-bogey for the next three holes and never recovered from there. There were three pairs of birdie-bogey on 7-8th, 10th-11th, and 13th-14th, and finally closed

with a birdie for a 73.

Schauffele, who lost the lead for the first time in the third round when he made a double bogey at No. 15, caught up with two closing birdies as Morikawa made birdie at the 18th a little before him.

This was Schauffele's first scoring three rounds under par at a major championship and his lowest 54-hole score in a major. Schauffele also held the third-round lead/co-lead at the Olympics in Tokyo where he won the gold medal, and with teammate Patrick Cantlay en route to winning the 2022 Zurich Classic of New Orleans. He also held a one-stroke lead entering the final round of last week's Wells Fargo Championship and went on to finish second behind Rory McIlroy (68), who was T-19 after three days here in Valhalla.

Lowry, who won in Zurich in the company of McIlroy, had a brilliant round of 62 that had nine birdies, six on the front side of the course, and three more on the back nine.

## Cummins' role in Carey's dramatic stumping of Bairstow revealed in Season Three of The Test

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

Australia skipper Pat Cummins' role in wicketkeeper Alex Carey's dramatic stumping of England batter Jonny Bairstow in the second Ashes Test at Lord's last year has been revealed in the third season of The Test documentary. On Day Five of the Lord's Test, Bairstow was on 10 and England were at 193/5 in the 52nd over when he ducked a bouncer from Cameron Green and inadvertently walked out of his crease. On seeing that, Carey immediately directed an underarm throw after catching the delivery and jumped for joy after firing an accurate throw toward the stumps.

It led to chaos in the middle as Bairstow believed the ball was dead, going for an appeal. On-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Chris Gaffaney sent the decision upstairs, where TV umpire Marais Erasmus confirmed Bairstow's dismissal. On seeing the out decision, the Australian players celebrated while the crowd began to chant "same old Aussies, always cheating", leading to the 'spirit of cricket' debate



being reignited all over again.

Before leaving the crease, Bairstow and captain Ben Stokes exchanged words with Australian players, with the duo clearly not happy with the decision.

In the documentary, which will be aired on Prime Video on May 24, Cummins' role in the stumping is revealed by the man himself, quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "Cam Green was bowling and bowled a bouncer and he (Bairstow) ducked underneath it and then just walked out of his crease. So I just said to Kez (Carey) the ball before, I said 'Kez, just have a throw'."

Later, some Australian players faced verbal abuse from MCC members in the

long room over the dramatic stumping. "Walking back into the Long Room, it was like we'd ripped the soul of out them...absolutely, yeah, people stepped over the line," recalled Cummins.

"One of them (the members) ... (was) spraying me. I was like 'Nup, you can't be saying that stuff'. He said 'Oh, I can say whatever I effing want', like a sense of entitlement almost," added Usman Khawaja.

"One of them was foaming at the mouth. A bloke hit Bull (David Warner) when he went up the stairs," recalled Marnus Labuschagne.

Bairstow's lack of presence of mind in wandering out of the crease has also received huge attention. As per the laws of the game,

Law 20.1.2 says, "The ball shall be considered to be dead when it is clear to the bowler's end umpire that the fielding side and both batters at the wicket have ceased to regard it as in play."

The after-effect of the stumping resulted in Carey coping with huge abuse from crowds and on social media, so much so that cyber police in Australia got involved too. "It got a little nasty there for a while. That's probably the thing that shocked me the most, the abuse, people going after you...personal, family, all that sort of stuff," recalled Carey.

Senior batter Steven Smith also felt there was something amiss about Carey's well-being post the Lord's Test. "I could sense he wasn't quite right mentally, and I can understand it. I was worried about him and his well-being," he said.

"Everyone projected on Kez and didn't project on anyone else. It was all on Kez. Looking back on it, I just feel so bad for what he went through at the time and what his family would have gone through being there at the time. It would have been so hard," concluded Khawaja.

## Tvesa's fine 67 sees her rise in German Masters on Ladies European Tour

AGENCIES  
BRANDENBURG (GERMANY), MAY 19

Tvesa Malik fired an eagle on her way to a fine round of 5-under 67 in the third round of the Amundi German Masters, her best round in almost four years on the LET, though she had a 65 in South Africa in February. With this round, she moved from T-55 to T-21 with one round to go.

Tvesa, a multiple-time winner on India's Women's Pro Tour, recorded her first international win on the Sunshine Ladies Tour in South Africa at the SuperSport Ladies Challenge in February this year.

Pranavi Urs (71) and



Diksha Dagar (73), the other two Indians to make the cut, were T-31 and T-43. Four other Indian starters, Vani Kapoor, Amandeep Drall, Sneha Singh, and amateur Avani Prashanth, did not make the cut.

Local star Alexandra Forsterling (69) and Austrian Emma Spitz (66)

were in shared lead at seven-under-par after 54 holes.

Tvesa had four birdies in the first six holes and overall she had an eagle and five birdies against two bogeys. The eagle came on the first hole, her 10th hole, as she started on the tenth. Pranavi had

seven birdies against four bogeys and a double, while Diksha had three birdies against four bogeys in her 73. Slovenia's Ana Belac and Germany's Patricia Isabel Schmidt sit one shot further back in a tie for third place on six-under-par. English duo Eleanor Givens and Bronte Law are in a share of fifth place on five-under-par and it was a great day for Givens who fired a 65 (-7).

Five players are in a tie for seventh place with Finland's Noora Komulainen, England's Gabriella Cowley, Ireland's Lauren Walsh, Spain's Luna Sobron Galmes, and German amateur Helen Briem all on four-under-par.

## IPL 2024: Let better sense prevail, Rohit Sharma lashes out at broadcaster after a private conversation is aired

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

Rohit Sharma, who has spent the majority of the past three years in the spotlight as India's captain, has spoken against the invasion of privacy of players as the official broadcaster of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 aired a private conversation of the former Mumbai Indians captain during a training session, despite being told not to record it.

Rohit, who was displaced as captain of Mumbai Indians ahead of IPL 2024, feels recording and airing the private conversation despite his request not to do so is a breach of privacy.

"The lives of cricketers have become so intrusive that cameras are now recording every step and conversation we are having in privacy with our friends and colleagues, at training or on match days. "Despite asking Star



Sports to not record my conversation, it was and was also then played on air, which is a breach of privacy. The need to get exclusive content and focused only on views and engagement will one day break the trust between

the fans, cricketers, and cricket," read the tweet posted by Rohit Sharma on X (formerly known as Twitter) on Sunday.

"Let better sense prevail," he signed off his post.

Although Rohit has not

specified any incidents to which he is referring, it can be inferred that he is talking about a specific incident that took place on the training ground, which was later aired by Star Sports.

"Bhai yaar audio band kar bhai, ek audio ne meri waat laga diya hai," said Rohit Sharma to a Star Sports cameraman on the training ground, which was then shown on air by Star Sports.

This is not the only incident of Rohit's private conversations being recorded as Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) had caused a huge controversy before their game against Mumbai Indians by posting a conversation between the hitman and Abhishek Nayar, KKR's Assistant Coach, in which Rohit might have been discussing a potential move out of Mumbai in the next IPL season.

This video has since been deleted by the KKR franchise.

## FIFA WC Joint Qualifiers: Inter Kashi's Lalrindka impresses in first national camp ahead of key clash

AGENCIES  
BHUANESHWAR, MAY 19

Indian football may have a new star amidst their camp as Inter Kashi left winger Edmund Lalrindka, who got his first call-up for the Blue Tigers during the ongoing camp, has heavily impressed during the training session with the country's best players. The natural left-winger has heavily impressed the senior team's Head Coach, Igor Stimac with the Croatian having kept an eye on his development for the past few months.

"I got a phone call from my team Inter Kashi and they told me I'm selected in the probable squad list and congratulated me. The first thing I did was pray to God and thank him for the opportunity. All I can do is work hard, give my very best, and try to make it to the final squad (for the FIFA World Cup



Qualifiers against Kuwait and Qatar)," Edmund told AIFF's official website when asked about his call-up to the national team squad.

Lalrindka heavily influenced his side's performance this season propelling them to a solid fourth-place finish in the I-League. The young winger played every single match for Inter Kashi this season and recorded six goals and nine assists in

all competitions.

"It's been the best season of my career so far. I want to thank the club and the management for their support and trust in me. It was one of the reasons that I got called for the national team, so I'm grateful for that and I will give my everything to not let them down," he added.

Lalrindka will be travelling to Canada after the conclusion of his national duties as he will be train-

ing with Canadian Premier League side, Atletico Ottawa, for next season. Atletico Ottawa and Atletico Madrid have the same owners which marks a huge step for the 25-year-old left winger.

"After the national team camp, hopefully, my visa will come and I'll go to Canada. The duration of my stay and contract will depend on my visa once I reach there. The people from Atlético Madrid (owners of Atlético Ottawa) were very helpful and motivating. They shared their complete plan with me and I am really looking forward to it.

"I would really like to thank my club Inter Kashi, the coach, the management, and my fellow players for their support and belief in me. Without them, it would not have been possible," he concluded.

## Hemanth Muddappa breaks national record at 10th Vroom Drag meet

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

Hemanth Muddappa, a 12-time National champion, was in his element once again becoming the fastest quarter-miler in India as he broke the national record at the 10th edition of the Vroom Drag meet.

On his way to winning the grand triple in the Bikes Open event which is held along with the Round 1 of the FMSCI Indian National 4w Drag Championship at the Taneja air strip, near Hosur on Sunday. Muddappa of Mantra Racing set a time



of 09.264seconds in the Super Sport 4stroke 1051 to 1650cc class to break the previous record of 9.298sec set at the same Taneja track by Jordanian

Fahim Zahrani in 2023. Foreign riders are allowed in the Open events by FMSCI, the Indian federation. The Bengaluru-based champion put the

2024 Suzuki Hayabusa built by Mantra Racing to good use, touching top speeds of 270kph.

He also broke his own record in the Super sport 851 to 1050cc class with a 9.415sec run that erased the 9.480sec he set at Amby Valley in 2016 astride a BMW S1000RR.

He won the 'Unrestricted 551cc and above' class to complete the grand treble as he brought the Indian flag to the mast once again with two records on the final day of the event. Muddappa's next outing will be at the Drag Nationals at Chennai. Brief results:

## DC Jammu reviews functioning of Revenue Department

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 19

Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya today reviewed the working of Revenue Department, here at a meeting attended by senior functionaries.

The DC urged the officers to maintain constant vigil on the ground situation and prioritise the delivery of services to the public, adhering strictly to the established guidelines.

The DC insisted on the time bound service delivery as provisioned under the PSGA, particularly emphasising the swift issuance of Fard in legitimate cases to prevent unnecessary delays.

The DC conducted a thorough examination of the progress in the digitisation of Jamabandis, while underscoring the



necessity of timely distribution of land passbooks and property cards.

The Tehsildars presented the current status of their respective tehsils, with the DC emphasising the importance of geo-referencing activities in

this context. To expedite the process, time-bound directives were issued to address any pending tasks.

The meeting saw participation of senior officers including Additional District Development Com-

missioner, Sher Singh, Assistant District Commissioner, Shishir Gupta, Sub Divisional Magistrates and Assistant Commissioner Revenue besides the presence of Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars and others concerned.

## Lok Sabha Elections 2024

### Enthusiastic Voters' response marks first day of home voting in Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MAY 19

The first day of the home voting was marked by an enthusiastic participation from the electorate in 84 Nowshera AC, 85 Rajouri AC, 86 Budhal and 87 Thanamandi AC falling in 3-Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency.

It is for the first time that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has provided the facility of home voting for the elderly and Persons with Disabilities in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Voters



above 85 years of age and Persons with 40% Disabilities (PwDs) can avail the optional home voting facility. Out of a total of 1155 voters, as many as 823 people availed the home voting facility on the first day and cast their vote from the comfort of their homes.

This home voting is being conducted for three days, providing voters with ample time and opportunity to exercise their right to vote. The local authorities have worked diligently to ensure a smooth and secure electoral process.

## Lok Sabha Elections 2024

### Election Department takes action against 40 govt employees for MCC violation in J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 19

The Jammu and Kashmir Election Department has taken action against 40 government employees for violation of Model Code of Conduct in the Union Territory.

"Four employees have been suspended, disciplinary action has been initiated against one besides one employee has been disengaged from services and inquiry has been started against thirty four employees", read a communique received here today in this regard.

The swift action against these employees of differ-

ent departments of J&K has been initiated in response to the daily online reports being furnished by the concerned District Election Officers of different districts and offline complaints received on the official E-mail id of J&K Chief Electoral Officer, lodged by general public, office bearers of different political parties and Panchayati Raj Institutions regarding MCC violation.

The move was aimed to ensure free and fair conduct of ongoing general elections while adhering to zero tolerance policy of Election Commission of India against such viola-

The two employees have been placed under suspension in Kupwara, one in Ganderbal and one in Doda district with initiation of enquiry against them. Disciplinary action has been recommended against one employee whose involvement in political activities was proved while one chowkidar has been disengaged/dismitted from services for proved involvement in political activities.

The concerned authority has issued warning to one employee to remain careful in future who has pleaded to have committed the mistake unknowingly. In addition, the

enquires are underway against thirty four employees including six gazetted employees which will be taken to logical conclusion as per the instructions of Election Commission of India. The highest number of violations have been reported from Srinagar district followed by Kulgam and Rajouri as second highest and Udhampur and Ganderbal districts as third highest while lowest number of violations have been reported from Kishtwar, Bandipora, Reasi and Samba districts, added the communique.

## ADC Ramban flags-off batch of Hajj Pilgrims

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, MAY 19

Amid elaborate arrangements by the District Administration under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Varunjeet Singh Charak flagged off a batch of 63 Hajjis, including 22 female pilgrims, from Ramban District to Srinagar for their onward journey to the Holy Pilgrimage. The ADC congratulated the Hajj pilgrims for getting the opportunity to



embark on this sacred journey. He extended his best

wishes for a safe and secure pilgrimage and earnestly

were also present on the occasion.

## Bhaderwah: Cleanliness drive conducted at Jai Valley, Guldanda and Padhri areas

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
BHADERWAH, MAY 19

In an effort to ensure the cleanliness and preservation of tourist destinations in the Bhaderwah region, the District Administration Doda organized a cleanliness drive today at Jai Valley and two other places. The initiative aimed to promote cleanliness and hygiene in these popular tourist spots and enhance the overall visitor experience.

The event witnessed the active participation of esteemed dignitaries: Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh, ADC Doda Surender Kumar, ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar, ACR Doda Sunil Bhutyal, CEO BDA Bhaderwah Bal Krishan, CPO Manesh Sharma, ACD Manoj Kumar, ACP, Tehsildars, MCs, and other District/Sectoral Officers, as well as tourists and visitors.

The cleanliness drive also covered the Guldanda and Padhri areas of Bhaderwah, with various government officers, officials, locals and tourists in attendance.

The aim of the clean-



ness drive was to raise awareness about the importance of keeping tourist destinations clean and to involve the community in maintaining the beauty of these areas. Participants were seen actively cleaning up the surroundings, collecting and properly disposing of waste, and spreading awareness about the importance of cleanliness.

The District Administration Doda expressed gratitude to all the participants, government officers, officials and locals who took part in the cleanliness drive, and emphasized the importance of such initiatives in preserving the natural beauty of the region. The main objective behind the sanitation drive in tourist places like Jai Valley and Padhri was to

ensure cleanliness, especially with the upcoming tourist season commencing. Another objective was to clean up the beautiful spots to preserve nature. In this connection, the District Administration Doda, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh, launched a massive sanitation drive to ensure a clean and green Bhaderwah.

## Lok Sabha Elections 2024

### District Election Office Kupwara establish Pink, Blue, Red & Green Polling Stations

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, MAY 19

In a significant initiative aimed at promoting inclusivity, District Election Office Kupwara has established 24 special polling stations in six assembly segments of the district.

Kupwara district which is part of I-Baramulla parliamentary constituency is going to polls on May 20, tomorrow.

District Election office Kupwara has established Pink, Blue & Red and Green Polling stations on identified locations across the district in all six assembly segments.

The special polling stations established include six Pink Polling stations which are all managed by women are 30-Kandi Payeen, 52-Trehgam F, 75 - Kupwara, 75-Sogam G, 94- Handwara A, 34- Choptipora. Youth managed blue Polling stations are established at 25-Tangdar C, 44-Hiri Payeen, 76-Kupwara-A, 14- Dooniwari, 114-



Machipora, 57-Langate-D. PWD managed red polling stations are 39-Gundishat, 71-Gushi-A, 77- Kuowara-D, 16- Suri-gam-B, 90-Gorihakar and 39-Kargama.

Six green Polling stations established in six assembly constituencies of the district are 25-Tangdar-C, 44- Hiri Payeen, 76- Kupwara - A, 14-Doni-wari, 114- Machipora, 57-Langate-D.

Extensive plantation

drive aimed at fostering environmental sustainability and community involvement under SVEEP program have been done in green polling stations.

Green polling stations are testament to the commitment of district administration Kupwara not only to promote voter awareness and participation but also to address pressing environmental challenges.

District Election officer,

Ayushi Sudan said that all these polling stations have improved amenities to serve the diverse voter groups in a better manner.

She said that the administration is hopeful that such initiatives will boost the voter turnout in the district on May 20.

Sudan added that with the extensive preparations and new initiatives in place, the district administration is optimistic about a highest voter turnout.

## Lok Sabha Elections 2024

### DEO Bandipora Flags off Poll Parties; Urges all eligible voters of Bandipora to exercise their right on poll day

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, MAY 19

In view of the polling of Lok Sabha Election 2024, scheduled to be held tomorrow on 20th May 2024 in all 03 ACs of District Bandipora, District Election Officer, Bandipora Shakeel ul Rehman today flagged off poll parties for Assembly Segment 15-Bandipora.

A total of 144 polling parties, along with EVMs, and other necessary material were dispatched from Mini Secretariat Bandipora for polling stations of 15-Bandipora Assembly Segment while as 31 poll parties and 137 poll parties were dispatched by ARO Gurez and ARO Sonawari



respectively from their respective DCRCs.

The polling will be held across 312 polling stations of Bandipora District, which is part of I-Baramulla PC, tomorrow on 20th May.

The DEO, on the occasion, interacted with poll staff and took first hand appraisal of Poll preparedness, facilities, and security measures.

While interacting with

poll staff, the DEO emphasized the importance of fair and transparent elections, urging all stakeholders to uphold the sanctity of the democratic process.

He highlighted the responsibility entrusted upon the polling teams to ensure a smooth conduct of elections, adhering strictly to the ECI guidelines and regulations.

During his media brief-

ing, the District Election Officer Shakeel ul Rehman urged all eligible voters of Bandipora District to exercise their democratic right and cast their votes.

He passionately appealed to eligible citizens to step out of their homes and participate actively in the electoral process by casting their votes on poll day.

He said all necessary arrangements are in place, including welfare and security measures.

The DEO was accompanied by ADC Umar Shafi Pandit, ARO 15-Bandipora (ACR) Shabir Ahmad Wani, DyDEO Mohamad Rafeeq Bhat, DIO Dr. Naseer Ahmad and other concerned officers/officials.