



JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 121 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

On June 4, people will wake them from their sleep: PM Modi

J NEWS SERVICE
BASTI (UP), MAY 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday took a swipe at Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over their claim of winning 79 seats in Uttar Pradesh and said that on June 4, the people of UP will wake them from their sleep.

“Both the ‘Shehzadas’ of Congress and SP are spreading rumours that they will win 79 seats of UP. Earlier I used to hear that



people used to daydream, but now I understand what it means to daydream. On June 4, the people of UP will wake them and then they will blame the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM),” PM Modi said

while addressing a public meeting in Uttar Pradesh’s Basti.

PM Modi launched a scathing attack on Congress and Samajwadi Party over their remark, ‘Pakistan has an atom bomb’, and accused them of scaring the people, adding that India does not have a weak Congress government.

“Pakistan has been defeated, but its sympathizers like SP and Congress are now busy scaring India. These people say, to be afraid of Pakistan, as it has the atomic bomb. Why

should India be afraid? Today, India does not have a weak Congress government, it has a strong Modi government, ‘Bharat Aaj Ghar me Ghuskar Maarta hai’,” he said.

Urging the people to vote in large numbers, PM Modi said, “Whenever you get some virtuous work to do, should you lose that opportunity? If you don’t cast your vote, will you get the benefit? If 80 crore people are getting free rations, don’t they bless? But if you

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Kashmir simmers as heat wave intensifies, Jammu seethes at 41.2 degree Celsius

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

The Kashmir valley including some parts of Jammu are simmering as the heat wave intensified across Jammu and Kashmir while the weatherman here has predicted more hot and dry weather conditions for the next one week.

According to the news agency, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded the hottest day of the season at 31.6 degree Celsius.

As per the details,



almost all the stations across Kashmir including Srinagar, Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kupwara, Kokernag

and Gulmarg have recorded the heat wave.

In Qazigund, the

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Traffic resumed on Jammu-Srinagar national highway after day-long suspension

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

The vehicular traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway resumed early Wednesday after being suspended for a day, officials said.

Light motor vehicles and private cars are allowed to travel in both directions on the highway, a traffic police official said. However, heavy motor vehicles are restricted to one-way traffic from Jakhani (Udhampur) towards Srinagar, he added.

“Traffic was resumed on the highway following



for traffic.

The traffic police official also said that there was slow movement on the highway due to the breakdown of five heavy motor vehicles, movement of 10 nomadic flocks and single-lane traffic at several points, including Dalwas, Mehar, Panthyal, Magerkote, Nachlana, Gangroo, and Shalgari.

Passengers and operators are advised to travel during daylight hours to avoid inconvenience due to the nomadic movement towards the Kashmir Valley and the risk of shooting stones between Ramban and Banihal.

a day-long suspension,” the official said.

He said there is slow movement between Ramban and Banihal due to poor road conditions and the movement of nomadic flocks.

Commuters are advised to follow lane discipline to

avoid congestion.

The highway was closed on Tuesday for unspecified reasons, though sources indicated it was for repair and maintenance work.

Meanwhile, the Mughal Road and Bhaderwah-Chamba Road are open

Focus shifts to Anantnag-Rajouri, last J&K LS constituency to go to polls

J NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MAY 22

Polling in four of the five parliamentary seats in Jammu and Kashmir having ended peacefully, the focus has now shifted to the reshaped Anantnag-Rajouri constituency which witnessed four terror attacks in the last 30 days.

The constituency spread on either side of the mighty Pir Panjal was originally scheduled to go to polls on May 7 but it was deferred to May 25 due to adverse weather conditions on the request of several parties, includ-

ing the BJP, Apni party and the DPAP.

The parties also cited the closure of the Mughal road - an alternative link connecting Jammu with Kashmir.

Over 18.30 lakh eligible voters, including 8.99 lakh women and over 81,000 first-timers, will decide the fate of 20 contestants, including former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, in the fray for the prestigious seat.

The Anantnag-Rajouri constituency was reshaped on the recommendations of the Delimitation Commission in 2022, exclud-

ing Pulwama and some segments of Shopian and bringing in most of Rajouri and Poonch districts.

Mehbooba faces a tough challenge from National Conference candidate and influential Gujjar leader Mian Altaf and the Apni Party’s Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas, who has the BJP’s backing.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) leader Mohamad Saleem Parry and 10 Independents are also in the fray.

Although the terror attacks left three people, including an Indian Air Force (IAF) corporal

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Amidst Heat Wave, centre spotlights J&K under ‘Cool Summers of India’ Campaign

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

With heat wave prevailing in almost all states of India, the Centre is currently promoting Jammu and Kashmir under its ‘Cool Summers of India’ campaign.

Under the ‘Cool Summers of India’ campaign, the ministry has, in consultation with respective state governments and Union territories, picked over 50 destinations and efforts are on to actively promote them as

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Two more government employees disengaged for violating MCC

J NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 22

Acting tough against the violation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) guidelines, the authorities in Ganderbal disengaged two more government employees, today. The order issued in this regard stated that Mush-taq Ahmad Khan S/O: Mohammad Sidiq Khan R/O: Hari Ganiwan working as CPW in GHSS Hari Ganiwan is hereby

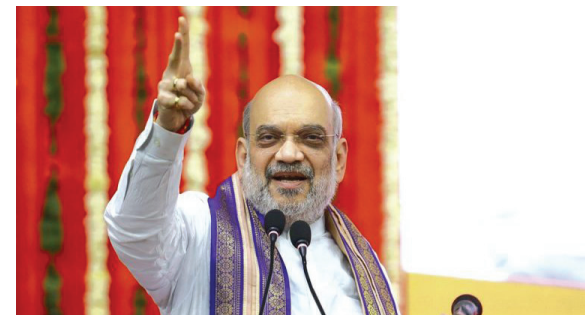
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INDIA bloc doesn’t have any leader who can become PM: Amit Shah

J NEWS SERVICE
GHATAL/PURULIA, MAY 22

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday launched a blistering attack on the “corrupt INDI alliance,” stating that the opposition bloc lacks any leader capable of becoming Prime Minister.

Addressing back-to-back rallies at Ghatal and Purulia, Amit Shah criticised the INDIA bloc leaders, stating they only aim to advance their dynasties and “neither have any leaders to lead the country nor any intention for the development of the



nation.” Shah, while referring to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir said “PoK is part of India and we will take it”. “It is a foregone conclusion that the BJP will form the next government. But who is the Prime Minister

candidate of this INDI alliance? The alliance doesn’t have any leaders. It wants five PMs in five years. They want a rotational PM system,” he said.

“But can these rotational PMs give a befitting reply to Pakistan and end

terrorism? During Congress’ rule, we have seen how terror acts were a regular affair. We have also seen how Narendra Modi has ended terrorism in Kashmir,” he said.

Dubbing the opposition bloc as “Ghamandiya Gathbandhan (arrogant alliance)”, Shah said, “the bloc is only interested in promoting their own family members.”

The BJP leader said the ongoing parliamentary elections are about choosing between “leaders of dynastic politics and honest leader

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27K Kashmiri Pandits to Vote for Anantnag-Rajori Seat on May 25

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Approximately 27,000 displaced Kashmiri Pandits are set to cast their votes for the Anantnag-Rajori parliamentary seat - the polls on which are scheduled to be held on May 25. This seat boasts the highest number of voters among the 18 assembly constituencies in the region, with a total of 1,830,294 eligible voters, comprising 930,379 males, 899,888 females, and 27 third-gender individuals.

As per the news agency, preparations are

in full swing for the final phase of the elections. To accommodate the significant number of displaced voters, 21 polling stations and eight auxiliary centers will be established in Jammu. These include special provisions for voters residing in locations like Jagti. Previously, three auxiliary polling stations were arranged for the Srinagar and Baramulla parliamentary seats, but the large displaced voter population in Anantnag-Rajori has necessitated additional facilities.

The election officer said that the increase in auxiliary polling stations

is to facilitate quicker and more efficient voting for displaced individuals. Many of these voters have opted for postal ballots through the Vote for Home initiative.

The Anantnag-Rajori seat is a critical battleground, attracting significant attention from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Although the BJP has not officially fielded a candidate for this seat, the party has vigorously supported its stance internally. BJP’s national general secretary and Jammu and Kashmir affairs in-charge, Tarun Chugh, has

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Property of self-styled terrorist commander attached in Shopian: Police

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Continuing its crackdown on terror ecosystem, Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday said to have attached property including land and partial residential house of a self-styled terrorist commander in Shopian.

Police in Shopian under the supervision of SSP Shopian Tanushree in collaboration with revenue authorities attached property of a self-styled terrorist commander Abid Ramzan Sheikh @ Saifullah @ Khalid son of Mohammad Ramzan



Sheikh resident of Chotipora Shopian, a police

spokesman said in a statement issued to the news

agency.

The property includes 01 kanal & 10 marlas of land under survey No. 1165 situated at Chotipora Shopian and a partial residential house, police said, adding that “the said active terrorist is involved in a number of terror related cases in district Shopian as well as neighbouring districts. It is pertinent to mention here that the said terrorist is highly involved in instigating/ motivating gullible and budding youth to join the ranks of terrorists. This action became

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EC sends notice to Nadda, Kharge, asks both parties to exercise restraint

J NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) president JP Nadda and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge to issue formal notes to star campaigners to correct their discourse, exercise care and maintain decorum.

This is the Commission’s unprecedented orders to the BJP and Congress in the wake of plummeting quality of campaigning led by their star campaigners.

The EC has come down heavily on both the BJP and the Congress for

campaigning along caste, community, language, and religion.

The poll body has directed star campaigners from both parties to refrain from religious and communal overtones in their campaigning. The ECI has also asked the BJP to stop campaign speeches that may lead to division in society.

The EC has directed the Congress to ensure that star campaigners do not make statements that give false impressions such as the Constitution of India may be abolished or sold. Moreover, while speaking on the Agniveer scheme,

the poll body has asked the Congress campaigners or candidates not to politicise the defence forces and to not make potentially divisive statements regarding the socio-economic composition of the defence forces.

The Commission has observed that India’s sociocultural milieu is an enduring preserve and cannot be made a casualty of elections. The EC has also said that the BJP and the Congress will not be allowed to weaken the heritage of quality electoral experience of the Indian voter.

The Election Commis-

sion has bared all allegations by the BJP and Congress against each other and rejected their defences. The Commission has pointed out that the party in power should have extra responsibility during poll time and has said that there should not be any unlimited extra space for the Opposition as well.

The first five phases of polling were held on April 19, April 26, May 7, May 13 and May 20. The next two rounds of voting will be held on May 25 and June 1. The 2024 Lok Sabha elections are being

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I&C deptt organises investors meet at Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

The Industries and Commerce department today organised a mega investors meet here aimed to address the grievances of potential investors of Jammu. Being chaired by Director, Industries and Commerce Department Jammu, Dr Arun Manhas, the event was attended by Chairman/Presidents of prominent associations and investors of the region.



investors meet would be held at Directorate level in order to address the grievances of business community and sensitize the potential investors about the policy. He emphasized the Government's commitment towards creating a favourable business environment that attracts both local and national investors. The discussions focused on key sectors and industries that hold significant potential for economic development and job creation besides issues faced by the promoters while grounding the investment. The Director stated that the meet with investors provided a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas, address concerns and showcase the attractive investment landscape of J&K. He stated that the Government is providing a supportive environment that encourages investment, drives economic growth and creates sus-

tainable employment opportunities. The discussions were centred around topics like investment incentives, regulatory reforms, infrastructure and land development and promotion of research and development initiatives. The investors expressed confidence in government's initiatives towards creating a business-friendly environment, which bolsters their confidence in considering strategic investments. The investor community sought extension of registration date and enhancement of the Central package under the New Central sector Scheme. The investors brought forward various persistent issues like irregularities in availability of power, infrastructure growth and development of other amenities. The promoters sought help of I&C department for early clearances of their Pollution NOC's. Later, certain queries about the interpretation of New Central sector Scheme 2021 were addressed by the officials of Industries and Commerce Department on the spot. The Director assured the investors that their feedback and suggestions would be taken into serious consideration, aiming to address any barriers and enhance the ease of doing business. The Department will continue to engage with stakeholders, promote investment opportunities, and work towards strengthening the industry's competitiveness on a global scale, he added. The Government's ongoing efforts to streamline processes, provide service delivery through Single Window system, and foster a skilled workforce were also highlighted during the meeting.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 All arrangements in place to ensure smooth conduct of elections in Shopian: ADDC Shopian



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MAY 22

In order to review the action plan for smooth dispatch of poll parties and election materials to the polling stations and receipt thereof, for AC of Zainapora of Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today chaired a meeting at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, here. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian,

Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, SDM, Zainapora, Dy. DEO, besides Nodal Officers, Magistrates and other concerned were present on the occasion. At the outset, the ADDC discussed threadbare the action plan related to dispatch and receipt of poll parties and election materials to the polling stations on pre-Poll and Poll Day from Despatch/Collection Centre established in Mini-Secretariat, Shopian. On the occasion, the ADDC stressed upon the officers to ensure utmost

coordination for efficient and hassle-free dispatch of polling staff and election material to the designated polling stations and receipt thereof. He further emphasised on making all required arrangements well in advance to facilitate a smooth and efficient election process. He took stock of arrangements at polling stations for voters and polling staff and passed directions to ensure a transparent and more inclusive and participatory election process.

Wildlife Protection Dept celebrates 'International Day for Biological Diversity-2024'

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

The Department of Wildlife Protection, UT of Jammu and Kashmir celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity 2024 on this year's theme 'Be Part of the Plan' at Patandoban-Hirpora.

Govt. Degree College Surankote Poonch along with faculty members and students. Tehsildar, Shopian was also among the guests. The event provided a platform for young minds to express their perspectives on wildlife conservation and the rich biodiversity of the region. In his address, Sohail Ahmad Wagay, the Wildlife Warden of Shopian / South Wildlife Divisions underscored the critical role of Wildlife in maintaining ecological balance and the collective responsibility to protect our natural heritage and highlighted the significance of conserving Wildlife Species of both flora and fauna in the area. Special reference was made to the world's largest goat 'Markhor' which is the pride of district

Shopian found in Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary. Further, the Wildlife Warden, Shopian threw light on fauna species Musk Deer, Brown Bear, Common Leopard, Egyptian Vulture, Bearded Vulture and Himalayan Vulture, Kashmir Fly-Catcher and medicinal Plants like Taxus, Rheum Species, Sassaurea species, Meconopsis, Trilium, Verbascum etc found inside the Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the Wildlife Warden, Shopian/ South Wildlife Divisions who expressed gratitude to all participants and guests for their support and commitment to wildlife conservation. He also urged the students for their positive participation and their support for the conservation of the Wildlife.

Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament commences in Samba

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAY 22

The District Youth Services and Sports Office Samba kicked off the Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament with a grand opening Ceremony. Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, the Chief Guest, declared the tournament open. The grand event is being held at the iconic Rani Suchet Singh Sports Stadium under the aegis of Director Youth Services and Sports Department Subash Chander Chhibber and the supervision of District Youth Services and Sports officer Dharmvir Singh.



The Chief Guest, in his inspiring address, exhorted students and participants to immerse themselves in such sports events, emphasizing their pivotal role in holistic development. Abhishek Sharma stressed upon the students to protect themselves and others from the monster of Drugs. A pledge was also taken to promote sports and fight drug menace. The competition, spanning a diverse array of disciplines, is going to provide an unparalleled platform to the budding athletes to exhibit their prowess and compete at a grassroots level. The tournament is set to witness enthusiastic participation of 390 U/14 and U/17 Boys competing fiercely in various events including Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Wrestling, Volleyball, Badminton and Table Tennis.

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District Level Inter-Zonal Sports Competition held in Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 22

The Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Reasi, organized a District Level Inter-Zonal Sports Competition for 14 and 17 years boys and girls. The event took place in General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium.

The competition featured a variety of sports, including athletics, volleyball, Kabaddi and kho-kho, among others. Over 200 students from different zones within the district showcased their talents, competing fiercely yet demonstrating excellent sportsmanship. District Youth and Sports Officer Reasi Tar-seem Singh applauded the efforts of the young athletes and emphasized the importance of sports in holistic development. He encouraged the participants to continue striving for excellence both in sports and academics.

Bhupinder Kumar reviews functioning of PWD in North Kashmir

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 22

Secretary, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings), Bhupinder Kumar, today visited Baramulla and chaired a meeting to review performance and functioning of North Kashmir zone of PWD besides assessing progress on works under execution.



The meeting was attended by District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Chief Engineer Kashmir, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers. During the meeting, the Administrative Secretary had comprehensive assessment of all the works being executed under NABARAD, PMGSY, RIDF and other developmental programs in north zone comprising Baramulla, Kupwara and Bhandipora districts, besides reviewing physical and financial achievements of all the mega ongoing projects. While reviewing progress and achievements in the North Kashmir zone, the Administrative Secretary asked the officers to complete all projects within the stipulated timelines. He stressed that all



major projects undertaken should have a set deadline of two years before initiation for benefit of the general public. Meanwhile, the Secretary exhorted upon the officers to maintain synergy and coordination with other stakeholder departments to remove all bottlenecks hindering the pace of works. Bhupinder Kumar further emphasized upon the officers to establish a proper mechanism for monitoring of all ongo-

ing works so that the minor impediments can be resolved for effective implementation. The Secretary underscored the critical importance of maintaining high standards in project execution. He highlighted the commitment to excellence in all projects and noted the positive impact these infrastructure developments will have on the local community, particularly in enhancing connectivity, accessibility and overall well-being.

Secy RDD reviews progress of SBM-G infrastructure in Pulwama

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary on Tuesday visited Pulwama to assess the progress of door-to-door waste collection, Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMUs), and other assets established under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) in the district. He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra and other field officers of the district. Dr Shahid emphasized the importance of efficient waste management systems in rural areas and underscored the significance of proper waste disposal mechanisms in preserving environmental health and hygiene. Secretary RDD interacted with local officials and stakeholders to gauge the challenges and requirements in sustaining the ongoing waste management initiatives. Dr Shahid emphasized the importance of investing in the capacity building and training of field functionaries involved in sanitation efforts. Secretary RDD stressed the need to provide exposure and ownership to these functionaries, underscoring their pivotal role in the success of sanitation initiatives. He discussed the status and challenges of plastic waste management in the region, mentioning that



around 116 PWMUs are physically complete and 23 are under construction in J&K. Dr Shahid asked officials not to start new units until the current ones are fully operational, emphasizing quality over quantity. He pointed out the gaps in functionality and the need for proper planning and machinery to ensure the units serve their purpose effectively. Secretary RDD underscored the significance of community involvement in sanitation initiatives, particularly through the establishment of village level sanitation committees. He encouraged officials to focus on capacity building at the grassroots level, empowering communities to take ownership of sanitation efforts. Dr Shahid stressed the importance of a structured approach, urging officers to develop a comprehensive plan from start to finish. Secretary RDD also

discussed the need for coordination between urban and rural agencies in waste management efforts. He emphasized the importance of a systematic approach, stressing the need for institution-specific plans that transcend individual roles. Dr. Shahid urged officials to set measurable targets and develop comprehensive plans to achieve them, emphasizing the importance of accountability and tangible outcomes. In addition to discussing plastic waste management, Dr Shahid addressed the need for innovative solutions in sanitation infrastructure, particularly community sanitary complexes. Dr Shahid unveiled plans to construct a network of community sanitary complexes (CSCs) along major highways and public places in the union territory. He said we can set up 100-200 CSCs along high-

ways in J&K along main roads and tourist routes to serve the public efficiently. DG, Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra underscored the necessity for effective implementation of sanitation and waste management programs across district. She stressed the importance of completing the verification process within the specified timeframe and urged officials to ensure accurate documentation before submission. DG Rural Sanitation called for meticulous planning and preparation for upcoming projects, including the completion of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and Request for Proposals (RFPs) for construction assets. Addressing concerns about infrastructure and resource availability, she emphasized the importance of identifying suitable land parcels for Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs) and ensuring adequate electricity

and road connectivity for project sites. Furthermore, Malhotra discussed the expansion of waste management initiatives to include construction and demolition waste, e-waste, and sanitary waste. Officials were urged to collaborate with engineers to develop effective waste disposal strategies and explore opportunities for increasing the capacity of existing facilities. She also underscored the importance of institutionalizing feedback mechanisms and grievance redressal systems at the district level to ensure effective communication and transparency. DG Sanitation also addressed the Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus model, calling for verification through self-help groups to ensure accurate ground reports. Earlier, Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary inspected the Plastic Waste Management Unit at Kakapora Pulwama to assess the functionality of assets created under SBM-G. He also interacted with the Sanitation Committee of Kakapora. The discussion encompassed various aspects of sanitation management, including current challenges, successes, and future plans. Dr. Shahid sought insights from the committee members regarding the effectiveness of existing sanitation initiatives, community involvement, and any specific needs or concerns they might have.

District Level Model Making Competition under AGHAAZ initiative held at BHSS Khalmulla

J1NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 22



IIT Kanpur today organized a District Level Model Making competition in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha Ganderbal under the AGHAAZ initiative at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Khamulla.

The event, organized under the overall supervision of Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, Surjeet Kumar Sharma provided a platform for students to showcase their talents and innovations in the field of space science.

The function benefited greatly from the coordination efforts of Assistant Project Engineer and mentor from IIT Kanpur, Aamir Sultan, who played a key role in organizing it.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across the district, who

presented a variety of models demonstrating their understanding and creativity in space science.

The event is part of the broader AAGHAZ initiative, which is a collaborative effort between SAMAGRA and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. This initiative aims to enhance educational opportunities and foster scientific temperament among students.

The presence of educators, mentor teachers, encouraged students to pursue their interests in science and technology. The models were evaluated by Jury Members from DIET Ganderbal and Lecturer BHSS Ganderbal based on innovation, practicality, and presentation, with the best projects receiving accolades and recognition.

The Principal BHSS Khalmulla, Gh Rasool Dar commended the students for their impressive efforts and emphasized the importance of such initiatives in nurturing the scientific talents of young minds. This event marks a significant step towards promoting educational excellence and scientific inquiry in the district.

KPDCL urges domestic consumers to avail interest waiver under Power Amnesty Scheme

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has urged its domestic consumers to come forward and avail the interest waiver offered by the Government under Power Amnesty Scheme, which shall help them to settle their long pending bills.

In a statement released today, a KPDCL spokesman said that the Power Amnesty Scheme notified in 2022, has now been extended till March 31, 2025, to facilitate those domestic consumers who have not been able to avail its benefits earlier.

Expressing satisfaction on the positive response received to the Amnesty Scheme, the KPDCL spokesman advised the consumers to approach their concerned Electric

Subdivision to clear outstanding electricity dues without late payment surcharge as per Scheme. "Consumers can either pay their principal amount due to KPDCL in full or in equal instalments to claim waiver on interest charged to settle their claims," he said, reiterating Government has ordered that the Scheme shall not be further extended beyond March 31, 2025.

As many as 13,985 domestic consumers have availed the scheme for waiver on late payment surcharge with KPDCL collecting a revenue of Rs.12.41 crore so far.

Urging the domestic consumers to avail the last opportunity provided by the Government, KPDCL spokesman further stated that as per the orders issued, it shall be left with no option but to disconnect the consumers without any further notice, who do not avail the scheme benefits.

Highlighting the ongoing inspections and disconnection drives being undertaken by KPDCL, the spokesman asked the consumers to clear their outstanding bills, failing which their connections will be snapped. "Tickets are being raised for disconnection of smart-metered consumers for non-payment of dues," he added, adding heavy penalties are also being imposed on flat-rated consumers for exceeding their sanctioned energy loads.

The KPDCL spokesman stated that all Electric Subdivisions are enhancing the load of the flat-rated consumers in calibrated manner as per consumption, after undertaking proper load survey, with focus on high-end consumers.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 Div Com Jammu visits Poonch; Reviews preparedness for 6th phase of LS elections 2024

J1NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 22

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today visited Poonch to review the preparedness for the polling being held in the border district on May 25 under the 6th phase of Lok Sabha General Elections. The District Poonch is part of the Rajouri-Anantnag.

Chairing a meeting with district officers, the Div Com reviewed the arrangements for dispatching of poll parties, setting up of collection centres, provision of vehicles and other logistics for seamless conduct of polling. The Div Com directed the officers to ensure all preparations are made well in advance. He called for meticulous planning and coordination among the departments involved in the electoral process.

Meanwhile, the Div Com conducted on-spot inspection of the strong room, election cell, and a sample polling booth to assess the ground-level preparedness. He instructed the concerned officials to ensure all the necessary arrangements at the polling stations.

Besides polling preparedness, the Div Com also reviewed Law and Order situation and security arrangements in the district.

NCORD meeting discusses efforts in combating drug abuse in Ganderbal

J1NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 22



A district-level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) meeting was today convened here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir.

The meeting focused on the efforts of enforcement agencies in combating drug abuse and narcotic trafficking within the district.

A detailed review of the progress made on previous directives aimed at addressing the drug problem was conducted. Various departments and agencies shared the steps they have taken towards making Ganderbal drug-free, including initiatives to address drug addiction and identify hotspots of drug use.

The DC directed the Education Department to ensure that morning assemblies include comprehensive programs to educate students on the detrimental effects of drug addiction and tobacco products.

Additionally, the department was instructed to ensure strict compliance with the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) guidelines, particularly concerning

the prohibition of tobacco items near schools.

The DC emphasized the importance of maintaining the Nasha Mukta (drug-free) status in the announced Panchayats and underscored the involvement of Civil Society members in ongoing activities.

All stakeholder departments were tasked with monitoring new drug addiction cases in Nasha Mukta Panchayats and submitting action reports regularly.

The meeting also reviewed the status of CCTV camera installations in medical shops. The Assistant Drug Controller informed that over 98.9 percent of medical shops have installed cameras and that computerized billing in retail medical shops is being ensured.

Regarding the destruction of illicit crops, including wild cannabis, the DC

Chief Justice administers oath of office to Justice Nargal

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22



Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, today administered the oath of office to Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, in the Chief Justice's Court Room here.

The oath taking ceremony was attended at Jammu by Justice Atul Sreedharan, Justice Rajesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Rahul Bharti and Justice Raiesh Sekhri while Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani participated virtually from Srinagar.

The proceedings of the oath taking ceremony were conducted by Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, who read the contents of the notification received from Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Justice (Appointments Division), the Warrants of Appointment issued by the President of India and the Letter of Authorization issued by the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, authorizing Chief Justice to administer the oath of office to Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal.

The ceremony was also attended by a Former Judge of High Court, Advocate General, Assistant Solicitor General of India, Jammu, Director General of Police, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Secretary to Government, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Principal District Judge Jammu, members of various Bars, other officers of civil and police administration besides officers and staff of the Registry.



The meeting was inaugurated by the Principal GEC, Prof Dr Seema Naz. She also presented a welcome address and highlighted the importance of the event.

Prof. Tawheeda Rasool and Arshad Sualeh were coordinators of the programme.

As many as 56 students participated in 14 groups and created the best models.

Later, certificates were distributed among the participants by the Principal.

GCE organizes two-day workshop of Teaching Learning Material

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

The Department of Art and Mathematics of Government College of Education (GCE) M. A. Road, Srinagar organised a two-day workshop of Teaching Learning Material (TLM), here.

The event was inaugurated by the Principal GEC, Prof Dr Seema Naz. She also presented a welcome address and highlighted the importance of the event.

Prof. Tawheeda Rasool and Arshad Sualeh were coordinators of the programme.

As many as 56 students participated in 14 groups and created the best models.

Later, certificates were distributed among the participants by the Principal.

Security arrangements for SANJY-2024 discussed at Ganderbal

J1NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 22

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a joint meeting with officers from the Police, Army, CRPF, BSF, and other security agencies to thoroughly discuss the security arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY-2024).

The meeting addressed various security aspects, with the DC offering valuable suggestions and feedback to strengthen the security grid and ensure foolproof security for the Yatris. Shyambir emphasized a proactive and coordinated approach among the officers to ensure that the Yatra is conducted smoothly and successfully. Key locations, including the Baltal Base Camp and Domail, were specifically discussed for security arrangements. The DC directed the concerned security agencies to conduct a joint visit to Baltal to finalize locations for establishing main camps, with a directive to report any required changes from the security perspective before deployment begins.

The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta; Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; SDM Kangan; Executive Engineer KPDCL; Executive Engineer R&B Kangan; ACD, ACP, along with Commanding Officers and Commandants of various security agencies.

Zonal Level Inter-School Competitions Kick Off at GHSS Bhella

J1NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 22

As per the annual calendar of activities approved by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K for the year 2024-25, and under the direction of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Doda, Sunil Kumar, the zonal level inter-school competition for under-14 boys commenced at GHSS Bhella, today. The event is being held under the overall supervision of Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) Thathri, Madan Lal Thakur.

DM Jammu appeals citizens to follow advisory for protection against heat wave

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22



District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya has appealed to citizens to take care of their health and well-being in view of the extremely hot weather condition.

In a statement issued today, the District Magistrate urged everyone to drink sufficient fluids frequently and avoid going out during peak temperature hours. He also requested citizens to take extra care of children and the elderly, as they are more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses.

The District Magistrate further appealed to the public to contact SDM, Tehsildar or SHO in case of any mishap like fire incidents.

People can contact the

cer Jammu- 9419175278; Range Officer Kalidhar-9149570084; Range Officer Bahu- 9419212594; Range Officer Jindrah: 9797596327.

In case of any medical emergency, help can be sought by calling 108 or by visiting the local Public Health Centre or any Government health facility.

Emergency Operations Cell Jammu is available to attend to public emergencies at 0191-2571616 round the clock, any day of the week. The Meteorological Centre Rambagh has declared that a heat wave is likely to prevail during the next one week in Jammu region. Heat wave related advisories also include wearing loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing and avoiding strenuous activity during peak temperature hours.

CBC organises Awareness program under SVEEP at Bijbehara

J1NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MAY 22

The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Field Office Anantnag on Wednesday organised a one day Integrated Communication and Outreach Program (ICOP) under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) at Government Model Boys Higher Secondary School Bijbehara, Anantnag.

The objective of the ICOP was to sensitise and educate voters, especially first time voters, about the importance of participation in democratic process.

Addressing the gathering of Numberdars, Chowkidars, ASHAs, ICDS workers, students and faculty of Government Degree College and BHSS Bijbehara, Tehsildar Bijbehara said that the onus is on the people to ensure they elect capable representatives

to the House of People to voice their concerns.

She impressed upon the youth to vote in encouraging numbers on 25th May, the day Anantnag -Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency goes to polls.

Nodal Officer, SVEEP gave a detailed presentation on how SVEEP is spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India. He said that this time efforts are made to encourage the first time voters to exercise their voting right. Resource persons from SVEEP cell also highlighted the importance of educating the voters to increase the electoral participation and make sure they can make informed choices. First time voters also shared their views on how excited they are to be part of the democratic process. In his introductory remarks Field Publicity Officer, Anantnag informed about the active role of CBC in spreading voter

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tenders through E-procurement system

Sr. Divisional Material Manager, NRly, Store Branch DRM Office, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Due Date
1.	94245627	Office Hysteroscope with Hysteroelectromat set	01 Nos	17.06.2024

Note:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e., www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

Tender Notice No. 07/2024-25 Date:- 21.05.2024 1549/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No. 251-Elect-T-15-2024-25 Name of Work Provision electrical power supply in connection with Provision of XBS Hall, Boom Barriers, new fencing, Parcel scanning m/c as per Multi-Disciplinary Committee Report for Phase-1 in JAT-SVDK Section & Provision of GRP Barrack, SDPO Office, Coy. HQ, fencing repair at station and Boundary Wall etc. as per MDC report for Development of Security Infrastructure for Phase-1 in BAHU BRML section. App. Cost (in Rs.) 1,09,82,823.00/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 2,04,900.00/- Completion period 6 Months Opening of tender 12.06.2024 after 15:00 Hrs. Website Particulars www.ireps.gov.in

251-Elect/T Notice No. 10-Elect/2024-25 Dated:- 22.05.2024 1547/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Modi Govt utterly failed to fulfill promises made to KP Migrants: Rattan Lal Gupta

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, JKNC, has strongly criticized the Modi government for its failure to fulfill the promises made to Kashmiri Pandit migrants during the previous polls regarding their rehabilitation PM Package of Jobs for unemployed youths, increase in monthly cash etc.

Addressing a meeting of Kashmiri migrants at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan in Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta accused the BJP Govt at the Centre of exploiting the Kashmiri migrants' suffering for political gains without genuinely addressing their grievances or ensuring their rightful return and resettlement in their homeland. He emphasized that the Kashmiri migrants issue is not merely a matter of statistics or political rhetoric but a humanitarian

crisis that demands urgent attention and meaningful solutions. He accused the BJP of exploiting the Kashmiri migrants' suffering for political gains without genuinely addressing their grievances or ensuring their rightful return and resettlement in their homeland.

Earlier at the outset of meeting Called for the Parliamentary elections of Mian Altaf Ahmed Candidate Anantnag- Rajouri Parliamentary Seat, Bushan Lal Bhat, Chairman of J&K NC Minority Cell and Ex MLC and Jatin Bhat apprised the senior functionaries of Party about the hardships being faced by the Kashmiri migrant community residing in Jagti, Purkhoo, Muthi, Buta Nagar, Nagrota, Purkhoo Camps, and non-camps migrants settled in Jammu, Kathua, and Udhampur districts. They said that no cash relief was enhanced for



the last so many years and the migrant Kashmiri youth feeling alienated under the present dispensation.

Expressing concern over the plights of Kashmiri migrants, Rattan Lal Gupta asserted that the BJP, despite getting huge mandate from migrant community during 2014 and 2019 polls, has miserably failed to stand on their expectations. He termed it unfortunate that despite increased cost of living amid sky rocketing prices

and peak inflation the cash assistance being paid to the Kashmiri Migrants has not been enhanced for the past so many years. He said that the Kashmiri migrants are unable to meet their ends with the meager cash assistance and these people are out on roads protesting for relief enhancement and other issues.

He criticized the BJP's divisive rhetoric and anti people policies, which, he argued, have only exacerbated tensions and

alienated communities in the region. He called for a more inclusive and compassionate approach to resolving the Kashmiri migrants' plight, one that prioritizes human dignity, justice, and reconciliation if the India alliance voted in power.

Rattan Lal Gupta appealed to the migrant community to strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah by supporting NC candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed from Anant-

nag - Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency in the ensuing Lok Sabha polling on May 25, 2024. He emphasized that there is no better option for Kashmiri Pandit migrants than to wholeheartedly support and vote for National Conference candidates in the upcoming polling in Anantnag- Rajouri Parliamentary constituency.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu mentioned that during the regime of UPA at Centre and Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, several mini-townships for Kashmiri migrant community were constructed and established at Jagti and other areas adjoining the Jammu city. He also enumerated the measures taken by the National Conference during its various spells of governance for addressing the concerns and issues of the displaced community. Pardeep Bali, Ayub

Malik Provincial Secretary Jammu Province and Ankush Abrol Joint Secretary Jammu Province reiterated that the National Conference has always stand for the cause of Kashmiri migrants and the return of KPs back to Kashmir always high on Party's agenda. They appealed to the migrant community to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah by supporting the National Conference candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls on May 25. Sumita Bhan and Shreya Handoo NC leaders urged the Kashmiri migrants to ensure maximum participation in the upcoming phase of Lok Sabha polling on May 25 in the union territory, emphasizing the importance of their collective voice in shaping the political landscape of the nation. They asserted that there is a dire need to

change the government at the center so that the problems of the general public as well as Kashmiri migrants can be effectively addressed.

At the end of meeting, the Kashmiri migrant community has pledged to support NC candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed in the upcoming phase of Lok Sabha polling on May 25.

Among those who were present include: - Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Dr. Vikas Sharma Central Zone Secretary, Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East, S. Sandeep Singh Wazir Zonal President YNC, S. Tejinder Singh Aman District President YNC Jammu Urban, Davinder Sharma Block President Jammu West, Ashanand Ashok Koul, Kaka Ji Bhan, Veer Ji Bhat, Ashutosh, Ravinder Raina, Ashish, Vishal Ji, Som Raj Taroch, S. Arunpal Singh and others.

INDIA Bloc will give new PM to India on June 4th: Bhalla

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Exuding confidence in winning the Lok Sabha polls, JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla today asserted that the INDIA bloc will form the next government with the support of more than 350 MPs. In an impressive programme of thanks giving to his voters and supporters at Gadigarh, Bhalla said that he sees no scope for the BJP's return.



Minister Narendra Modi never keeps his promise. His claims fall flat most of the time. Even the BJP could sense very well that they are nowhere close to the target they have set for themselves. So far, as per our calculations, we are forming the government with the support of more than 350 MPs in total. "BJP fool people with false promises that they failed to fulfill. So, people made up their minds to replace the government with INDIA alliance-led new government. The INDIA alliance will form government with 350 votes", Bhalla said. He expressed confidence that people will bring about change to bring back good days as people are fed up with the policies and programs of BJP and economic policies. He said that congress will bring about change for the betterment of youth, farmer, women and workers as guaranteed in the congress Nyay patta.

Bhalla said, Congress makes programmes for ameliorating the lot of the people by providing basic amenities of life to all of them. Education, Healthcare, Provision of Modern Infrastructure, uninterrupted Power Supply, Provision of safe

and pure drinking water, Job creation for the unemployed, Empowerment of the Women and Welfare Schemes for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Handicapped persons and all the socially neglected sections of the society are on top most agenda of the Congress party. Bhalla appealed to the electorates of Rajouri Poonch to cast their valuable votes in favour of Alliance candidate which guarantees restoration of statehood, security of land and jobs, employment for locals, enhancing the salary of Anganwadi workers, Asha workers, regularization of daily wagers, need based, ad hoc, contractual employees and ameliorating all sorts problems of the people of the state including smart meters issue, water tariff etc.

Bhalla reiterated that Congress regards every citizen of the state as equal irrespective of religion, caste, creed, sex and the Congress party believes in giving best quality of life to all of them in fixed time schedule. All the policies of the Congress party like better housing facility, pollution free environment, decongestion of the existing cities, development of model cities,

development of villages, enhancing the facilities of trade and industry etc. are geared towards this end. He said that the entire poll campaign of BJP is to cash on the personality of one person whereas Congress is approaching the voters with the history and achievements of the party which brought the country and the state to present state of development in all most every aspect of life. Congress party will continue doing its utmost with courage and conviction without indulging in hallows sloganeering. He said BJP has injustice with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in every sphere and it's time to bring about change and appealed to the bring about change through ballot by voting in favour of Alliance candidate.

Bhalla said people of Jammu and Kashmir were deprived of their status, rights and dignity. The youth are facing worst kind of unemployment and people exploited who want to teach lesson to BJP. He hit out BJP and Modi government for destroying democratic system in Jammu and Kashmir. The rights of people have been snatched, resources looted and our state down-

graded. Public enthusiasm is indicator of the mood of people who want to punish BJP for the injustice and sufferings faced by them. He alleged that people were subjected to worst kind injustice by the BJP regime and deprived of their representatives to raise the voice of people in legislature and the time has come to rise and throw BJP out of power. He thanked people for the whole hearted support and also the Alliance partners like National conference, for their full support and said INDIA alliance will form the government at the centre.

Bhalla said that Modi government has destroyed the future of youth by introducing Agniveer scheme and Congress has promised to revoke it and hold regular recruitments besides giving one lakh per educated youth, one lakh to poor woman and doubling wages of Anganwadi, Asha, Mid Day Meal workers etc. There shall be change at the centre this time and in next assembly election Congress- NC and other secular parties will form the government. He said Congress created lot of infrastructure in the shape of roads, health and education and in every sector but BJP has only imposed taxes on common people. He said people are up to throw the BJP out of power and give a loud message of their hardships faced under BJP regime. The delay in restoration of state and failure to safeguard the rights of the people to land and jobs besides non holding of assembly elections is cause of strong resentment to the people, who will teach BJP a lesson.

Life embraces normalcy in border villages of Rajouri-Poonch under BJP govt: MP

JNEWS SERVICE
MANJAKOTE, MAY 22

Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has said that people of border areas have really heaved a sigh of relief in the last 10 years of BJP government under the leadership of PM Modi.

Addressing different public meetings at a border hamlets Rajdhai, Maal and Dassal Gujran in Manjakote area of Poonch district on Wednesday Khatana said that life at Indo-Pak border in Rajouri-Poonch areas and at other border areas of Jammu and Kashmir has now returned to normalcy

and activities like agriculture, cattle rearing and grazing, offering prayers at religious places, organising social and political functions etc now goes on without any fear from bullets or shelling from other side of the border.

"There was continuous firing, infiltration and terrorism on borders and residents of borders areas lived in constant fear earlier but since the strong regime helmed the nation by PM Modi misadventures of our wicked neighbour have died and life here has embraced normalcy," Khatana maintained adding: "The crop filled agriculture fields reflect that activities sup-



porting the life are now as usual as our security and defence forces have been given a free hand to manage border firing and infiltration."

The public meeting was organised by ex-BDC Manjakote Shamshad Begum and prominent among those present on the occasion were Kapil Saral,

number of Panches and Sarpanches and others.

On this occasion many activists from National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Congress and other parties also joined BJP in Manjakote and they were welcomed into the party by MP Khatana.

The BJP leader also said

that people of Rajouri and Poonch should vote for an honest and upright person who may work for them and dynasts should be avoided at every cost.

The Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) also said that he will take the issue of more bunkers at the border villages with the concerned authorities.

"Army has done remarkable job under Sadbhawana in the areas of Rajouri-Poonch but more is required to be done here," Khatana continued. Ajaz Ahmad Khan, Abdul Gaffar, Molvi Mohd Hafeez, Panch Zaheer Ahmed, Salim Naz Moghal and others were also present on this occasion.

Portrait of Maa Annapurna installed in Langar Bhawan of Baba Kailakh Dev Mandir, Thathar, Bantalab



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU MAY 22

After the renovation of the langar bhawan of Baba Kailakh Dev Mandir Thathar Bantalab, a portrait of Maa Annapurna was installed today. According to Shakti Dutt Sharma, General Secretary of the Parbandhak Committee, every day in this bhawan, 21 thali of

bhog are prepared and offered with devotion to the main deity Bawa Kailakh Dev, cow, Brahmin, Kanjak, and other deities installed in the temple premises with complete purity and sanctity. Every Sunday, langar is arranged for the devotees visiting the temple. Bhandara is also organized on various festivals coming across the

year. This langar area runs with the help of devotees of Baba ji. On this occasion, Pawan Gupta, head of Phawa Mahajan community, langar arrangement head Shiv Kumar Gupta, Sunil, Raka, Dr Varun Padha, Satish Gupta, Sahil Seth, Vijay Gupta, Pandit Kewal Krishna Seth, Ajay Bharti, Purshottam Sharma etc. were present.

Tarun Sharma honoured with "Vishwa Ratna Samman"

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Tarun Sharma is an active social worker, founder and President of Nat Manch, Actor, Director, renowned Karate personality and also actively associated with various Social, cultural and Sports organizations.

He is working for the welfare of society on various issues like Plastic Waste Management Programme, Blood Donation camp, Free Medical Camps, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, plantation drives, Water conservation, creating awareness for improvement of the status of women, free coaching classes to underprivileged students, free self-defence training for girl child & women, drugs awareness camp with theme " Say No to Drugs " and environmental awareness programmes.

In the pandemic time of COVID-19, he did an excellent humanitarian service for the welfare of society by his work. Till now he has donated 21 times blood and planted more than 3000 saplings.

Tarun Sharma has been involved in various artistic endeavors including Theatre programs, Street plays (Nukkad Natak), mega events, Short films, Video



songs, Bhajan, advertisements, Reality Shows and Films.

In karate Tarun Sharma learned different martial arts including Goju-ryu, Gi Toku Kai, Shotokan, Shito-ryu and Seiko KAI. He is 3rd Dan Black Belt from Style and National Federation, won 2 time gold medal for India, Judge & Referee from National Federation Karate India Organisation (KIO), President Japan Shotokan Karate-Do kanninjuku Organization J&K, EX. Member Amateur Karate-Do Association of Jammu and Kashmir (AKAJK).

Tarun sharma trained more than 5000 people from all over India. He organised number of Karate Championship and camps for promotion of Karate.

Tarun Sharma honoured with the certificate of World Honour Records for The World Record of " Maximum People Performing Karate and Taekwondo Part 1 " is mass Achieved by World Honour Records, India in the year of 2019. Tarun Sharma has been awarded an honorary doctorate from SN Foundation of India and Sahara Charitable Trust in recognition of his outstanding contributions to art and the Sports in the year of 2023.

Tarun Sharma says that he will continue his work for the welfare of the society till his last breath and try to work in all those sectors where the society need us. He has also got many awards and certificates of appreciation from different dignitaries of India.

EDITORIAL

Recklessness
on roads

The recent tragic Porsche accident in Pune, where a 17-year-old driving at an alarming speed of over 200 kmph collided with a motorcycle, resulting in the deaths of two young engineers, has brought to the forefront the critical issue of road safety and accountability. The swift legal action following this incident is a welcome move, signaling zero tolerance for reckless behavior and highlighting the need for systemic change. The arrest of the minor's father, charged with willful neglect, and the bar owner and staffers who served him alcohol, underscores the broader responsibility that adults and establishments have in preventing such tragedies. By involving the Crime Branch, the Pune Police have underscored the seriousness of the matter, demonstrating a commendable commitment to thorough investigation and justice. Charging the father under the Juvenile Justice Act emphasizes the critical role of parental accountability in curbing dangerous activities among youths. Parents must understand the gravity of allowing their children to engage in such risky behavior, especially when it involves high-powered vehicles and alcohol. However, the Juvenile Justice Board's decision to grant bail to the minor, with conditions as lenient as writing an essay on road safety and undergoing counseling, seems disproportionate to the severity of the crime. This response undermines the gravity of the incident and fails to serve as an effective deterrent against future reckless behavior. Such leniency raises important questions about the consistency and logic of legal age restrictions in India. For instance, while the legal age for voting and marriage (for girls) is 18, public drinking is restricted to 25 in certain states, reflecting a need for a coherent legal framework that adequately addresses maturity and responsibility. The incident in Pune is not an isolated case. A recent accident in Patiala, where four students died in a high-speed car crash, underscores the troubling trend of dangerous driving among youths. These incidents highlight the urgent need for stricter enforcement of traffic laws and a comprehensive review of the legal frameworks governing juvenile offenders. The Pune Police's appeal to try the minor as an adult is a critical step towards ensuring that the judicial system responds appropriately to such severe offenses. It is imperative for the judiciary to set a precedent that underscores severe consequences for reckless driving, irrespective of the offender's age. This approach will not only serve justice to the victims and their families but also act as a deterrent against future incidents of this nature. Statistics show that teen drivers have a higher rate of fatal crashes due to immaturity, lack of driving skills, and inexperience. They are more likely to speed, make critical mistakes, and get distracted, especially with friends in the car. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach, including better driver education, stringent enforcement of traffic laws, and a cultural shift towards responsible behavior on the roads. The victims of the Pune accident and their grieving families deserve justice. More broadly, society deserves a safer environment where such preventable tragedies do not occur. It is time for a rigorous reassessment of our approach to juvenile justice, road safety laws, and parental responsibility, ensuring that all parties understand the severe implications of reckless behavior and take active steps to prevent it.



PROF. MAHESH CHAND GUPTA

Once upon a time, there was an atmosphere of insecurity and terror in every part of the country. Terrorist attacks were common in the country. Whenever the terrorists wanted, they would cross the border and kill innocent people in different cities of the country. Bombings had become an everyday occurrence. While Pakistan continued firing on the borders, it also continued to fuel terrorism within our country.

Although there was no corner of the country where terrorists did not wreak havoc, but Mumbai was the favorite target of terrorists. After the demolition of Babri Masjid, the entire Mumbai was shaken by bomb blasts on 12 March 1993. The entire

world was stunned by the attack on Mumbai by Kasab and his associates on 26 November 2008. Who can forget the death of 209 people due to the blast in local trains on July 11, 2006? The killing of 10 people when a bomb exploded in a train in Mulund, Mumbai on March 14, 2003, and the killing of 50 people when two bombs kept in cars exploded near Zaveri Bazaar and Gateway of India on August 25, 2003, haunt us till today.

Before the Modi government, the country's capital Delhi was always the target of terrorists. The attack on Parliament on 13 December 2001 was an attack on the sovereignty of the country. On 29 October 2005, a day before Diwali, terrorists carried out three blasts in New Delhi, killing more than 70 people and injuring at least 250 others. I have been living in Delhi for the last 55 years. While I have seen the peace of Delhi, unfortunately I have also had to witness the turbulent days. Delhi has faced countless terrorist attacks in the last four decades. The daily shaking of Delhi by bomb

blasts still shakes us. Why only Delhi and Mumbai, the nefarious designs of terrorists continued to succeed in big cities of all the states of the country including Jaipur, Ajmer, Malegaon, Srinagar, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Rampur, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Varanasi.

It is unfortunate that whenever terrorist attacks took place in the country, the reaction of our governments was always limited to 'strong condemnation' but after the formation of Modi government in 2014, extensive work started on the policy of killing terrorists on the border itself. The work of the terrorists who had entered India also started being completed. Although the frightened terrorists had the audacity to attack Pulwama and Uri in Kashmir and Pathankot airbase in Punjab, but the way the Modi government killed the terrorists by entering Pakistan, it demoralized the terrorists and their patron Pakistan.

Obviously, as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government has been committed to ensuring the nation's border

and internal security by strengthening all aspects. Since the formation of Modi government in 2014, India has not had to face major terrorist attacks. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claim is absolutely correct that under the leadership of Modi, the internal security situation of the country has strengthened and there has been success in completely controlling terrorism in Kashmir. There has been a lot of change in the internal security situation of the country during the Modi era. In the last ten years, the strategic power of the country has increased manifold. The borders have become more secure than before. Our forces are more fully equipped with defense equipment than before and are ready for war in every way and at all times. The morale of our forces is very high. The process of reforms in the defense sector started by the Modi government is showing better results.

After the removal of Article 370, terrorism has been completely controlled in Kashmir and the number of deaths and other violent incidents

have declined by 72 percent. Violent incidents have also decreased by 65 percent in the North-East region. We are seeing a huge change in the situation in Naxal affected areas also.

Modi government has been completely serious towards national security. The National Security Strategy Conference held in New Delhi last year under the chairmanship of Home Minister Amit Shah has been an important link in fulfilling the vision of Prime Minister Modi. This topic has been discussed extensively in this conference so that better security can be ensured in every aspect of the country. After this, work is being done to provide an infallible shield of security everywhere, from village to district, from district to state and from state to country's borders.

Whenever Modi government has raised its voice against the enemies of the country, Congress and all the opposition parties have criticized it. Many times the opposition parties have been seen taking Pakistan's side on sensitive issues related to

national security, but the Modi government is working considering the nation and its people as supreme. The Modi government has been successful in creating such an impenetrable structure on the country's borders and within the country, due to which every citizen is feeling safe. Before 2014, Delhiites like me, who have seen 70 years of life, were afraid of going to the airport, railway station and bus terminal. People's fear increased further after hearing the announcement being made that do not touch any unclaimed object as it could be a bomb. But now the situation has changed. Every citizen, not only in Delhi but in every city of the country, leaves home feeling fearless and confident and also returns home safely in the evening. Now we are not afraid of any terrorist. Due to secure borders and internal security, the country is moving rapidly on the path of progress. If Modi is there then it is possible.

(The author is a well-known educationist. He has been professor in Delhi University for 44 years.)

Rajasthan healthcare challenges despite Government efforts

NASEEM BANO

In Rajasthan, the healthcare system is facing significant challenges, particularly in rural areas. Despite numerous Government initiatives aimed at improving healthcare access and quality, the benefits of these programs are not reaching their intended targets.

This issue is especially pronounced among women and adolescent girls suffering from anaemia. While the State Government has enacted the Right to Health Act and conducts monthly campaigns to combat anaemia, these efforts have yet to bring about substantial improvements in the health sector across rural Rajasthan. An example of this can be seen in the village of Manoharpura located just four kilometres from the heritage city of Udaipur. This village falls under the Badgaon Panchayat and has a population of around one thousand.

Predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Tribes, the village has a low level of education, which impacts the awareness of

its residents. Despite its proximity to the district headquarters, Manoharpura lags significantly in the health sector. Many families in the village lack even basic identification documents, which prevents them from accessing healthcare services.

The reason for not having documents is that most children in the village were born at home rather than in hospitals, resulting in the absence of birth certificates and Aadhar cards. For young girls and women, the State Government has launched the 'I Am Shakti Udaan Yojana.' This scheme aims to empower economically weaker women and girls and the goal is to include about 2.8 million women and adolescents in this benefit by 2024. As part of this scheme, menstruating girls and women aged 11 to 45 receive sanitary pads. However, most adolescent girls and women miss out on this benefit. Due to both a lack of awareness and poverty, many girls still use dirty clothes during menstruation instead of buying pads. Additionally, about half of the adolescent girls and women



in the village suffer from anaemia, despite the State Government's monthly Shakti Diwas events aimed at eradicating anaemia in Rajasthan. It is important to note that various activities are organised under this campaign to reduce anaemia rates among children, women and adolescents. 'Shakti Diwas'

events are held at Anganwadi centres, Government schools, health and wellness centres, sub-health centres, primary health centres, CHCs, dispensaries and sub-district and district hospitals. These events include anaemia screenings, haemoglobin tests and treatment, distribution of iron tablets and

activities to raise awareness and promote behaviour change regarding anaemia.

On 'Shakti Diwas,' targeted activities are conducted for children aged 6 months to 59 months, out-of-school children aged 5 to 9 years, adolescents aged 10 to 19 years and married women aged 20

to 24 years. Efforts are also made to combat anaemia in pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

However, this issue extends beyond Manoharpura village to the entire Udaipur district, where ineffective implementation has affected district rankings. During the health department's monthly review meeting last November, the CEO Kirti Rathore expressed dissatisfaction with the situation. She emphasised the urgent need to ensure that benefits reach all children, adolescents and women and to strictly enforce measures to make the district anaemia-free.

These shortcomings reveal that Manoharpura residents are still not receiving full healthcare benefits and the village has not met its health targets. Addressing this requires both administrative action and increased community awareness, involving as many families as possible.

(The writer is a social worker from Grameen Awam Samajik Vikas Sansthan, Ajmer; views are personal. Charkha Features)

Spirituality can help us avoid dead ends

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We all end in death, i.e. our material bodies must die at some time in future, but we should avoid a dead end also, i.e. that leads to something not so good. We, souls, will go on in new bodies, but the problem is in what bodies and where. Are we going to a place where there is perpetual unrest? There are many areas in the world, which are in perpetual turmoil. Place of birth is one problem. Then, in what bodies are we born? Even in human bodies, there can be many handicaps like deformities, genetic defects and surely not-so-good looks, personality, level of intelligence, etc. There is a world of difference between ourselves and our material bodies. We, souls, are journeying eternally in various bodies, but our bodies have limited lifespans only. This

thought should be uppermost in our minds. We should try to make sure that we make progress and avoid our end in a worse situation, condition, form or State.

Let us see how we can ensure it. We, souls, are parts of God. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 15.7) What does this mean? That we are very special, being parts of God. Imagine being the son of a very rich and cultured person. God is infinitely superior than any parent can be. God will always be favourable to us if we take His shelter because we have free will. In the case of parents, we receive shelter automatically, but in the case of God, it is a matter of choice. It shouldn't be too difficult to make this choice, but it is. Why? Taking shelter requires some basics. We must give up our egos; we need to do spiritual practices to qualify for God's attention. There is another



big problem. Our lives are almost entirely controlled by our fate, which is what we have accumulated in our previous life/lives. One may question this premise. Yes, there is free will and liberty to do what we desire, feel or decide. But all these are controlled by our natures, which again are parts of our fate. What is the evidence? A person given to get angry readily continues to do so throughout his life, unless God intervenes on his

or her behalf. And God wouldn't unless we take His shelter. Where does it leave us? In not a pleasant place. Life will go on almost automatically with not much improvement.

Are we doomed? We are not. God is very kind; He has left an opening for us; we just have to get started. We must have a desire. God has arranged to preach everywhere. If we bother to go and listen, we will be convinced. And the start is very simple. We

just need to become better in whatever we do, not just in our work. In spiritual parlance, we must try to increase the mode of goodness in ourselves. Our whole being is made up of three modes, which are goodness, passion and darkness. They are in different percentages, with the mode of passion being predominant in most of us. It is no wonder that we are quite passionate about what we think, do, etc. Now we should try to be good in everything. For example, if we are habituated to eating foods, which are bitter, sour, salty, very hot, pungent, horse, etc. (17.9), we should choose tasty, not dry, not having too much liquid foods. (17.8) Similar improvements are required in what we speak, see, hear, etc. As purity increases, we will begin to get attracted to God and spiritual acts.

The next big decision is to control our egos. This

is the biggest hindrance in taking shelter from God. Arjuna had a similar problem. His ego would not allow him to accept God's instructions. Lord Krishna had to warn him, "If you will not heed on account of the feeling of being the doer, you will perish." (18.58) Is this not the fate of almost all of us? Who can change fate? God can and only He can in a substantial way. There is no one to share one's tough times. The solution again suggests itself. Love God and you will be able to love others as well. You won't always look for faults in others. This attitude change will help in becoming friends with family members. The conclusion is: that God is the solution if we wish to avoid the dead ends of our lives. Will we take God's shelter?

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

Development paralyzed, people feeling alienated under present dispensation: Ajaz Jan

JJ NEWS SERVICE
MANDI, MAY 22

Ajaz Jan, Provincial President of JKNC Youth, raised serious concern over the stagnation of development projects and the growing sense of alienation among the people under the present dispensation.

He stated this while addressing a series of public meetings in Sawijan and Bandikamakhan in Mandi Tehsil to rally support for the National Conference (NC) candidate for the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency, Mian Altaf Ahmed.

During his address, Jan highlighted the cessation of development initiatives in Tehsil Mandi since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) assumed power at the Center in 2014. "Local residents are feeling uncomfortable to work outside Jammu and Kashmir due to the BJP's divisive policies," Jan stated, underscoring the adverse impacts of the current government's strategies on the region's socio-economic fabric.

Jan criticized the Apni Party and the People's Conference, describing



them as two sides of the same coin. He accused these parties of indirect affiliations with the BJP, emphasizing that apart from the National Conference and Congress, all other political parties are covertly aligned with the BJP. "BJP is not officially contesting the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary seat but has deployed its proxy candidates in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections," he asserted.

Ajaz Jan emphasized that the time has come

for the people of District Poonch to stand up against the injustice inflicted upon them by the current administration. He urged them to assert their rights by casting their votes in support of the NC candidate, Mian Altaf Ahmed.

Jan stressed the importance of this electoral decision as a means to challenge the prevailing disenchantment and to pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable governance. He called upon the people to seize this opportunity

to reclaim their right and demand accountability from those in power.

Echoing Jan's sentiments, District President Bagh Bhushan Rathore called on the public to support the National Conference. Shamim Peer, Shabir Choudhary, Block Presidents Ishaq Khan, Mashaq Khan, Haji Sher Bajz, Khalil Lone, Ghulam Ahmed Lone, Sheikh Ishaq Shah, Haji Muneer Hussain, Dr khadam Hussain, Ch Bashir, Sarpanch Sharief, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohd Shadiq, Nizir Hussain, Mohd Rafiq Sheikh, Bagh Hussain, Manzoor hussain Shah sahib, Bashir Ahmed and Farooq Ahmed also urged the people of Tehsil Mendhar to vote for NC candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed to end the BJP's misgovernance.

In a significant development, senior BJP leader Gulam Mohi-ud-din Malik along with his supporters joined the National Conference in presence of Ajaz Jan. He pledged to work towards fortifying the party's grassroots presence and supporting its vision for the region's progress and unity.

BJP is ready to create history by defeating Cong, AAP in Punjab

JJ NEWS SERVICE
GURDASPUR, MAY 22

Senior BJP leader and former deputy CM J&K, Kavinder Gupta today asserted that BJP is all set to create history in Punjab by decimating Congress and AAP.

He stated this while embarking on an extensive door-to-door campaign in favour of BJP candidate Dinesh Singh Babbu for Gurdaspur Lok Sabha constituency in different Municipal areas of District Gurdaspur of Punjab. Baghel Singh District General Secretary, Neeraj Sharma and Rakesh Pant accompanied the former Deputy Chief Minister.

Interacting with the people, BJP stalwart leader said that the campaign aims to engage directly with the electorate, understand their concerns, and highlight the



party's vision and plans for the region's development. He said BJP is committed to address local issues and ensure that every citizen's voice is heard and its leaders pay heed to mitigate the problems being confronted by the people.

He emphasized the

importance of strong leadership and proactive governance in realizing the aspirations of the people. He highlighted the BJP's track record of delivering on its promises and outlined a comprehensive agenda for the development of Punjab.

"The BJP is prepared

to usher in a new era of progress and prosperity in Punjab," stated Kavinder. "Our party stands firm in its resolve to bring about positive change and address the pressing issues facing the people of Punjab."

Kavinder asked people not to fall prey to big white lies of the Congress party because already it has been exposed over performance factor and lassitude. He said that AAP, Congress or any other party in Punjab cannot compete with the BJP on development front.

Kavinder appealed to the people of Gurdaspur to vote in favour of BJP and see the Punjab state surmounting all the difficulties and reaching the pinnacle of progress. He called upon the electorate to vote for stability, growth, and a brighter future for Punjab.

Will uplift, empower Gujjar & Bakarwal's: Azad

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR MAY 22

Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Ghulam Nabi Azad addressed a gathering of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community in Muskhud Devsar today. In his speech, Azad highlighted the persistent exploitation faced by the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities at the hands of regional parties. He asserted, "The Gujjar and Bakarwal communities have consistently been used as a vote bank by regional parties, without receiving genuine support or development. These communities have borne the brunt of militancy and violence and continue to live in poverty without proper facilities." He emphasized the need for change and promised that, if elected to power, his administration would prioritize the upliftment and development of these marginalized communities. "I pledge to ensure that the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities are given the opportunities and resources they deserve to improve their quality of life," he said. Azad con-



demned a senior leader from the National Conference (NC) for defaming the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities by accusing them of accepting money to cast votes. "The Gujjar and Bakarwal communities have always upheld their principles and integrity. They have faced bullets but have never sold their soul for votes," he asserted. Azad also slammed the regional parties for using religion to get votes, he said, "We must not involve religion in politics. Our focus should be on selecting leaders who can raise the voice of the people in parliament". Azad said that his return to state politics is driven by his dedication to the welfare of the underprivileged communities, particularly the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities. Azad stated, "I have always prioritised

the needs of the poor and marginalised. During my previous tenure, I ensured the distribution of free land to the poor, especially benefiting the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities. Unfortunately, the current government has reversed these gains and taken back the land from these deserving people." Azad further announced his intention to reinstate the Roshni Scheme if given the mandate to form the government. The Roshni Scheme, which was originally introduced to provide land ownership rights to the underprivileged, will be a key focus of Azad's agenda. In addressing recent government actions, he pointed out that his party was at the forefront of resisting the land eviction orders. "It was only our party that

stood up against the unjust land eviction orders. We protested and successfully halted the use of bulldozers against the poor," he asserted. He pledged to bring back the Roshani Scheme and protect the rights of the poor underscores his dedication to creating a just and equitable society in Jammu & Kashmir. Azad stated that his party will introduce a comprehensive land and job protection law for Jammu and Kashmir. This law aims to safeguard the rights of the local population by restricting outsiders from applying for jobs and purchasing land in the region. He said, "Our property and our jobs should be reserved for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. There is no justification for outsiders to come and take our share. Such protective laws exist in many states across India. Why should Jammu and Kashmir be treated any differently?" Among others who were present on the occasion were Mohd Amin Bhatt Provincial President, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Zamir Ahmed Dist President and others.

GCOE celebrates International Day of Biological Diversity

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

GCOE, Jammu celebrated International Day of Biological Diversity under the patronage of Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar at various schools in Jammu. The theme for 2024, "BE PART OF THE PLAN", lays emphasis on the need for a collective and coordinated approach to address and reverse the loss of biodiversity and supporting the implementation of the Kumping-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Nature club convener Dr. Shalini Sharma along with Pupil Teachers installed some water pots and bird feeders at GOVT. HIGH SCHOOL, BHAGWATI NAGAR, JAMMU. Worthy Principal, GCOE, JAMMU Dr. Jyoti Parihar appreciated the efforts of the students and encouraged them to



include such activities in their day to day lives to conserve the biodiversity. Dr. Shalini Sharma, convener Nature Club and Dr. Ambica Sharma highlighted the importance of biodiversity and suggested different ways to conserve the biodiver-

sity. Pupil teachers awarded the students of Govt. High School, Bhagwati Nagar about the necessity to conserve biodiversity.

The event was also coordinated by NSS PO Prof. Sarita Dogra and other group supervisors at various schools in Jammu

Gaurav urges govt to declare summer holidays in schools amid scorching heat

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of Chamber of Commerce, Jammu, has called on the government to declare immediate summer vacations for all schools within the Jammu Division due to the ongoing extreme heatwave. The region is currently experiencing some of the highest temperatures of the season, reaching a scorching 43 degrees Celsius.

In a statement issued here today, Gaurav Gupta praised the Divisional Administration for their proactive decision to curtail school timings from 8 AM to 12 Noon in response to the severe heatwave conditions. He emphasized that while this measure is commendable, further steps are necessary



to ensure the health and safety of school children.

"The current temperature and heatwave pose significant health risks, especially to young children who are vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. In light of the extreme weather, it is imperative that there is dire need to take additional precautions to protect our students from the direct effects of the sun and the oppressive heat," he added.

Gaurav Gupta strongly

advised the concerned authorities to declare summer holidays for all educational institutions in the Jammu Division. He highlighted the urgent need to safeguard children from the adverse impacts of the extreme temperatures, which have reached record highs for this time of year.

He also noted that the neighboring state of Punjab has already declared summer vacations for all schools due to the extreme heatwave conditions. "We must prioritize the well-being of our children during these extraordinary weather conditions," he added.

Gaurav urged the government to act swiftly and declare summer vacations to prevent any potential health hazards caused by prolonged exposure to this severe heat.

Natrang stages five shows of 'Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra' in Kashmir

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR MAY 22

Natrang with the support of Chief Electoral Office of UT of J&K and District Election offices of Anantnag and Shopian staged five shows of Balwant Thakur's highly acclaimed play 'Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra' under the SVEEP aimed at motivating voters for a greater participation for a stronger democracy. The shows were held at Govt. Degree College, Shopian, Govt. Degree College, Zainapora (Shopian), Boys Higher Secondary School, Bijbehara (Anantnag), Govt College for Women, Anantnag and Boys Higher Secondary School, Doru (Anantnag). The jam packed audiences at each venue were enthralled by watching the highly professional performances of Natrang actors who through their mind blowing motivational messages inspired everyone to vote for the nation. Theatre is the most effective medium of instruction and it has the magical power to engage its audience in such a manner that everyone becomes the ambassador of the messages and ensures disseminating the same all over. On the occasion Natrang Director Balwant Thakur thanked the Chief Electoral Officer Sh. Pandurang K. Pole and the respective District Development Commissioners of



Anantnag and Shopian for the opportunity.

The play 'Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra' opens with the aggression of the disillusioned, frustrated youth who are struggling to survive in the contaminated air of corruption, scandals and dishonesty. They do not see any hope in the future as their present is being rotten by the corrupt system. They want to devastate everything around them in rage but when questioned by an educated person that 'what are they doing to come out of this unfortunate situation? Busy in their illusionary world created by the social media, they are speechless as they just want the things to happen but are not ready to be part of that change and want everything without making any required effort. Terming them as the most vibrant human resource of the world, the educated person prompts them to come forward, take the command

and change their fate. The most effective way of changing the fate of a country is the way of voting, this is the highly peaceful and effective way to bring big reforms of their choices. As the play proceeds, different age groups and varied sections of people are shown in satirical manner who have their petty reasons to not vote and also whom to vote. This ignorance and arrogance of the masses leaves huge space for the vested interests to exploit this situation. Through this play all the sections of society are prompted not to run away from their ultimate responsibility of voting for the stronger democracy of India. Vote has the only and ultimate power to change the fate of the country and everyone through this play is motivated to ensure that this right of voting of every citizen should not go waste. Let's pledge to vote!

Murder accused, absconder evading arrest from the last 9 years arrested

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

J&K Police in Jammu District succeeded in arresting an absconder who was evading his arrest for the past 9 years, the arrested person has been identified as Mohd. Mussa S/o Saraj Din R/o Dak Banglow Maralian

It is pertinent to mention that he was involved in case FIR No. 56/2015 U/S 302/307/452 RPC of Police Station Kud.

The police team of Police Station Miran Sahib got some vital clues regarding this absconder and his whereabouts yesterday, there after the team led by SHO PS Miran Sahab apprehended the accused, who was later on handed over to the police team of Police Station Kud, District Udhampur.

Lt Governor's Greetings on Buddha Purnima

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the eve of Buddha Purnima.

In a message, the Lt Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, I convey my hearty greetings and good wishes to all.

Lord Buddha guided the humanity on the path of peace, non-violence, selfless-service and virtuous living. His eternal message continues to guide us on the path of truth, compassion and universal brotherhood.

May Buddha Purnima usher in peace, prosperity and happiness for everyone".

Crackdown on illegal mining, 05 vehicles seized by JKP

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 22.05.2024

In a drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators, Jammu Police has initiated strict action against the criminals involved in illegal mining & minting money out of the public resources.

In a surprise operation which was carried out at different locations in Rural zone of District Jammu.

Border police post Sandwan detained one Dumper bearing registration no JK02CX-0930 Found loaded with sand, since driver was without Form A, hence the said vehicle was detained.

Border police post Gajansoo detained Two Dumpers bearing Reg. No. JK02CU/8206 & JK02CX/6811 loaded with Tawi sand, since driver was without Form A.

Police station Nagrota detained two tractor trolleys. 1. Tractor bearing Chassis number MBSAK48ACRTD27983, Engine number CJ.1354/AD001079, 2. Tractor Trolley bearing chassis number. MBNGAALDBNRJO4603, Engine number RNJ2GCA5459 found loaded with Sand and without Form-A.

After detaining of these vehicles District Mining Officer was informed for necessary legal actions.

TATA Starbucks unveils their First Store in Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

As TATA Starbucks continues its expansion in India, dedicated to providing memorable coffee experiences to their consumers, the brand has announced its first store in the scenic city of Jammu at Gandhinagar locality, renowned for its picturesque landscapes.

Enveloped by the stunning natural panorama of mountains, rivers, valleys, and forests, Jammu stands as the enchanting winter capital. The store intricately intertwines the narrative of TATA Starbucks Coffee Origin with the surrounding beauty of the city. Through geometric patterns symbolic of nature, complemented by local artworks and handcrafts, the store seamlessly connects the diverse coffee-growing regions with Jammu's serene ambience. The interiors offer a tranquil

haven, a third space where consumers can unwind, indulge in specialty brews, and build meaningful connections and conversations. Moreover, the alfresco area invites patrons to immerse themselves in the scenic splendor of Jammu while savoring their coffee experience. Speaking on the announcement, Sushant Dash, CEO, TATA Starbucks Pvt. Ltd. said, "We are thrilled to inaugurate our first store in Jammu, introducing the city to a fusion of the best of our global heritage with locally infused offerings tailored to the city. Embarking upon this next phase of expansion, we are committed to strengthening our bonds with both loyal and newfound customers, communities, and partners, driven by our dedication to excellence."

The menu comprises all-time favorites such as Java Chip Frappuccino, Cafe

Mocha, Signature Hot Chocolate, and Caramel Macchiato, alongside a range of delectable food items, particularly The Egg White & Chicken in Multigrain Croissant, Classic New York Cheesecake, Butter Croissant and much more.

In May 2023, TATA Starbucks expanded its menu with an exciting selection of Indian-inspired offerings. This includes regional favorites like South Indian Filter Coffee, Masala Chai, Elaichi Chai, and an array of indulgent Milkshakes. Alongside these additions, the menu now features bite-sized snacks, shareable food and freshly assembled sandwiches that are inspired by a local and cultural taste.

The company will offer the Starbucks Rewards loyalty program at the new store, to invite coffee-lovers in Jammu to be a part of the extended Starbucks India community.

Shivsena welcomed full stop on Art-370, demand raised to give special privileges to sons of soil

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has welcomed the Honorable Supreme Court decision to dismiss the review petitions filed on Article 370 and has demanded special privileges for its cultural identity and reservation in jobs and education for locals under Article 371.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that after the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it should be assumed that Article 370 has become history. He said that Jammu and Kashmir is a border state and for the last three and a half decades we have been facing the brunt of terrorism. He said that the people of Jammu and Kash-



mir are entitled to special privileges. He demands that on the lines of other northeastern states of the country, people of Jammu and Kashmir should be given the privilege of the protection of its cultural identity and first right on Govt jobs, admission in educational institutions under Article 371.

Sahni said that he has appealed to those who are chanting the tune of 370 to not waste time and

raise their voices in unity for the restoration of the rights of the local people under Section 371. Sahni has announced to go on a padayatra immediately after the results of the Lok Sabha elections to make the public aware of his demands and to get their consent. On this occasion, Vice President Balwant Singh, President Kamgar Wing Raj Singh, Secretary Rakesh Handa were present.

GDCW Kathua organizes one-day lecture on 'Future after Graduation'



J I NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 22

Career Counselling and Placement Cell, IIC in collaboration with IQAC, Government Degree College for Women, Kathua organized one-day lecture on 'Future after Graduation' on 22-05-2024. The lecture was organized under the able guidance of Dr. Savi Behl, Esteemed Principal of the college. Mr. Surjeet kumar, Career Counselling Officer (District Employment & Counselling Centre Kathua) was the resource person for the talk. The function began with the welcome address by Romika Bassin, Convener, Career Counselling and Placement Cell and IIC. In her welcome address, she outlined the purpose of the programme. The Resource Person Mr. Surjeet kumar addressed the students regarding the future after graduation. He talked about various academic and professional courses like NCS (National Career Service Portal), State Employ-

ment Portal (JKEMP), Self Employment Scheme of J&K Govt., Digiskham (a scheme by MICROSOFT & Ministry of Labour) and apart from this the mode of admission in their department, duration of the courses and their opportunities for seeking jobs for the bright future. During the interactive session, the students actively participated and a lot of queries were raised by the students. A total of 70 students had attended the lecture. During the session students also raised various queries and the resource person solved their queries so that students get the benefit regarding various career opportunities. The resource person was accompanied by Mr. Ankit anand (Young Professional Officer) and Mr. Sahil singh (KPO)

The occasion was also graced by the presence of other committee members Dr. Renu, Prof. Manjot singh Dr. Kamini Kapoor, Dr. Sonika Jasrotia, Dr. Ajay sanotra, Dr. Usha kiran.

Apni Party continues public outreach program at Vinayak Nagar, Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Apni Party has continued its public outreach program in the wake of ongoing preparation for the Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary seat in favour of Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahab.

The meeting was organized by G.L. Pandita at Vinayak Nagar, Muthi in Jammu District under the chairmanship of Party's State General Secretary, Vijay Bakaya.

During the meeting, Vijay Bakaya discussed the policy and agenda of the Party that would be implemented if Zafar Iqbal Manhas gets elected to the Lok Sabha.

He said that the Party is committed for the welfare of the displaced Kashmiri Pandits and to upgrade their living standard by implementing policies for their social, economic, and political upliftment.

He also said that the



Party is committed for the safe and honorable return of the displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

Meanwhile, the displaced KPs assured their support to Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahab in the scheduled election for Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary seat.

The meeting was attended by State General Secretary and Spokesperson of the Party, Abhay Bakaya, District Senior Vice President, Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, Shivani Koul, Shikha Bardawaj, Mutkesh Yogi, Virender Sathoo, Bansil Lal Pandita, Pyare Lal and others.

Nitish attributes surge in Valley's voter participation to Modi Govt's inclusive policies, development initiatives

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Nitish Mahajan, Co-incharge BJP's Social Media Department, J&K today lauded the impressive voter turnout of 59% in the Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency in the fifth phase of Lok Sabha in Jammu and Kashmir, remarking that it was the direct result of the Modi Government's inclusive policies and development initiatives.

In a statement issued here today, Nitish lauded the remarkable display of democratic fervor exhibited by the electorate of Srinagar, emphasizing the significance of their enthusiastic engagement in shaping the future trajectory of the region. He noted that such a substantial turnout is a testament



to the growing faith and confidence of the people in the democratic process.

Nitish emphasized that the Modi Government's efforts to improve the living standards of all citizens, irrespective of any biases or prejudices, played a major role in creating a conducive environment for the high voter turnout. He expressed immense satisfaction and pride that the people continued to repose their faith and trust in the transparent and accountable governance of the Modi Government.

He also noted that the

election saw an unprecedented participation of women voters, highlighting the Government's commitment to creating a safe and secure environment for all women in the country.

Nitish reiterated the BJP's unwavering commitment to championing the aspirations and welfare of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. He affirmed the party's resolve to continue working tirelessly towards promoting peace, stability, and inclusive development in the region, in alignment with the vision of a New India envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nitish urged all political parties to continue to work together in the spirit of unity to bring about positive change and development in the region.

Subodh Kumar inaugurates Bank Of India's 'MSME Processing Centre' at Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 22 MAY

Bank of India, a premier banking institution in the country, saw a momentous occasion at its Jammu Main Branch on Residency Road, Vir Marg Road, with the distinguished presence of Sh. Subodh Kumar Ji, the Zonal Manager of Amritsar Zone. Sh. Subodh Kumar Ji unveiled the much-anticipated MSME Processing Centre, christened as SMEUC, aimed at streamlining the processing and disbursal of loans for qualified entrepreneurs. This initiative is set to revolutionize the loan application process, making it more convenient and efficient for aspiring business owners.

During the inauguration, Sh. Subodh Kumar Ji reiterated the commitment to reducing the Turn-around Time (TAT) for MSME loans significantly through the establishment of the SMEUC. This move is expected to facilitate faster approvals and disbursements, ultimately fostering the growth of small and medium enterprises in the region.

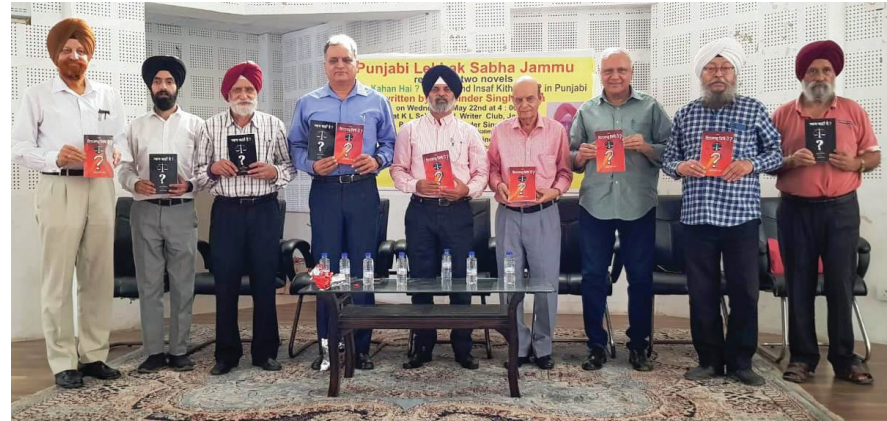
The event witnessed the presence of key dignitaries, including Sh. Subodh Kumar Ji, Zonal Head of Amritsar Zone,



and Sh. Puneet Gupta, the Incharge of SMECC Jammu. Branch heads from neighboring branches, such as Rakesh Kumar Ji from Jammu Main, Kunal Ji from RBC Head, Kunal Ji from Gangyal Branch, and Tarsem Ji from Vijaypur Branch, graced the occasion, highlighting the collective effort and support towards bolstering the entrepreneurial eco-

system in the area. The launch of SMEUC marks a progressive step towards enhancing financial inclusivity and ease of access to credit for budding entrepreneurs. With the backing of Bank of India and the dedicated efforts of the esteemed leadership, the future looks promising for the MSME sector in the region.

PLS-J Releases 2 Books of Bhupinder Singh Raina



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Two books titled 'Nayak Kahan Hai' in Hindi, and 'Insaf Kithey Hai', in Punjabi, authored by Sh. Bhupinder Singh Raina, a well known fiction writer & playwright of Jammu & Kashmir were released by Punjabi Lekhak Sabha, Jammu (PLS-J) in a function organized by LPS-J at K L Saigal Auditorium, Writers' Club, Cultural Academy, Jammu today.

Padam Shri Dr. Jatinder Udhampuri was the chief guest and Sh. Shailender Singh, prominent fiction writer and senior journalist Sh. Anil Sehgal were the guests of honour on this occasion whereas Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn, former Additional Secretary JKAACL, Jammu presided over the function. Sh. Bhupinder Raina and Dr. Baljit Raina President, PLS-J shared the dais. A large number of intel-

lectuals and writers attended the programme.

The programme started with the formal welcome by Dr. Baljit Raina, Two papers written by Dr. Rajveer Singh and Dr. Nirmal Vinod, on the merits and critical evaluation of the released books were presented in the programme, by.

While speaking on this occasion, Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn appreciated the fiction work contributed by Sh. Bhupinder Singh Raina in the field of Punjabi and Hindi literature. He also appreciated the translation work of 'Insaf Kithe Hai' from Punjabi to Hindi by Harmeet Kour, who also edited the book. In his address, Dr. Jatinder Udhampuri complimented Sh. Bhupinder Singh Raina being a Punjabi writer has come forward with force in the field of Hindi creative writing. In their address, Sh. Shailender Singh and Sh.

Anil Sehgal also expressed their views on the books released. Earlier Sh. Bhupinder Singh Raina and some of the writers expressed their views on the contribution and the released books.

It may be mentioned here that S. Bhupinder Singh Raina was born on 25th June, 1945 in the family of Sdn. Shant Kaur and S. Kartar Singh in village Hardonam in Tehsil Sopore (Baramulla, J&K). He got his High and Higher Education at Sopore. He served in Air Force for nine years. Upto now he has come up with eight novels in Punjabi. His novels have been opted in the syllabi of PG level by University of Jammu and Ganga Nagar University.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Adv. Jasmeet Singh. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Monojit, former President, PLS-J.

NC, Congress & PDP are responsible for bloodshed in J&K: Darakhshan



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Bharatiya Janata Party today organised a mega public rally at Dasaal in Rajouri which was attended by a huge gathering. J&K BJP General Secretary (Org) Ashok Koul, BJP National Executive Member & Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Member of Parliament Er Ghulam Sli Khatana & Minister of State for Health in Madhya Pradesh Narinder Shivaji Patil addressed the rally. BJP District President Rajouri Dinesh Sharma, District Prabhari Yugal Dogra & Subhash Sharma also addressed the gathering. Ashok Koul in his address said that BJP changed the lives of the people of J&K. "Peace, Prosperity and development is the vision of new J&K under BJP. PM Modi released us from the subjugation of the dynasties and we are free from their exploitation", said Ashok Koul. In her address Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said that three families destroyed J&K and led the territory to corruption, separatism and loot of our resources. " Their tenures are testimony to

the destruction they gave us. NC, Congress & PDP are responsible for the bloodshed in J&K & Modiji freed us from their clutches", said Dr Darakhshan Andrabi. Member of Parliament Engineer Ghulam Ali Khatana talked about the empowerment of the tribal and socially backward classes in J&K by BJP for the first time by enforcing central laws in J&K. "Tribal Development was ensured by BJP only while as the traditional parties of J&K exploited them only as a vote bank only", said Khatana. Minister of State for Health in Madhya Pradesh Narinder Shivaji Patil expressed his happiness on BJP's increased strength in J&K. "I am happy to see people's trust & faith in BJP and the leadership of Prime Minister here in this border district of J&K. Modiji's welfare schemes & his action on terrorism has opened new future for the union territory after the abrogation of 370 and the complete merger of J&K with the country has ended separatism and violence everywhere ", said Patil. Many community leaders and morcha representatives also spoke in the rally.

Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog visits SMVDU



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Mission Director of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) at NITI Aayog, visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for an interactive session. Dr. Vaishnav, a socio-technologist and engineer, is trained to design and build large-scale systems that encompass both human and technological complexities. Currently on leave from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), he is living and working with rural communities in India to develop solutions that address fundamental constraints to improving human conditions. The Atal Innovation Mission is a flagship initiative of the Government of India

under NITI Aayog, aimed at fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country. Established in 2016, AIM has launched Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACIC) to encourage entrepreneurship in underserved and unserved regions of India by providing the necessary infrastructure and supportive environment for innovation. ACIC operates using solution-driven design thinking and is supported by a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. These centers are designed to facilitate the widespread diffusion of innovation from community roots. The application submitted by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) for an ACIC has been placed in the

selection category. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar, highlighted the university's activities in promoting entrepreneurship and community development, including the support to 39 incubation units through the Technology Business Incubation Center (TBIC). The selection of SMVDU's ACIC proposal will aid local communities in leveraging local knowledge, contextual market needs, and diverse skill sets, combined with a shared pool of public knowledge. The meeting was attended by SMVDU Registrar, Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma (JKAS), CEO of TBIC, Prof. Ashutosh Vashishtha, Coordinator of ACIC, Dr. Sanjay Mohan, and core committee members.

Apni Party intensifies election campaign in Poonch in support of Zafar Iqbal Manhas



JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 23

Apni Party has intensified its election campaign in support of Party candidate, Zafar Iqbal Manhas contesting from Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary seat.

As a part of ongoing public outreach program, the Party leaders held a meeting at Sehri Khawaja in Surankote, Poonch.

Addressing the public meeting, the Party's contesting candidate, Zafar Iqbal Manhas expressed his gratitude towards the people for extending him support in the scheduled elections for the parliamentary seat.

In his speech, Manhas expressed his commitment towards the people of Pir Panjal region that he would leave no stone unturned to get a separate Parliamentary seat for the region, and Hill

Development Council on the pattern of Ladakh.

He said that the region remained neglected regarding its development, and tourism sector even as it has huge potential of tourism and attracting tourists from across the world.

"The Apni Party has prepared a road map for the infrastructural development in Pir Panjal that needs special attention," said the contesting candidate of the Party, Zafar Iqbal Manhas.

He said that if he gets elected to the Lok Sabha, the Party will get the detained released from the custody.

"We want to give an opportunity to the detained youth to return to mainstream/normal life after their release from custody," he added.

He said that the Party would also focus on preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage

of Poonch and Rajouri Districts.

Meanwhile, Provincial President of Jammu, S. Manjit Singh also addressed the meeting in support of the Party candidate, Zafar Iqbal Manhas.

S. Manjit Singh said that if the Party candidate is elected to the Parliament, they will bring prosperity in the Region with its initiative towards equitable development and generating employment with the boosting of the tourism sector.

Additional General Secretary of the Party, Arun Kumar Chibber, and SC Wing State President, Bodh Raj Bhagat also addressed the public meeting.

Meanwhile, several other meetings were also addressed by the Party candidate, and other leaders of the Party in the ongoing election campaign across the region.

National VP LJP (R) appoints Bhanu Pratap Senior VP of LJP J&K



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Lokjan Shakti Party (LJP) has made Bhanu Pratap the senior vice president of its Jammu and Kashmir unit. National Vice President Arvind Kumar Bajpai announced the appointment of Bhanu Pratap as vice president of LJP's J&K unit in a programme held here today at Press Club of Jammu. State President LJP, Rafiq Malik was also present on the occasion.

Earlier, Bhanu Pratap, a resident of Kathua, along with hundreds of his supporters joined Lok Janshakti Party. Bhanu Pratap. While addressing the programme, Bhanu Pratap said that he was impressed by the policies of the party. Bhanu Pratap while praising the leadership qualities of National President Chirag Paswan, said that he is always ahead to serve the public. He said that India is moving on the path of progress under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that the NDA government has brought so much of development in every nook and corner of the country due to which the people are feeling fully satisfied with the BJP led NDA's way of governance, adding that today every state of the country is experiencing tremendous growth and progress. After the NDA government came into

power ten years ago, several big projects have been taken up in Jammu and Kashmir as well due to which the people of the state are feeling content, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, National Vice President LJP Arvind Kumar said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the country has achieved all those distinctions in the last ten years that will prove to be a golden history for the coming generations. He said that Modi has strengthened the democracy in Jammu and Kashmir by abolishing Article 370, adding that that historical decision taken five years ago has given a strong slap on the faces of separatists and terrorists. He claimed that this time the NDA alliance will form the government again and the slogan of PM Modi to cross the target of 400 Lok Sabha seats will definitely be achieved.

Kumar cited introduction of several welfare schemes by the present central government led by will be the reason that Modi will become the Prime Minister of the country again. He said that Modi's industrial policy is going to benefit the entire Kathua district. He mentioned that the Modi government will refund 300 percent GST to the factories opening in Kathua, which will benefit the industrialists and the local people too.

Langar commends historic Voter turnout in Baramulla LS Polls

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Sham Lal Langar, Convenor of BJP Trade Cell in Jammu & Kashmir, has lauded the historic voter turnout of 59 percent in the recently conducted Baramulla Lok Sabha elections. This unprecedented participation is seen as a clear indication of the people's support for democracy in the Kashmir Valley. Sham Langar expressed his pride in the citizens of Baramulla for their active engagement in the democratic process, highlighting it as a significant shift from the past when election boycotts, stone-pelting, and strikes were prevalent.



said Sham Langar.

He attributed this positive change to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under whose administration the region has witnessed substantial progress and stability. Mr. Langar pointed out that the initiatives and policies implemented by PM Modi have played a crucial role in transforming the socio-political environment of Kashmir.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have seen a significant reduction in violence and disruption. The culture of boycotts, stone-pelting, and strikes has ended, giving way to peace and development. This historic voter turnout

is a direct result of the confidence and trust that the people of Kashmir have in PM Modi's leadership," he added. Sham Langar also emphasized the positive impact of this newfound stability on tourism in the region. He noted that Kashmir is now witnessing an influx of tourists, contributing to the local economy and further enhancing the region's prosperity.

"The peaceful atmosphere and the successful conduct of elections have made Kashmir a favored destination for tourists once again. This resurgence in tourism is a clear indicator of the region's return to normalcy and its potential for economic growth," he said.

Sham Langar called upon all stakeholders to continue supporting the democratic process and work towards the sustained development of Jammu & Kashmir. He reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to ensuring the safety, security, and prosperity of the region.

Chamber Katra Raises Power Issues with PDD Deptt

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra, a leading advocate for the businesses of reasi district, presented power issues to Sh. Rajesh Mengi assistant executive engineer Katra, urging immediate attention and collaborative action to address challenges and foster uninterrupted power supply to holy town Katra.

In a meeting held on 22 May 2024 in his office chamber, a delegation from Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra met with AEE, PDD Katra to discuss pressing power issues affecting the tourism industry of Katra town. Raj Kumar Padha, president CTTIK apprised him that there is a state of confusion and stress among our members because of inflated electric bills. He stated that deptt. had issued power bills based on KVAH tariff with retrospective effect whereas the same should be with prospective effect from November 2022 as per the Joint Electricity Regulator Commission's order no JERC/LAW-S/P/2022/F-5/478-84 dated 13-10-2022.

This situation has significantly impacted



financial well being of the businesses which have been already reeling under pressure due to low business activity. Hence he requested him to take necessary steps to remove the anomalies and reissue the bills accordingly.

Additionally he submitted that electricity to hospitality units is like blood to the body hence Katra need 24 hours electricity supply. He stated that the businesses have been suffering losses due to the unscheduled power cuts since last few days as we have to run our businesses on DG sets. Shiv Kumar Sharma president senior citizen welfare forum Katra impressed upon the officials to supply uninterrupted power supply and also make prior arrangements for the coming months of

heatwave.

The delegation also sought a power amnesty scheme for commercial power consumers as per earlier scheme granted to domestic consumers.

Rajesh Mengi AEE gave a patient hearing to all the points and ensured his full cooperation and support. Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra expressed gratitude to the PDD officials for the opportunity to engage in this constructive dialogue.

Among others present in the meeting were AE, PDD Anirudh Sharma and office bearers of Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra, Dharun Sharma vice president, Karan Vaid secretary, Atul Sharma secretary, Jagdev Singh and Vivek Gupta executive members.

International Day of Biological Diversity CUKashmir's School of Life Sciences organises prog

JNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 22

School of Life Sciences (SLS), Central University of Kashmir, (CUKashmir) organised a one-day programme on "International Day of Biological Diversity," at varsity's Nunar campus here Wednesday. The programme was attended by faculty members, scholars, and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. M Yousuf, Head, Deptt of Zoology, highlighted the significance of maintaining and preserving established food chains and food webs in preserving biological diversity.

Prof. Abid Hamid, Dean SLS, emphasized the issue of man-animal conflict that is increasing in the current era and its impact on biological diversity. He stressed on the importance of preserving habitats of local species that would ensure greater bio-



logical diversity.

Addressing the participants, faculty members, discussed the significance of micro-floral diversity in maintaining soil health and its impact on plant growth and development. They laid emphasis on the need for maintaining balance in the diversity of species of birds citing the imbalanced rise of local feral pigeons. They stressed the importance

of preserving local flora and fauna that would immensely contribute to maintaining a varied pool of biological diversity.

Dr. Munazah Qureshi, Assistant Prof. Deptt of Biotechnology started the proceedings by highlighting the importance of biological diversity in the current era where species are constantly under threat of extinction.

Appreciation letters distributed among students who have participated in Wall painting competition

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 23

Today appreciation letters were distributed among the 40 students of MHAC Nagwani, Model Hr.Sec. School Domana and International Cambridge, Purkoo by SP Rural Jammu, Sh. Brijesh Sharma, JKPS and SHO Domana, Insp. Arun Sharma who have participated in Wall painting competition on the topic DRUG ABUSE held on

12-04-2024 at PS Domana.

SP Rural Jammu and SHO Domana paid a special visit to these schools and distributed appreciation letters to the students in presence of their teaching faculty and fellow students. Also interacted with students to promote the message of Jammu police zero tolerance against drugs and urge students to act as special messengers of JKP to spread this message that there is no space for drugs

in our civilised society.

He further added that your creativity and dedication to raising awareness about this important topic through your artistic talents are truly commendable. The vibrant and thought-provoking messages portrayed in your artwork have significantly contributed to the community's efforts in combating drug abuse and promoting a healthier, drug-free environment.

One Dies, Few Other Sustain Injuries After Geyser Explodes in Budgam

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR 22 MAY

One person died and a few other family members sustained injuries after a geyser blasted in the Narakara area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Wednesday morning. Locals told the news agency CNS that the water geyser exploded in one of the houses in Budgam's Narakara area, resulting in the death of one person identified as Manzoor Ahmad Dar. They said that the deceased person came under the debris of the house, which incurred extensive damage due to the geyser explosion.

"Besides one fatality, few other family members, who were inside the house, sustained injuries in the incident," locals said. It was said that the injured were shifted to a hospital for their treatment. (CNS)

Cyber cell of J&K Police in Jammu solved online financial fraud amounting to Rs 1,98,000

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Cyber Cell of DPO Jammu solved two separate online cyber crime complaints. A complaint was received regarding financial fraud of Rs 1,37,000/-. The complainant joined a telegram page and was given task for review on Hotels and restaurants. Victim invested money and at last victim was removed from telegram group.

One complaint was received regarding financial fraud in which the complainant received a call from Jio customer care and asked for KYC of sim card and defrauded an amount of Rs 61,000.

During the investigation, the Cyber Cell DPO Jammu, acted swiftly and exhibited hectic efforts which ultimately led to put on hold an amount of Rs 1,91,000/- out of 1,98,000/- in these two separate online cyber crime complaints. Further investigation is underway.

NOTICE

I, Sahil Pal S/o Sudheer Kumar R/o Shakti Nagar Jammu 180001 have lost Mark Sheet of 8th Class bearing Roll No. 8900446. Now I am applying for duplicate of the same. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to concerned authorities within 7 days.

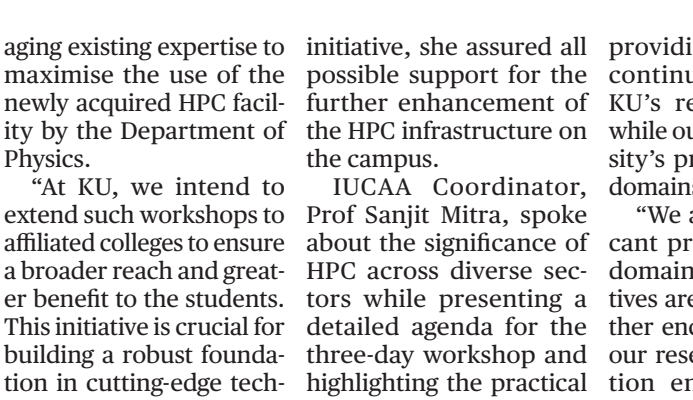
'High Performance Computing (HPC): Need to leverage existing expertise to maximise outputs: KU VC

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

To empower the academic community with cutting-edge High Performance Computing (HPC) skills, essential for advancing research and innovation in numerous fields, the Department of Physics, University of Kashmir (KU) in collaboration with the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, inaugurated a three-day workshop here.

"This marks a significant step towards the varsity's commitment to encourage and appreciate technological proficiency and academic excellence among its students and faculty," an official spokesperson said in a statement issued here.

On the occasion, KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan, highlighted the importance of lever-



aging existing expertise to maximise the use of the newly acquired HPC facility by the Department of Physics.

"At KU, we intend to extend such workshops to affiliated colleges to ensure a broader reach and greater benefit to the students. This initiative is crucial for building a robust foundation in cutting-edge technology and encouraging a culture of innovation," Prof Khan said.

While congratulating the organisers for the

initiative, she assured all possible support for the further enhancement of the HPC infrastructure on the campus.

IUCAA Coordinator, Prof Sanjit Mitra, spoke about the significance of HPC across diverse sectors while presenting a detailed agenda for the three-day workshop and highlighting the practical and theoretical sessions planned to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge.

"HPC has immense sig-

nificance across diverse sectors including healthcare, science, technology, engineering, planning, and business," he added.

KU Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal, acknowledged IUCAA's pivotal role in providing facilities and continuous support to KU's research students while outlining the university's progress in various domains.

"We are making significant progress in various domains and new initiatives are underway to further encourage and uplift our research and innovation endeavours," Prof Naseer added.

Workshop Coordinator, Prof Manzoor Malik, emphasised the significance of training students,

research scholars and faculty in HPC systems.

"There is a growing necessity of acquiring skills in HPC due to the exponential increase in data creation and consumption," Prof Malik said, adding that such trainings are crucial for staying ahead in various research and application fields.

Head, Department of Physics, Prof Gowher Bashir, in his welcome address, outlined the department's achievements and extended his best wishes to all the participants for a productive and enriching experience.

Research scholar at the Department of Physics, Sharmeen Shabir, conducted the proceedings of the inaugural session while as, former Head, Department of Physics, Prof Baharat Ahmad Want, proposed the formal vote of thanks.

"Won't accept": Mamata Banerjee after HC cancels OBC certificates

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

The Calcutta High Court has cancelled all certificates to Other Backward Classes issued in Bengal since 2011 under the Trinamool Congress administration, calling them "illegal". This, however, would not affect the people currently holding jobs or seats in educational institutions or made applications with caste certificates, the court said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said she "will not accept" the order, which will "take away the rights granted to the Tapashili community".

The court struck down reservation for several communities as Other Backward Classes under a new law of the state government passed in 2012. Justices Tapabrata Chakraborty



need be," Mamata Banerjee said.

The OBC reservation quota introduced by the West Bengal government will continue, the Chief Minister said.

"We had drafted the Bill after conducting a household survey, and it was passed by the cabinet and the assembly... The BJP has conspired to stall it but they lost in court," she added. Hitting out at specific judges of the High Court, the Chief Minister said, "One judge is saying, 'I am an RSS person', another one joins the BJP... How can you be a judge this way and pre-side over courts?"

Senior party leader and Ms Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee also alleged that the court's judgment is part of the BJP's efforts to cancel reservations for the Tapashili community.

KU organises intra-department road race



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

To prioritise sports and physical activities as essential components of student life, promoting fitness, teamwork and excellence across campuses, the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports (DPES), University of Kashmir (KU), inaugurated the 'Intra-Department Road Race' on Wednesday, featuring competitive races for both men and women, here at the main campus.

A total of 87 students from various departments participated, including 50 boys and 37 girls representing different departments and satellite campuses, an official spokesperson said in a statement issued here, adding that such activities are a regular feature of the Directorate.

On the occasion, KU Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal, motivated the students to engage actively in all sports activities. He commended the Directorate for organising such a significant event underlining its importance for student growth and development.

"Events like these not only encourage a spirit of healthy competition but also contribute to the

overall well-being of our students," Prof Naseer said.

Director, DPES, Dr Mandeeep Singh, felicitated the medalists in both the men's and women's categories. He highlighted the role of sports in achieving excellence and bringing recognition to the university and the state.

"Participation in sports activities is crucial for the holistic development of our youth who can bring laurels to our institution," Dr Singh said.

In the men's category, Mir Riyaz from the Department of Mathematics won the Gold Medal, Amir Saleem from the School of Law secured the Silver Medal while as, Abid Amin Khan, pursuing MPED course at the DPES, took home the Bronze Medal.

In the women's category, Inayat Farooq, pursuing MPED course at the DPES and Hurmah Shah from the School of Law clinched Gold Medals. Sumy Jan and Iqra Bano, both pursuing MPED course at the DPES, secured the Silver and Bronze medals, respectively.

Azad Shah, Athletics Coach from the Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, served as the external expert for the event, the statement read.

Purnima credits Modi Govt for 59 pc voting turnout in Baramulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Adv Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson, BJP, J&K and former Deputy Mayor Jammu commended the Policy of Modi Government on J&K as Baramulla witnessed record breaking voting after a long span of four decades in Lok Sabha polls.

In a statement issued to media persons, the senior BJP leader said that in a remarkable demonstration of democratic spirit, Baramulla has witnessed

a record voter turnout of 59 per cent in the Lok Sabha polls, the highest in four decades. She categorically said that the historic participation of people in this democratic process has underscored the success of the Modi government's policies in restoring normalcy and strengthening democracy in the region. She expressed deep gratitude and commendation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government's unwavering commitment towards J&K.

Big 2 parties not allowed to weaken...": poll body's unprecedented warning

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

Five phases of the Lok Sabha election over, the Election Commission today came down heavily on the ruling BJP and the main Opposition Congress over poll speeches by its star campaigners. This comes after both the parties had filed complaints against each other, flagging speeches by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi. In separate directions issued to BJP president JP Nadda and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, the poll body said the country's socio-cultural milieu cannot become a casualty to elections. "Elections are a process when political parties not only contest to win, but also avails the opportunity to present themselves in their ideal best to the voting community to experience, emulate and build hopes on. The second part constitutes the more precious heritage of Indian elections and our electoral democ-



racy and this should not be allowed to be weakened by anyone, including your party," the commission said. "Elections are periodic exercises, they come and go, but political parties like yours endure; even more enduring preserve is India's socio-cultural milieu; Political parties are in the task of nurturing leaders for the country for present and future. They cannot afford to be lax in any manner in enforcing discipline and conduct among the cadre in the high stake electoral space; especially with

reference to senior members," the poll body told both parties.

Earlier, both parties had approached the Election Commission and complained against each other's leaders. The poll body had issued notices and sought their responses on the allegations. In today's directions, it has rejected their defences.

In its letter to Mr Nadda, the poll body has said it expects BJP, "as the ruling party at the Centre to fully align the campaign methods to the practical aspects of the composite and sen-

sitive fabric of India". The commission has directed the BJP to instruct all star campaigners to refrain from making any statement prohibited under the Model Code of Conduct. The rules, it stressed, provide that "no party or candidate shall include in any activity which may aggravate existing difference or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic. The poll body directed the BJP chief to direct all star campaigners "to not make speeches and statements, which may divide the society". It also directed the star campaigners to "refrain from any campaigning methods/utterances along religious communal lines". The poll body also called for decorum in speeches by the party's star campaigners. The Election Commission's letter to Mr Kharge said that it expects the Congress to "fully align the campaign methods to the practical aspects of the composite and sensitive fabric of India".

RBI approves highest-ever dividend of Rs 2.11 lakh crore to Government

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, MAY 22

The Reserve Bank of India will pay a record Rs 2.11 lakh crore dividend to the Central Government for the fiscal ended March 31, more than double of what was budgeted expectation, helping shore up revenue ahead of a new government taking office.

The RBI board, at its meeting today, approved the transfer of surplus, the central bank said in a statement.

The government had budgeted a receipt of Rs 1.02 lakh crore as dividends from the RBI, public sector banks and financial institutions in the interim budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025) presented in February this year. The dividend or surplus transfer by the RBI to the Centre was Rs 87,416 crore for the fiscal 2022-23. The previous high was Rs 1.76 lakh crore in 2018-19.

The decision on the dividend payout was taken at the 608th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India

held under the chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das. "The Board... approved the transfer of Rs 2,10,874 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2023-24," the RBI said in a statement. The central government aims to contain the fiscal deficit or gap between expenditure and revenue to Rs 17.34 lakh crore (5.1 per cent of the GDP) during the current financial year. The RBI board also reviewed the global and domestic economic scenario, including risks to the growth outlook. The Board discussed the working of the Reserve Bank during 2023-24 and approved its Annual Report and Financial Statements for the last fiscal. The RBI said that during accounting years 2018-19 to 2021-22, owing to the prevailing macroeconomic conditions and the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board had decided to maintain the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) at 5.50 per cent of the Reserve Bank's balance sheet size to support growth and overall economic activity.

Women make up less than 10% of Lok Sabha poll candidates: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

Less than 10 percent of the candidates contesting in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections are women, according to an analysis of data shared by the poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). Of the 8,337 candidates analysed, only 797 are women, representing a mere 9.5 percent of the total candidates contesting across the seven phases of the elections.

This is the first election since the passage of the women's reservation bill to reserve one-third of seats in Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women, reviving a bill pending for 27 years for want of consensus among parties. The bill is yet to come into effect.

During the first phase of the elections, out of 1,618 candidates, only 135 were women. This pattern continued in the subsequent phases, with women candidates remaining a small



fraction of the total. Phase 2 saw 1,192 candidates of which affidavits of 1,198 candidates were analysed and as many as 100 were women.

Phase 3 had 1,352 candidates, including 123 women and 244 with criminal cases.

In phase 4, affidavits of 1,710 out of 1,717 candidates were analysed and 170 were women.

Phase 5 had the fewest candidates at 695, with 82 women, while in phase 6, affidavits of 866 out of 869 candidates were analysed, and there were 92 women. In phase 7, there will

be 904 candidates candidates, with only 95 women.

This significant gender imbalance has sparked criticism from political analysts and activists, who question why political parties are waiting for the women's reservation bill to be implemented instead of proactively issuing tickets to women.

Dr. Sushila Ramaswamy, Professor at Delhi University's Jesus and Mary College, has emphasised that political parties should take concrete steps to promote women's candidacy.

International Day for Biological Diversity Explore the Biodiversity of Jammu, the Gateway to Vaishnodevi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

On the International Day for Biological Diversity, the rich and vibrant biodiversity of Jammu, the gateway to Vaishnodevi, is in the spotlight. Nestled in the foothills of the Shivaliks, Jammu is a city brimming with natural resources, presenting a vibrant mosaic of ecosystems enriched by forests, orchards, agricultural farms, and the River Tawi.

The City Biodiversity Index (CBI), released last year by the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, offers a comprehensive assessment of Jammu's biodiversity. Developed by ICLEI South Asia with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Biodiversity Council, the CBI highlights Jammu's dedi-

cation to conserving its natural heritage.

"The CBI for Jammu can support the Municipal Corporation to enhance biodiversity governance and marks a significant step towards conservation. While providing a baseline for monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem services, the document is a guide for planning activities with a focus on major ecosystems and biodiversity concerns," said Emani Kumar, Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia. The CBI reveals that Jammu hosts an impressive array of species. The city boasts 220 recorded bird species, including Lesser Whistling-duck, Rock Pigeon, and Grey Heron. The flowering plant species tally at 304, featuring the Southern Magnolia, Himalayan Lily, and native species like Mango and Amla. Butterflies are also prominent with 94 species, such as the

Common Mormon and Lime Butterfly. The reptilian diversity includes 16 species like the Indian Monitor Lizard and Common Krait. Furthermore, Jammu is home to 45 mammal species including the Striped Hyena, Indian Pangolin, and Leopard. The city also features 251 parks, covering 90.55 hectares, ranging from small municipal parks to large green spaces like Bhour Camp Garden.

"The CBI is a unique self-assessment tool for monitoring urban biodiversity. It includes indicators on native biodiversity, ecosystem services, and biodiversity management. This objective assessment helps city administrators in planning, managing, and measuring biodiversity, supporting Jammu's development as a Smart City," stated Dr. Monalisa Sen, Senior Programme Coordinator (Biodiversity), ICLEI South Asia.

INDIA bloc will "free judiciary from pressure": Arvind Kejriwal

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has said if the INDIA bloc comes to power in the ongoing Lok Sabha election, it would "free" the judiciary from the "tremendous pressure" it is facing. This, he added, will lead to his release from jail on June 5, as all cases against him are "bogus".

Mr Kejriwal -- arrested in the Delhi liquor policy case and freed after the Supreme Court granted him interim bail earlier this month -- had earlier said if the Opposition wins he would be free the day after results.

Asked about the statement, Mr Kejriwal told PTI in an exclusive interview, "The judiciary is under tremendous pressure currently. Everyone knows how much pressure they are working under now". Asked if the



INDIA bloc will put pressure on courts to have him freed, Mr Kejriwal said: "We will not put any pressure. But if the pressure is lifted from the judiciary then justice will start to be served fairly." "All the cases against me are bogus. There is no money trail anywhere. Not a single paisa has been traced. If there was cor-

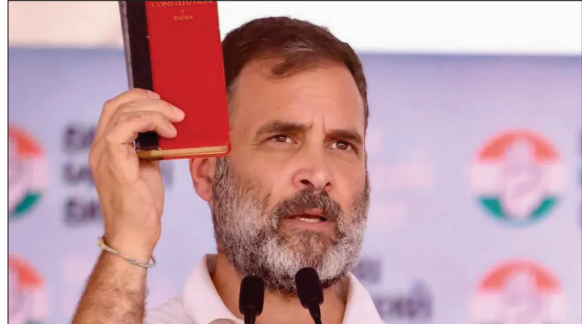
ruption, where has the money gone?" he said. Mr Kejriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on March 21 in connection with the Delhi liquor policy case. On May 10, he was released from Tihar Jail so he could join his party's campaign for the ongoing Lok Sabha election. He has to surrender on June 2 -- a day after the

elections are over. Leaders of the BJP have alleged that his bail amounts to special treatment -- a comment the court has objected to. The judges who granted bail said they have "not made any exception". In an unexpected step, the top court, which was hearing Mr Kejriwal's challenge to his arrest, also said it would hear his appeal for bail. While granting interim bail in the same hearing, the judges said had pointed to the ongoing Lok Sabha election. Elections are "vis viva" (life force) of a democracy and Mr Kejriwal heads a national party, that he is not convicted and is not a threat to society, the judges had said. The judges also put aside the Enforcement Directorate's argument -- that Mr Kejriwal's comment that if the INDIA bloc wins, he would "not have to go back to jail" -- is a contempt of the court.

Poll body raps congress over Rahul Gandhi's Agniveer, constitution pitches

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

The Election Commission today directed the Congress to ensure that its key leaders don't indulge in "political propaganda involving activities of the defence forces" and "do not make statements which give false impression" that the Constitution "may be abolished or sold". Significantly, the two subjects flagged by the poll body are among the key political planks used by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to target the Narendra Modi government. Mr Gandhi has repeatedly displayed the Constitution of India during his speeches. He has also widely spoken out against the Agniveer scheme for recruitment to defence forces. In fact, hours before the Election Commission's directions to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Mr Gandhi told a rally in Haryana that the



Agniveer scheme will be "thrown into the dustbin" if the INDIA bloc comes to power in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. The Election Commission's note to the Congress president mentions speeches by Rahul Gandhi, but does not name him. In its letter, the poll body has said elections are an opportunity for political parties to present themselves "in their ideal best for the voting community to experience, emulate and build hopes on". "Elections are periodic exercises, they come and go, but political parties like yours endure; even more enduring

preserve is India's socio-cultural milieu; Political parties are in the task of nurturing leaders for the country for present and future. They cannot afford to be lax in any manner in enforcing discipline and conduct among the cadre in the high stake electoral space; especially with reference to senior members," it said. The poll body said it expects the Congress to "fully align the campaign methods to the practical aspects of the composite and sensitive fabric of India". The poll body asked the Congress chief to direct its star campaigners to

avoid making statements prohibited under the General Conduct rules of the model code of conduct. It mentioned that the rules provide that "no party or candidate shall include in any activity which may aggravate existing difference or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities.

The poll body asked Mr Kharge to ensure that the Congress's campaigners and candidates do not indulge in "political propaganda involving activities of the defence forces and not to make potentially divisive statements regarding socio-economic composition of Defence forces". It also said that the party leadership must ask its star campaigners to desist from making statements "which give false impression such as that the Constitution of India may be abolished or sold".

AAP has created a crisis of credibility in politics, it is doomed to fail: Rajnath Singh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday tore into the AAP over its multiple stances of double-standards in politics and said that a 'leadership with tainted credibility' is bound to fail as society will reject it, sooner or later.

Speaking exclusively to IANS, Defence Minister Singh also hit out at the AAP's brass over 'punching and thrashing' of former DCW chief Swati Maliwal inside Arvind Kejriwal's official residence and also its cover-up attempt involving the CM's PA, Bibhav Kumar.

"The AAP has created a crisis of credibility. No other party in Indian politics has created such a trust deficit," he said in reply to questions of repeated denial of bail to former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and also the Supreme Court's stern observations in the liquor excise case.

Slamming the AAP Convenor over his double-speak, the Defence Minister cited the example of



the 2011 anti-corruption movement and said that even social activist Anna Hazare got trapped in their 'web of lies'.

"Anna Hazare didn't want the historic public demonstration to turn into a political formation and also vented his anger once over such attempts. At one instance, they concurred with his thoughts and then went on to float a political party," he said.

Defence Minister Singh further said that the AAP founders kept dabbling with dubious experiments and kept breaking the promises made to Delhiites. "First, the AAP chief said that he won't avail any special treatment like other Chief Ministers and rather promised to live like a common man. He said

he won't live in the CM's residence but went on to build a 'sheeshmahal' for himself," he said and added that they went on to enjoy all the privileges and perks of power, within a few years of entering politics.

Referring to AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal's assault inside the CM's office, he said that it was highly reprehensible and calls for exemplary action.

Taking strong exception to the AAP chief's alleged attempt to cover up his PA Bibhav Kumar's actions, he expressed shock on how the latter accompanied CM Kejriwal to Lucknow, just days after assaulting the woman MP. He further said that just like a family can't run without basic tenets and family values,

Loktantra can't run without "lok and laaj."

"A politician, whose credibility and probity has been questioned repeatedly can't have a long innings in politics. People will reject this person, this is my prediction," said Rajnath Singh in a terse message, aimed at the AAP supremo. Rajnath Singh accused AAP of breaking promises made during the anti-corruption movement and criticized Kejriwal for enjoying the perks of power.

"The AAP has created a crisis of credibility. No other party in Indian politics has created such a trust deficit," he said in reply to questions of repeated denial of bail to former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and also the Supreme Court's stern observations in the liquor excise case.

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Yuvraj Singh builds India's best XI for T20 World Cup campaign

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

India have already named a strong 15-member contingent and four travelling reserves to be led by Rohit Sharma for T20I cricket's showpiece event, which starts on June 1 in West Indies and USA.

India will embark on their quest for T20 World Cup glory next month, a trophy they haven't won since their victory in the inaugural edition in 2007.

One of the members of that winning team was Yuvraj Singh and the stylish left-hander is desperate to see India lift the trophy again. The ambassador of the upcoming T20 World Cup picked out players he would like to see in the Indian team at the tournament next month, starting with the top order which didn't have too many surprises.

"I think Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal should definitely open," Yuvraj said. "Virat (Kohli) has been batting at No.3 and that's his position. And then you get Surya Yadav at four, and then you got a couple of big options."

"I'd like to see a couple of left-hand, right-hand combinations because it is harder to bowl at two combinations all the time," he said.

Sticking to his preference for a left-right batting combination throughout the line-up, Yuvraj has leaned towards Rishabh Pant over Sanju Samson for the vital wicket-keeper's role, an ICC report said.

Both the wicket-keeper batters have been in sensational form in the ongoing season of the Indian Pre-



mier League.

Sanju Samson has not only shouldered the responsibility of captaincy but has also played a pivotal role in the batting order for the Rajasthan Royals this year. He currently ranks seventh in the list of leading run-scorers this season, amassing 504 runs in 14 matches at an impressive strike rate of 156.32 while guiding his team to eight wins and a spot in the playoffs.

On the other hand, Rishabh Pant made a remarkable comeback after recovering from a near-fatal car accident that sidelined him for 14 months. Despite a quiet start to the season, the 26-year-old swiftly shook off the rust to accumulate 446 runs in 13 matches at a strike rate of 155.40.

"I'd probably go for Rishabh," Yuvraj said. "Obviously Sanju is also in great form, but Rishabh is a left-hander, and I believe that Rishabh has massive potential to win games for India, which he has done in the past."

"Lot more in Test cricket, and he's someone who I feel can be a match-winner

on the big stage," he said.

Despite concerns surrounding the form of vice-captain Hardik Pandya, who has struggled to find his batting rhythm at the IPL, Yuvraj remains optimistic about the all-rounder's impact at the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Although Pandya has shown signs of regaining his bowling form in the IPL, his batting performances have been below par, having scored only 216 runs in 14 matches. The slump follows his return from a prolonged injury layoff dating back to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

However, Yuvraj stands firmly behind Pandya, expressing confidence that the all-rounder will deliver something extraordinary at the tournament.

"Well, the good thing is that the selection has been made. (Selectors see) how players have performed at international cricket and then they look at IPL form. Just not the IPL form," Yuvraj noted.

"Because if you look at the IPL form, Hardik's not done well. Looking at his background for India,

what he's done for India, it is important that he's in the squad," he said.

"I think his bowling is going to be important, and his fitness is going to be important. And I think he might do something really special in this World Cup," Yuvraj said. Prior to India's squad selection, Yuvraj spoke with the ICC during the announcement of his role as the ambassador for the T20 World Cup.

At the time, the former two-time World Cup winner had tipped Shivam Dube to secure a spot in the squad after impressive performances in the IPL.

Dube scored 396 runs in 14 matches for the Chennai Super Kings while striking at 162.29. Though initially featuring only as a batter, he bowled his right-arm medium pace against Punjab Kings, giving India another bowling option at the T20 World Cup.

"I think with Shivam Dube, the last T20 series he played for India, I think he did well. And he's been very consistent in the IPL as well," Yuvraj noted. "I just felt the kind of form he's in, it was important for him to be in the squad. I really think he can make a huge difference in the middle order or the lower middle order, so it's good to see him in the Indian T20 squad."

"It was hard to, if you look at the guys, it was a hard squad to make, and unfortunately couple of really guys missed out but that's just the nature of selecting the World Cup squad I guess," he said. Rinku Singh was the casualty in this case, having been relegated to the reserve list at the expense

Enthusiastic footballers in Jammu "sans" proper coaching, training, says Ex-Indian team captain



VISHAL BHARTI
JAMMU, MAY 22

Asserting that the footballers in Jammu are very enthusiastic, former Indian team captain Tarun Roy said that coaching and training of these footballers is not "upto the mark" for representing the pro platforms.

Presently Technical Director at Udaipur (Rajasthan) based (Hindustan) Zinc Football Academy Roy was in town for a day to conduct a selection camp in Under-17 category for the academy.

Speaking exclusively to UNI, Roy said, "base talent is fine but actually what we are looking for, was not visible on ground."

"Young footballers are full of enthusiasm but they "lack" proper coaching and training and if channeled under experts, these lads can be transformed," Roy said as per the observations he made during a day-long special camp.

Ex-Indian Footballer and Ex-India Senior Women's Team Coach, expert

coach at Sports Authority of Gujarat (AFC A Licence), Roy further shared, "after a tough day, two boys were selected as probable in U-17 age group but they have to fight in the final trials to make it into the 'Zinc Football Academy' at Udaipur in June after the completion of selection trials underway in some other states."

"Making into the academy is like a 'hard nut to crack' because many qualities, several tests especially the fitness (priority), technical expertise are among the few requisites that are mandatory to meet," Roy mentioned.

He also revealed that in the junior category, participation was much higher but not even a single footballer was impressive, adding, "the footballers were not physically fit and "lacked" the professional training."

"And during interactions, I also found many of them had a late night sleep due to mobile use, which is not a healthy sign for any player eyeing to become a professional,"

suggested the ace footballer.

"Infrastructure alone does not work unless the footballers are not augmented with fitness and techniques loaded training, which I found missing in most of them," he expressed. Roy however, said that final selection for the academy is to be made in June, adding, "we could not go to Srinagar due to ongoing elections but during the camp in Jammu, focus was laid on fitness, technical expertise and other aspects."

Sharing a brief on Zinc Football Academy, he said that the residential scheme provides all facilities to footballers free of cost including academics in CBSE School, seven time meal a day, kits, world class infrastructure and much more including Rs 2 lakh insurance cover by Vedanta and Hindustan Zinc, all under one roof just to transform these athletes into professionals.

"As a Technical Director in the academy, I have to observe everything very

minutely and there is no scope of any 'easy going' in that matter," said Roy.

He however, attributed the contribution of 'Zinc Football Academy' in producing International Level footballers in various age groups, who have represented several clubs, leagues not only within the country but globally.

On the changing scenario in football sport in India, Roy expressed, "Football in India has witnessed a drastic improvement and our target is 2034-to qualify for the World Cup for which double efforts are to be made by all the stakeholders."

"Young brigade is needed to be introduced to the game because updated rules, upgraded diet plans, new techniques, terminology, language are coming up after several intervals and unless they will not be made aware, trained or skilled accordingly, we will not be able to compete at different levels and even think of qualifying for the World Cup in 2034," expert Roy opined.

Transport Secretary reviews functioning of Motor Vehicles Department

JINews SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Secretary, Transport Department, Neeraj Kumar, today chaired a review meeting regarding functioning of Motor Vehicles Department at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Rajendra Singh Tara, Transport Commissioner J&K, Rajeshwar Singh Charak, Additional Secretary Transport Department, Maqsood Zamaan, DIG Traffic, Vinay Samotra, Joint Transport Commissioner J&K, Paramvir Singh, Additional Secretary Road Safety Council besides RTOs and ARTOs.

The Transport Commissioner gave a brief presentation on e-challenging, establishment of RTDCs/DTCs and ICC, action against traffic violators, RSVF, VLTP, printing of Driving Licenses and other allied matters.

Secretary emphasised the need for evolving a robust mechanism to ensure prompt delivery of driving licenses to the general public. He said that efforts are being made to establish ITDR and ICC in Kashmir Division, for which MD JKRTC has already been directed to get these facilities established at Central workshop Pampore.

He also asked for raising the Driving Training Centres (DTC's) in far flung districts both in Jammu and Kashmir division so that the facility is made available to the desirous applicants at their door step.

While discussing the J&K transport subsidy scheme, the Secretary asked the Transport Commissioner to ensure wide publicity of the scheme to benefit maximum eligible applicants towards this important initiative of the Government.

Regarding traffic violations, it was intimated by SSP traffic that MVD and traffic police need to work together in order to curb

this menace.

The Secretary issued on-spot instructions for intensifying road checking in all districts. He asked the officers to ensure that the offenders are booked as per provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act.

He asked the RTOs/ARTOs to make road checking a routine feature with focus on speed limit devices, overloading, overcharging of passenger fare and route violations. He also issued instructions for improving the public delivery system in order to provide services to the public as per fixed timeline bringing added efficiency in the system.

JaKeGA organizes training, handholding session on procurement, installation of Digital Signature Certificate

JINews SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

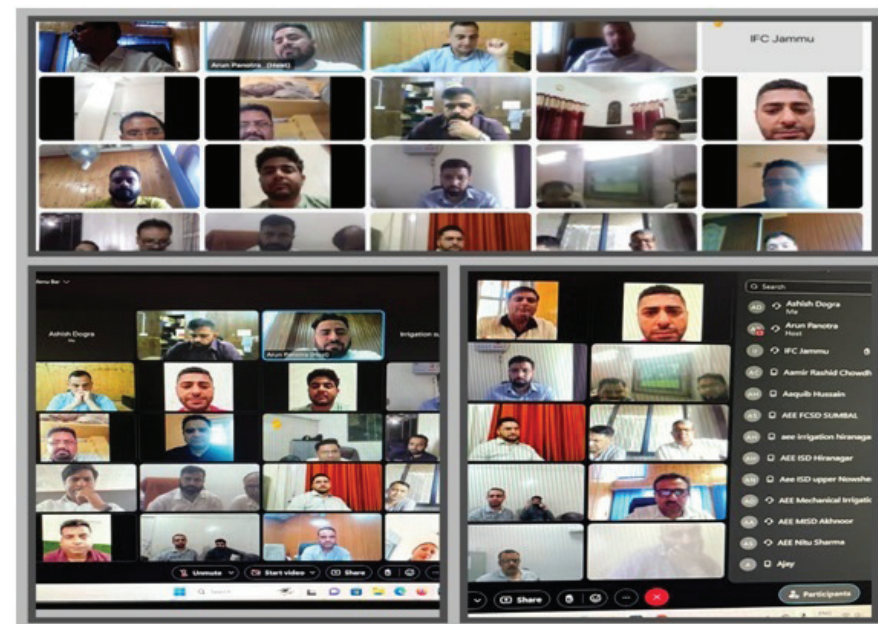
J&K e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA) today organized training cum handholding session on procurement and installation of Digital Signature Certificate for nodal officers of government departments.

The session aimed at providing assistance for installation of Digital Signature Certificate for e-Office application so that necessary compliance of use of this technology is ensured by the concerned departments.

The team of JaKeGA officials including Irfan Ahmed, Project Manager JaKeGA, Naveed Iqbal, Manager IT and Arun Panotra, Analyst IT conducted the training and handholding session which was attended by hundreds of officers and officials of all departments.

A thorough understanding of Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and its installation, integration and usage was given.

Pertinently, DSC is a



secure digital key that is issued by the Certifying Authorities (CA) for the purpose of validating and certifying the identity of the person holding this certificate. Digital Signatures make use of the public key encryptions to create the signatures.

A DSC contains information about the user's name, pin code, country, email address, date of issuance of certificate

and name of the certifying authority. It is used to sign electronic documents, emails, and other digitally transmitted documents. It enhances security using encryption technology. DSCs are predominantly utilized to digitally sign online documents, securely authenticate the signature, and validate the signed copy.

During the training session, Information

Technology experts from JaKeGA explained the departmental nodal officers about the process of procurement and installation of Digital Signature Certificate for eOffice application besides addressing their technical queries. This training is a step forward towards securing the data and application and thereby improving the cyber security posture.

Forest Department taking multiple steps to conserve Biodiversity of J&K: PCCF

JINews SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

In order to conserve the biological diversity for environmental security and economic prosperity of the people of J&K, the J&K Forest Department has initiated various measures across the UT of J&K to protect the natural ecosystem like Forest, Wetlands, Alpine pastures, etc. This was stated by Roshan Jaggi, PCCF- HoFF and Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council while addressing a gathering of different stakeholders viz. frontline staff of Forest, Wildlife and other wings, students from different colleges and schools, representatives of NGOs, Scholars and faculty members of SKUAST- Kashmir and local people.

The programme was organized at world famous Dachigam National Park, famous for the Kashmir Stag (Hangul) which is found exclusively in this



endemic area.

The PCCF said the Department has involved PRIs, ULBs, local people, students, Army and Para military forces besides other sections of the civil society in GreenJ&K Drive.

He informed that 180 lakh plants were planted inside the forest as well as on vacant lands during last financial year. Department has constituted Biodiversity Management Committees Panchayat-wise to conserve medicinal plants, protect forests, promote

afforestation activities, and conserve the water resources like wetlands, he added.

Campaigns like 'Plastic Free Forest', 'Paid Lagao Beti Ke Naam', 'Van Se Jal, Jal Se Jeewn' and 'Mission Life' have been taken up across all districts of UT of J&K to protect the natural resources, conserve water bodies and create awareness on issues of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

Efforts have yielded the results in the form of

increase in ToF, and has also increased the participation of people in nature based tourism.

The emphasis of the Department is to empower the local communities to create forest based livelihoods and ensure peoples participation in management of the forests, the PCCF said.

It is worth mentioning here that J&K has forest cover over 54% of the geographical area with 42 types of forests which is highest in the country.

2 day medical camp by LSA concludes at Central Jail Srinagar; 959 inmates examined, treated

JINews SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

The two day medical camp organized by the J&K Legal Services Authority for the inmates of Central Jail, Srinagar, concluded here today.

The camp was organised under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) and leadership of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Senior-most Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh

(Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority) in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, Department of Prisons, J&K, Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, and the Department of Health & Medical Education, Kashmiri.

The medical camp, aimed at providing comprehensive medical care to the jail inmates, featured specialist doctors from various medical fields, including General Medicine, Surgery, Ophthalmology, Dermatology,

Orthopaedics, Psychiatry, Cardiology, Dental & Oral Medicine, Gynaecology and ENT.

Talking to media persons, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, said that during the two days' camp, 21 doctors of various specialities examined 959 inmates and conducted 3,332 different investigations. Besides, Drug De-addiction and NCD Counselling was given to 171 inmates.

The two day camp was an exemplary effort in enhancing health-

care facilities for the jail inmates, demonstrating the resolve and commitment of J&K Legal Services Authority towards welfare of all sections of the society particularly those facing incarceration.

Inspection of pharmaceutical establishments held to ensure compliance with regulatory directives at Anantnag

JINews SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MAY 22

In an ongoing effort to enhance security and streamline operations in pharmaceutical establishments, District Anantnag conducted a comprehensive inspection today, covering various retail and wholesale outlets in Mattan, KP Road, and Qazigund areas.

Led by District Coordination Officers (DCOs), over 30 inspections were

carried out to ensure compliance with regulatory directives.

During the inspections, it was found that the majority of establishments had taken significant steps towards compliance. Notably, more than 75% of the firms had successfully implemented computerized billing systems and installed CCTV cameras as per the directives laid out. These measures are crucial for enhancing transparency,

accountability, and security within the pharmaceutical sector.

However, it was observed that one retail firm, Shah Medical Store Mattan had failed to adhere to the directives regarding the installation of CCTV cameras and computerized billing systems. As a result, the operation of Shah Medical Store Mattan has been temporarily suspended until compliance is achieved.

Counting of Votes: RO Srinagar PC inspects Counting Centres at SKICC-Centaur

JINews SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Ahead of Counting of Votes for Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat, the Returning Officer (RO) O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited SKICC-Centaur to take on site assessment of the arrangements being put in place for upcoming Vote Counting on June 4.

SP East, Mubashir Bukhari; Nodal Officer MCC, Ilyas Ahmad; Nodal Officer, MCMC, Ahsan ul Haq Chisti; Nodal Officer ETPBS, Mujtaba Ahmad Bandy; Deputy District Election Officer Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz ul Aziz and other concerned were present on the occasion.

During the visit, the Returning Officer along with the concerned Officer took a thorough inspection of the preparations with regard to the arrange-



ments in and around the counting centres for a smooth and well organized counting process.

He reviewed the surveillance and security measures, seating arrangements, transporting of EVMs and the technical setup at the counting halls being made to ensure transparency, accuracy and the timely announcement of counting results.

While interacting with the Officers at the venue, the RO stressed on ensuring seamless arrangements and facilities in place for counting centres, strong rooms, CCTV links and training of manpower for upholding the sanctity and integrity of the democratic ethos.

The RO also said that the counting process will be done as per ECI guide-

lines under video recording and except the observer and Returning Officer, no one will be allowed to take mobile phones inside the counting room.

The EVMs are presently kept under three-layer security cordon in strong rooms at SKICC-Centaur, after the voting process was completed on May 13, 2024 for O2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

Defeat Dengue

"Each one can do one action for everyone"

Everyone besides personal protection can do a little action to protect community

Examples

- filling a pit, which could stagnate water and breed mosquitoes,
- Spread awareness by word of mouth,
- Give a lecture in a school regarding dengue awareness,
- Report a drinking water pipe leak stagnating water, to PHE by sharing it's video
- Report a Drain block, stagnating water to Municipal Corporation by sharing it's video

+Add your innovation+

DIP/J-656/24
Date: 22-5-24

"Kindly do one action and add one innovation"

"Together we can do it"
ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY:
STATE PROGRAMME OFFICER/STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K,
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU

