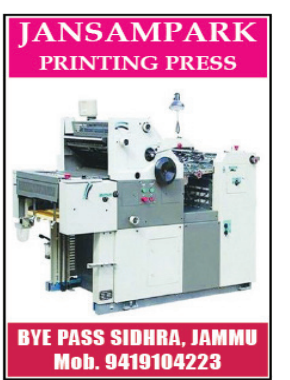


# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## Lok Sabha Elections 2024 Phase VI

### Over 18.36 lakh voters to decide fate of 20 candidates in Anantnag- Rajouri PC

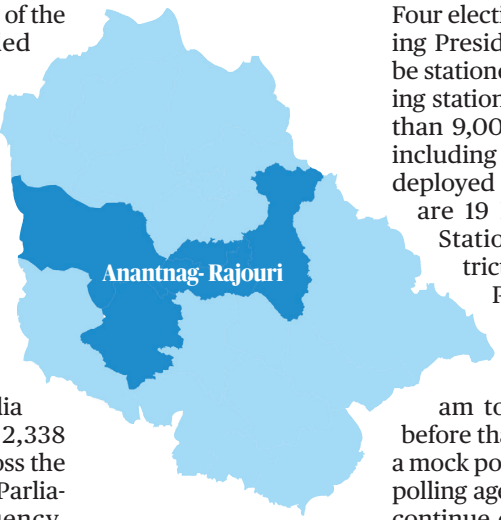
JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 23

The fate of 20 candidates will be decided by over 18.36 lakh voters of 03 Anantnag- Rajouri Lok Sabha seat in the last phase of Lok Sabha elections for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to be held on May 25.

According to the figures provided by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, there are 18,36,576 voters enrolled in 5 districts of Kulgam, Anantnag, Poonch, Shopian (36-Zain-

anpora) and Rajouri of the PC, which included 9,33,647 male and 9,02,902 female voters and 27 third gender voters. Around 17,967 persons with disability and 540 persons above the age of 100 years will cast their ballots in the PC.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has set up 2,338 polling stations across the Anantnag- Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency.



Four election staff, including Presiding Officer will be stationed in every polling station. In total, more than 9,000 polling staff, including reserve will be deployed on duty. There are 19 Border Polling Stations in the districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

The polling will be held from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm and before that there shall be a mock poll in presence of polling agents. Voting will continue even after 6.00

pm, if the voters queue is still there in the Polling Station premises.

Every polling station will be provided with Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) like Drinking Water, Electricity, Toilet, Ramp, Furniture, Verandah/Shed etc. Wheelchairs shall also be provided. The Ballot Units will also have a list of contesting candidates in brail script. Wherever required, there shall be separate queues for the senior citizens and specially abled persons

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### If Congress has its way, those who say 'Ram Ram' will be arrested: PM Modi

AGENCIES  
MAHENDRAGARH (HARYANA), MAY 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday claimed that if the Congress has its way, it will arrest everyone who says "Ram Ram", and accused the party of dividing India and creating two Muslim nations to appease its vote bank.

Hours before campaigning for the sixth round of the seven-phase Lok Sabha polls came to an end, Modi at a rally in



Haryana's Mahendragarh also claimed that the INDIA bloc is talking about

having five PMs over the next five years.

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### Elaborate security arrangements in place in Rajouri, Poonch ahead of polling

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

Multi-layer security has been put in place in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, particularly along the Line of Control (LoC), part of the Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency that goes to polls on May 25.

These measures include increased deployment of security personnel, area dominations in hill regions, additional checkpoints and round-the-clock monitoring in the region and at vital installations, officials said on Thursday.



Several additional companies of security personnel have been deployed, reinforcing a security setup managed by Army, police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Border Security Force (BSF), they said.

Troops have been put on alert along the LoC, and security and contingency plans have been put in place for all border polling stations.

Top civilian and security officials, including Director General of Police

(DGP) R R Swain, General Officer Commanding of 16 Corps, Additional DGPs, and Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar recently visited the twin border districts to review the security measures.

Polling in Anantnag was earlier scheduled for May 7 but was deferred to May 25 due to adverse weather conditions following requests from several parties, including BJP, Apni Party and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP).

The Anantnag-Rajouri constituency was reconfigured by the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

### Annual Shri Machail Mata Yatra in Kishtwar likely from July 25

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

An annual pilgrimage to Shri Machail Mata situated in the hills of Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir is likely to begin from July 25.

The yatra of Shri Machail Mata, according to official sources, is expected to start from July 25 and conclude in the first week of September.

"Though official announcement for the pilgrimage is yet to be made by the administration but the pilgrims have started visiting the temple to pay obeisance," they said.



The sources also said that the administration have started making all the arrangements and preparations for the yatra. Meanwhile Jammu

Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar had also reviewed the arrangements for Shri Machail Mata Yatra.

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### Father-Son duo crushed to death by truck in Kathua

JNEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA/JAMMU, MAY 23

A man and his son were killed when a truck hit them in here on Thursday, officials said.

Residents of the Korepunnu village blocked the border road and held a protest against the duo's death.

The duo were on their way to their house at the Nagari village, when a fast-driven truck crushed them to death, they said. The villagers demanded strict action against the erring driver.

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### Education Dept advises schools to avoid assemblies in afternoon

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

The Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department has advised educational institutes to avoid assemblies in the afternoon to prevent heat related illnesses.

The department in a guideline to prevent heat-related illness (HRI) asked the schools to avoid assembling in the afternoon.

"Ensure adequate availability of drinking water and water

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

### BJP has already crossed 310-mark, Congress struggling to get 40: Amit Shah

AGENCIES  
SIDDHARTHANAGAR/SANT KABIR NAGAR (UP), MAY 23

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday claimed that in the first five rounds of polling, "BJP has crossed 310" and that the Congress is "not even getting 40 seats" this time.

"INDI alliance has been wiped out in the first five phases. I am telling you, this time Congress is not even getting 40 seats and Akhilesh Yadav will not even get four seats," said Shah, addressing a poll meeting in Siddharthnagar in support of Domariya-



ganj BJP candidate Jagdambika Pal.

Follow the Daily Excelsior channel on WhatsApp In another rally in Sant Kabir Nagar, Shah named several leaders from the

opposition parties and accused them of nepotism.

"Lalu Prasad Yadav wants to make his son the chief minister, Uddhav Thackeray wants to make

his son the chief minister, Sharad Pawar wants to make his daughter the chief minister, Stalin wants to make his son the chief minister, Mamata Banerjee wants to make her nephew the chief minister and Sonia Gandhi wants to make her son Rahul Gandhi the prime minister," he said, adding, someone who works for his family is not going to work for a constituency.

Shah asserted that the PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) is a part of India and the BJP will take it back.

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### Widening work on Thathri-Kishtwar stretch of NHW going on at snail's pace

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23 (KNO)

Commuting on Thathri to Kishtwar stretch of Batote-Kishtwar national highway has become a nightmare as the widening work is going at snail's pace and construction agencies don't have much machinery to speed up the work.

People are kept waiting in heat for hours together on the highway in the name of clearing the debris.

According to the news agency, for the past three years, the widening work from Khellani in Doda district to Kishtwar stretch of

Batote-Kishtwar national highway is under progress and commuters have been facing a tough time to complete their journey.

People have to dodge the hanging stones, frequent landslides and rough surface while travelling on this highway but the construction agency hasn't sped up the work to make it easy for the commuters. The absence of proper machinery to clear the debris from the ground and clear the traffic without wasting much time of people have added to the misery of the people.

"On Tuesday I was trav-

elling towards Kishtwar to organize a competition in a higher secondary school and when we crossed the Kandni area, our vehicle along with dozens of other vehicles were stopped by the construction agency around 10.45 am. One earth moving machinery with a breaker was breaking stone on the hill side. It took the machine around 20 to 25 minutes to break the stone and after that clearing the debris with the same machine without having proper equipment took around an hour. People were made to wait for more than 90

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

### Publishing polling booth-wise data will "vitiate" electoral space, create "chaos": EC

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

The Election Commission has opposed in the Supreme Court an NGO's demand to upload polling station-wise voter turnout data on its website within 48 hours of the conclusion of polling for each phase of the Lok Sabha elections, contending it will "vitiate" the electoral space and cause "chaos" in the poll machinery in the midst of the general elections.

A vacation bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma is scheduled to hear the plea of NGO 'Association

for Democratic Reforms', which has also sought direction to the poll panel that scanned legible copies of Form 17C Part-I (Account of Votes Recorded) of all polling stations be uploaded immediately after the polls.

In its counter affidavit, the poll panel said there is no legal mandate to provide Form 17C to any person other than the candidate or his agent.

It said that public posting of Form 17C - which gives the number of votes polled in a polling station - is not provided in the statutory framework and could lead to mischief and



vitiation of the entire electoral space as it increases the possibility of the images being morphed.

"The Petitioner is trying to create an entitlement when none exists in the law by way of filing an application in the middle of the election period. It is respectfully reiterated that for credible multiple

practical reasons, the result as per the statutory mandate, is declared on the basis of the data contained in Form 17C at the time as prescribed under the statutory rule regime in existence," it said.

It further said that "indiscriminate disclosure" of polling station-wise voter turnout data and posting it on a website will cause chaos in the election machinery which is already in motion for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

The EC also dismissed as false and misleading the allegation that there

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

### Women stop Vande Bharat train in Jammu to protest against water crisis

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

Women stopped the Vande Bharat train on Thursday by staging a protest at a railway station here against water crisis compounded by heatwave conditions.

The demonstrators threatened to block all incoming and outgoing trains if the water crisis in their colony was not addressed urgently.

Scores of women and some children from the Jammu East Colony marched to the Jammu railway station to protest against the administra-



tion's alleged failure to ensure a regular water supply.

The protesters, some of them carrying buckets, stopped the Vande Bharat train at the station for a

brief period before the police and railway authorities intervened.

"There has been no regular water supply to our colony for the past four months. We have

approached the authorities, but nothing has been done. We have to fetch water from long distances even for cooking and drinking," said Sakshi, a protester.

Another protester claimed that life has become "unbearable" in the hot weather conditions.

Police and authorities assured the protesters they would address the water supply issue in their colony. "We will ensure that your demand for water supply is addressed soon," a police official told them.

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**Group of 14 Pilgrims leave for Hajj from Udhampur**

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, MAY 23

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Joginder Singh Jasrotia today flagged off a group of 14 Haj pilgrims here from DC Office Complex.

While interacting with the pilgrims, the ADC congratulated them for getting the opportunity to perform holy Hajj. He also wished them safe and secure pilgrimage and appealed to them to pray for peace and prosperity of the UT as well as District Udhampur.

The group of pilgrims left in one Bus to Srinagar from where they will take an international flight to Saudi Arabia.

**Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar conducts surprise inspection of Schools in Dool Cluster of Zone Nagseni**

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MAY 23

To ensure the smooth functioning and punctuality of educational institutions, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav conducted an unannounced inspection of schools in the Cluster Dool of Zone Nagseni, here the other day.

The inspection included visits to Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Dool and the Middle School (MS) Malikpora Dool.

Accompanied by Deputy Chief Education Officer, Masood Hussain Qazi, and other officials from the Chief Education Office, the Deputy Commissioner's visit aimed to assess both the functional aspects and the punctuality of the educational staff.

Additionally, the DC also reviewed the educa-



tional infrastructure in these institutions.

During the visit, Dr. Devansh Yadav highlighted the importance of the biometric attendance system, specifically the JK Attendance system, to ensure accuracy and reliability in tracking attendance.

He issued explicit instructions to teachers regarding the significance of punctuality and delivering quality education by maintaining a conducive learning environment.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the functioning of the STEM

Labs at GHSS Dool. He stressed the importance of utilizing these labs judiciously to empower science students, enhancing their knowledge and scientific aptitude besides focusing on strengthening the profound utilisation of the Library by students.

Additionally, he reviewed the infrastructure and PM POSHAN initiatives, emphasizing the need for cleanliness and hygiene in the kitchen sheds where the mid-day meals are prepared.

During the inspection at MS Malikpora, the DC took note of poor sanitation

and hygiene in the school and the use of infrastructure was unsatisfactory.

Show cause notice was served to erring staff and the concerned DDO was asked to stop the salary till pending enquiry.

HOI of MS Malikpora was directed to operationalise toilets and use space available for classes in efficient manner.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the critical need to adhere to sanitation protocols in schools to safeguard the health and hygiene of students.

He also impressed upon the staff to make concerted efforts to bridge educational gaps and ensure the smooth implementation of NEP 2020 in letter and spirit.

In his interaction with the staff, Dr. Devansh Yadav provided insightful directives to the Heads of

Institutions (HOIs) regarding the ongoing educational session. He focused on the sustainable improvement of education indicators to achieve excellence. Dr. Yadav stressed the need for an extracurricular activities calendar for the ongoing session, highlighting its importance for holistic student development.

DC Kishtwar also emphasized the significance of regular Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs), BaLA (Building as Learning Aid) paintings, and the strengthening of School Management Committees (SMCs) as per the guidelines of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

He reiterated the importance of holistic education, which encompasses both academic and extracurricular activities, for the overall development of students.

**Indian Army and Flag foundation of India unveils new iconic Flag Mast at Kaman Post**



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KAMAN POST/URI, MAY 23

The Indian Army and Flag Foundation of India proudly dedicate a 108ft High Mast National Flag to the citizens of Uri, symbolising national pride and unity at the Line of Control. This momentous event took place on 23 May 2024, at Kaman Post, Uri, and was graced by officials from Indian Army, Civil administration, members of the Foundation, community leaders, school children

and tourists. The flag mast, standing tall at 108 ft, is a testament to India's rich heritage and the enduring spirit of its people. This new addition to the impressive KAMAN POST not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of the area but also is a testimony to sacrosanct values and ideals that the Indian tricolour represents.

The overwhelming participation by citizens reinforces the positive propagation and actualisation of ethos vital for nation-building.

**Lok Sabha Elections-2024: DEO Rajouri reviews preparations for Polling Day**



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MAY 23

District Election Officer Rajouri Om Prakash Bhagat today chaired a meeting with Zonal and Sector Officers to discuss and strategize the preparations for the Lok Sabha Election-2024 Polling scheduled on May 25 in Rajouri-Anantnag Parliamentary Constituency.

The meeting emphasized the importance of ensuring a smooth, fair and transparent electoral process. The sector and zonal officers were acquainted with their role and responsibilities during pre-polling, polling day and after polling.

On the day of polling, sectoral officers were

tasked with executing a myriad of duties aimed at facilitating a seamless voting process. The responsibilities include conducting frequent inspections of polling stations, monitoring the presence of security forces, supervising the activities of polling agents and promptly addressing any issues or complaints that may arise during the voting process.

Additionally, officers were entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the proper handling and sealing of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) at the conclusion of polling.

District Election Officer Om Prakash Bhagat reiterated the importance of performing these duties

with utmost dedication and diligence to uphold the integrity of the electoral process and ensure the democratic rights of citizens are safeguarded. He emphasized the critical role of each officer in fostering a conducive environment for free and fair elections.

Meanwhile, the final randomization of polling parties was done by DEO Rajouri in presence of General Observer this morning.

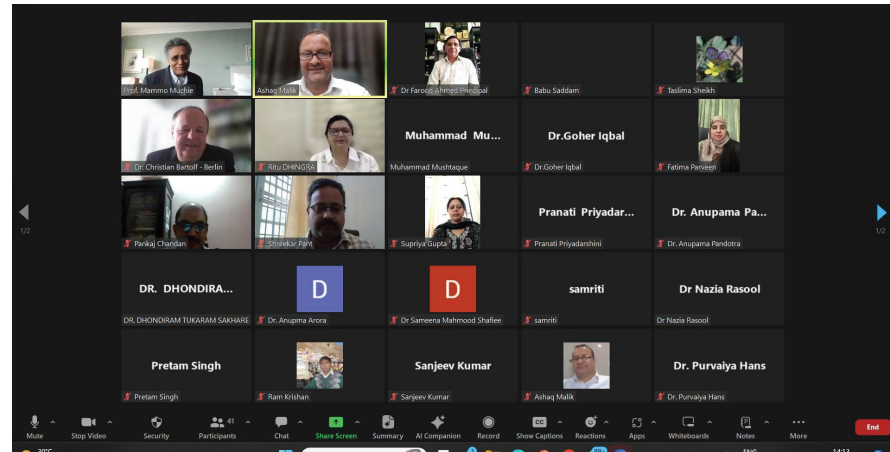
Among the others, Commandants of IR and Armed Police, ASP Musadiq Majid Basu, ACR, Mohammad Jhangir Khan; Dy DEO, Shakeel Mir and other sectoral and zonal officers attended the meeting.

**GDC Thannamandi celebrates International Day for Biological diversity as part of World's First Species Congress**

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
THANNAMANDI, MAY 23

The Department of Botany in collaboration with Department of Zoology and Environmental Sciences under the aegis of IQAC of GDC Thannamandi celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) on this year's theme "Be part of the Plan" as third and concluding satellite event of World's First Species Congress under Viksit Bharat@47 Sankalp here on Wednesday.

On this occasion a web conference on the theme "Be part of the plan" organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of College wherein Prof. Mammo Muchie, Research Professor, Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa was Chief Guest whereas Dr. Christian Bartolf, President, Gandhi Information Centre, Berlin, Germany and Dr. Ritu Dhingra, Regional Vice Chair, East and Southern Asia- IUCN CEESP (International Union for Conservation of Nature-Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy) were Guest of Honour and Special Guest respectively. Dr. Ashaq Malik, IQAC Coordinator and Head, Department of Botany, was convener/moderator whereas Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, Head, Department of Zoology and Dr. Junaid Ahmed,



Head, Department of Environmental Sciences of College were organizing secretaries of the conference.

In his comprehensive welcome address, Prof. Farooq Ahmed underlined the theme "Be Part of the Plan" of IDB that calls on all stakeholders - governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, lawmakers, businesses, and individuals to showcase their efforts in supporting the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan. Its matter of honour for us that GDC Thannamandi became part of the plan by co-hosting First World Species Congress primarily hosted by Reverse the Red and supported by IUCN, he said.

Prof. Mammo Muchie chaired the plenary session wherein Dr. Om Katel, College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan, Dr. Ritu Dhingra,

IUCN CEESP Regional Vice Chair East and Southern Asia, Dr. Christian Bartolf, President, Gandhi Information Centre, Berlin, Germany and Taslima Sheikh, Citizen Science Expert Inspire Foundation Trust, Lucknow, India delivered plenary lectures on various aspects pertaining to biodiversity conservation. Mehtab Khan, a student of B.Sc 4th Semester in College also gave a presentation on local flora of region and need for its conservation.

The plenary session followed by panel discussion chaired by Dr. Christian Bartolf in Which Dr. Pankaj Chandan, Senior Nature Conservation Scientist and Dr. Shreekar Pant, Head Centre for Biodiversity Studies, BGSB University Rajouri and other panelists deliberated upon the awareness and action components of biodiversity conservation especially at local

level. They answered the queries raised by young researchers and activists in biodiversity conservation. Dr. Abdul Haque, Dr. Gohar Iqbal, Prof. Fatima Parveen, Dr. Ather Aziz Raina, Prof. Rumy Dar and Dr. Nagina Kouser were rapporteurs whereas Prof. Supriya Gupta provided technical support.

It is pertinent to mention GDC Thannamandi has co-hosted World's first Species Congress, a fully 24-hour fully virtual event hosted by Reverse the Red and Supported by IUCN between May 15-16 in more than 9,700 attendees from over 190 countries and various organizations collectively pledged to help reverse declines of over 3,750 species including 6 species of Jammu and Kashmir by GDC Thannamandi by 2030. Some 90 satellite events across globe including 9 in India and GDC Thannamandi hosted one of two events

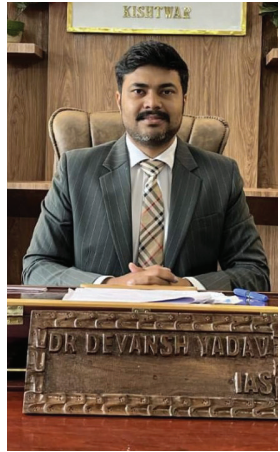
in Jammu & Kashmir and only educational institution in the UT. The College shared a live stream of World Species Congress among staff and students and on social media as its first session. The College also took pledge to reverse the risk of extinction of 6 endangered species of Jammu and Kashmir viz. Markhor (Capra falconeri), Western Tragopan (Tragopan melanocephalus), Cheer Pheasant (Catreus wallichii), Atis (Aconitum heterophyllum), Himalayan Yew (Taxus walichiana) and ban-kakri (Podophyllum hexandrum) by 2030. On May 17 which is observed as World Endangered Species Day, the College hosted the 2nd event of series in the form of an online national webinar on the theme celebrate saving species.

Earlier, Dr. Ashaq Malik, introduced the audience about the programme and conducted the proceedings whereas Dr. Shiraz Ahmed presented the formal vote of thanks. The other organizing committee members include Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Prof. Asif Aijaz Lone, Rakesh Puri, Dr. Nazal Ul Islam Wani, Prof. Altaf Hussain, Dr. Gulshan Bhat, Anuj Bali, Prof. Rizwana, Dr. Sarfaraz Mirza, Dr. Arshad Khan, Dr. Salim Javaid, Dr. Nisar Bhat, Dr. Mohd Javaid, Dr. Nusrat Farooq, Dr. Wahid Ahmed Qazi and Farid Ahmed.

**DC Kishtwar launches initiatives to boost education, healthcare, tourism, economy**

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAY 23

In an interview with Local News Agency, Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS), detailed several groundbreaking initiatives aimed at enhancing education, healthcare, tourism, and the overall economy of Kishtwar.



Dr. Yadav introduced "Hello Kishtwar," a new initiative designed to listen to and address the grievances of Kishtwar's residents. This platform aims to foster direct communication between the administration and the public, ensuring that community concerns are swiftly addressed.

The administration's efforts in education, particularly the "Back to School" initiative aimed at reintegrating dropout students, has earned Dr. Yadav the prestigious SKOCH Award. This program ensures that students who had left school are brought back into the education system to receive quality education, significantly improving their future prospects.

Healthcare services are being extended to the remotest parts of Kishtwar through the "Doctor Apke Gaun" initiative. This program aims to provide essential medical services to far-flung areas, ensuring that all residents have access to necessary healthcare.

To stimulate tourism, the administration is organizing the Warwan and Sinthantop festivals. In a move to boost the local economy, tenders for these festivals will now be awarded to local contractors, generating jobs and supporting local businesses.

Highlighting infrastructure improvements, Dr. Yadav announced that

Kishtwar residents now benefit from 18 hours of electricity daily. This significant development enhances the quality of life and supports economic activities in the region.

Kishtwar is making strides in sports with the construction of a new stadium and a state-of-the-art futsal court with international standards at GDC Kishtwar. These facilities aim to nurture local talent and provide venues for community engagement and physical fitness.

The administration is also focusing on entertainment and cultural development by launching the "Kishtwar Idol" singing talent hunt competition, modeled after Indian Idol. Additionally, a musical club is being established where enthusiasts can learn and practice music, fostering local talent.

These comprehensive initiatives by Dr. Devansh Yadav and the Kishtwar administration mark a significant leap towards the holistic development of the region, promising a brighter future for its residents.

**Creative activities organised at Govt High School Kahara Bhalessa**

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAY 23

Gujarat based trust Vishwagram volunteers reached Government High School Kahara and organised creative activities, the other day.

The Trust Volunteers were welcomed by Headmaster Safder Ali and other Staff members. The team was accompanied by ZICC, Nighat Naz.

The members of Vishwagram Trust made the day fruitful and meaningful by engaging students in different activities, especially in the skill of Art and Craft. School students participated with a warm heart and got the chance to learn different skills, touching the mandate of New Education Policy, 2020.

The workshop also



benefited Teaching staff, acquainting them with how to warm up and engage class for result

oriented learning. At the end, Headmaster of the Institution thanked the team mem-

bers of Vishwagram Trust, District Development Commissioner Harvinder Singh and

Chief Education Officer Parkash Lal Thapa for organising such a wonderful workshop.

## Varied educational activities held at LHS Bhalla in collaboration with Vishwagram Club

JINews SERVICE  
DODA, MAY 23

Different educational Activities were today conducted at LHS Bhalla (Zone Bhalla) in collaboration with "Vishwagram Trust Gujarat" under the guidance of District Development Commissioner Harvinder Singh and Chief Education Officer Parkash Lal Thapa.

Eight team members of Vishwagram Trust visited the said institution. The volunteers of Vishwagram trust Miss Mansi Jagdish Ahir, Jagdish N Ahir, Noval Bhavasar, Ilyas Mansuri, Khatoun Bhen Mansori, Akshayia Ramakrishnan, Hardik Prajapati and Jyoti were part of the team.

The activities like origami, card making, painting art, singing, Charkha, games and some science activities were conducted for the benefit of students.

More than one hundred twenty students participated in today's program. The students were excited and showed keen interest during the activities.

The said program was



coordinated by Vinkal sharma (ZICC Bhalla) and Ankita Kotwal (Cultural incharge GHSS Dradhu).

The HOI and staff of LHS Bhalla provided all possible support and cooperation for successful completion of the event.

All students and staff of LHS Bhalla thanked Dis-

trict Development Commissioner Doda and Chief Education Officer Doda for providing such opportunities. As they believe such programs are very important for the overall development of the child. It will help them enhance their critical thinking, creativity, cognitive skills etc.

## Indian Army and Dr. Bukhari's Cocoon Artistry Initiative Collaborate to Empower Youth in Rajouri District

JINews SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MAY 23



In a significant endeavor to empower the youth of Rajouri District, the Indian Army joined hands with Dr. Rubia Bukhari's Cocoon Artistry Initiative to organize a transformative workshop on sericulture and cocoon artistry.

The event took place on 18 May 2024, at village Chamba in Rajouri district, marking a pivotal moment in the efforts to uplift communities through skill development and entrepreneurship.

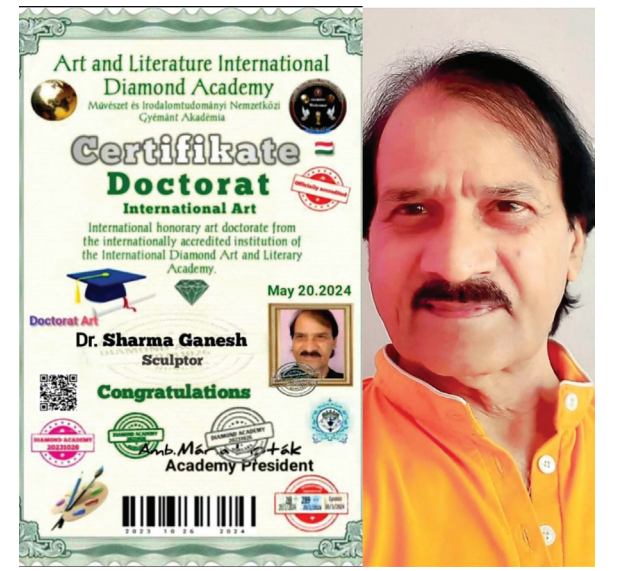
The workshop, spearheaded by Gambhir Battalion in collaboration with Dr. Rubia Bukhari,

a Cocoon Artist and Lecturer at the Department of Sericulture, Poonch Campus, University of Jammu, aimed to educate, inspire, and empower the youth of the region. By introducing them to the art and science of sericulture and cocoon craft, the initiative seeks to encourage them to explore these fields as potential career paths.

A diverse group of participants, including 60 males, 2 females, and 70 students, enthusiastically engaged in the workshop, showcasing the community's interest and commitment to learning and skill development. Through hands-on activi-

ties and interactive sessions, attendees gained valuable insights into the intricacies of sericulture and cocoon artistry, laying the foundation for potential future endeavors in these fields. The workshop culminated with heartfelt expressions of gratitude from the participants, underscoring the impact and significance of such initiatives in fostering economic empowerment and self-reliance within communities. The collaborative efforts of the Indian Army and Dr. Rubia Bukhari's Cocoon Artistry Initiative exemplify a shared commitment to youth empowerment and community development.

## Son of soil, Ganesh Sharma conferred "Intl. Honorary Art Doctorate" by ALIDA Hungary



JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

Eminent Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma, son of the soil has been Conferred "International Honorary Art Doctorate Certificate" by the Internationally Accredited Institution of the Art and Literature International Diamond Academy, Hungary. Ganesh Kumar Sharma selected for this International honour by the International Academy for his spreading art culture and peace, sophistication and good taste in the society and in the entire world from more than four decades.

The Academy President Ambassador Maria Lipták presents the Honorary Doctorate Certificate vir-

tually and congratulated to Ganesh Sharma for his success and hope that Ganesh's art journey will continue to serve communities and spread art and culture and unify the arts and world peace through his International art exhibitions and activities.

Ganesh Sharma recipient of so many States, National and International awards and honours from so many art organizations, has held 25 solo shows of his art works in different parts of the country and abroad. His Sculptures, art works are in permanent collections in so many galleries in India and abroad. He has participated in thousands art exhibitions and art events throughout the world.

## Mega Cleanliness Drive conducted at International Tourist Destination Gulmarg

JINews SERVICE  
GULMARG, MAY 23

In a significant initiative to preserve the natural beauty and cleanliness of international tourist destination Gulmarg, a mega cleanliness drive was today conducted at the scenic locations of Kangdori and Afarwat.

This effort was a collaborative endeavour by the Gulmarg Development Authority and the J&K Cable Car Corporation. The drive commenced at Kangdori and extended to Afarwat, drawing significant participation from both organizations.

Under the coordination of Waseem Raja,



Chief Executive Officer of GDA, the initiative focused on ensuring a green, clean and plastic/ polythene-free Gulmarg. Raja emphasized the GDA's commitment to such cleanliness drives, affirming that these efforts will be sustained for the continuous upkeep of Gulmarg.

Tourists and locals alike expressed their gratitude for the efforts of GDA and JKCC. Many highlighted the importance of maintaining cleanliness in these pristine environments and commended the authorities for their proactive measures.

## Indian Army organised awareness on 'Nasha Mukh Bharat'-Drug at Kalal, Rajouri



JINews SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MAY 23

A special lecture at Govt Higher Secondary School, Sheri was organized by Indian Army to raise awareness of the dangers of drug abuse. With youth facing issues like mental health problems, performance pressure and the influence of social media, they are becoming more vulnerable to drugs and alcohol. The lecture high-

lighted how even trying drugs once to cope up from stress or fit in with peers can severely impact one's life and family. The Army also discussed the harmful effects of tobacco, which can lead to oral cancer. Residents expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for addressing such important social issues and appreciated the efforts to educate the community on these dangers.

## Crackdown on illegal mining, 4 vehicles seized

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

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 tractor without registration number loaded with sand, without Form

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

A. Police station Nagrota detained 02 Tractor Trolleys bearing Chassis no WVTK31491/3676 Engine No 38.1354/EK06949A and Tractor Trolley bearing chassis no MBNBF52A-CLCG95900 Engine No 48.5002SBG11725 found loaded with Sand without Form-A.

Police post Pounichak detained one tractor trolley bearing registration No. JK02CJ/3187 found loaded with Bajeri without Form -A.

## 'Depression and Suicidal Tendencies': Need for comprehensive, multi-layered strategy to prevent suicide: Experts

JINews SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 23

To address issues affecting women through research, education and advocacy with a special emphasis on depression and suicidal tendencies among young females, the Centre for Women's Studies and Research (CWSR), University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, organised a two-day workshop here.

Titled, "Depression and Suicidal Tendencies Among Young Female Population in Kashmir" the workshop concluded on Wednesday, an official release issued here read.

In his keynote, Prof Arshad Hussain, Department of Psychiatry, GMC Srinagar, described suicide as "a complex, multi-dimensional phenomenon" and a significant public health concern.

"There is an urgent need for a comprehensive, multi-layered strategy involving diverse stakeholders, including suicide prevention experts, policymakers, government officials, media, individuals with lived experienc-



es and the public," Prof Arshad said.

He also outlined the need for workshops, training sessions, panel discussions with experts and awareness campaigns to mitigate the issues related to mental health. Head, Department of Psychiatry, GMC Srinagar, Dr Mohammad Maqbool, emphasised the importance of suicide prevention and mental health care.

"We need to understand the physical and psychological warning signs of suicide and also the importance of supporting peers who may be feeling low or experiencing self-sufficiency issues," he said. In her message, KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan, underscored the seriousness of suicide as a public

health concern with long-lasting effects on individuals and communities. She emphasised that women are more prone to suicidal ideation and attempts than men.

"We need to understand the importance of prioritising mental health and dispel the stigma associated with it, and also to advocate for tangible efforts at multiple levels in achieving a healthy society," Prof Khan reiterated, while urging the participants to utilise the workshop to learn stress management, behavioural modification skills and values such as empathy. KU Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal, in his special address, during the inaugural session, noted that the rising suicide rates in Kashmir are influenced by various

socioeconomic, political and cultural factors.

"Unemployment, social isolation, family issues, examination failures, relationship failures and modernisation are the notable contributors to the issue," he added. In her welcome address during the inaugural session, Coordinator, CWSR, Dr Roshan Ara, highlighted the critical role of the department in addressing sensitive issues affecting young women.

"A comprehensive approach involving gender sensitisation programmes, expanded counselling services, women's helplines and systemic efforts are the need of the hour to promote education, financial independence and social liberty for women," Dr Roshan said, while stressing the need for collective efforts from family members, health planners, policymakers and NGOs to prevent suicides.

The workshop included contributions from experts such as Prof Hussain, Prof Humaira Azim, Professor Tabassum Firdous and Prof Touseeef Rizvi, the statement added.

## Bagless' Wednesday observed in Government Schools of Doda

JINews SERVICE  
DODA MAY 23

To reduce pressure on school children and make teaching and learning more interesting, 'Bagless day 2024' was observed in all the government schools of District Doda.

The activities like yoga, exercise, sports and cultural events were organised in the schools. The new step aims to infuse fresh enthusiasm among children and keep them connected with the school. Children will find school education informative as well as entertaining.

Chief Education Officer Parkash Lal Thapa, Principal DIET Purshotam Das Gouria along with DEPO Dr Anis Ahmed graced the occasion of Bagless program at PM SHRI GHSS Trown.

While welcoming the guests, the Principal of the institution said that the main objective behind the program aims to physical, mental and intellectual development of students, they will be given a day-off from studies and engaged



in extracurricular activities every Wednesday.

In his address, the CEO said the Principals and Headmasters of the schools have been instructed to pre-plan activities for one Saturday in a month and it will be displayed on the school

## 3 bovine smuggling bids foiled, 10 bovines rescued, 2 vehicle seized

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 12

Jammu police tightening noose against bovine smugglers under operation Kamdhenu Police team of Police Station Nagrota foiled 02 bovine smuggling bids in which 08 bovines were rescued and 02 vehicle Tata Mobile bearing registration No. JK11C/0590 being driven by driver namely Sahil Ahmed Chechi s/o Mohd Ashraf Chechi Caste Bakarwal R/o Qazikund Manzmoo Tehsil Dooru District Anantnag was arrested on spot and Vehicle Tata Mobile bearing registration No. JK14E/4672 seized from Naka Ban Toll Plaza driver of the vehicle fled away from the spot taking advantage of darkness.

One more bovine smuggling bid foiled by PP Manwal when two bovines were rescued from the clutches of bovine smuggler, who was taking them on foot without DM permission and run from the spot by taking advantage of darkness.

The Schools have been asked to organise story-telling sessions, debate competition, elocution competition, question forum and group discussion, essay, poetry, story, dialogue writing, and chart making competition" he added.



## Dogra Degree College celebrates Int'l Day for biological diversity



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, MAY 23

Dogra Degree College, Bari Brahmana, Samba celebrated 'International Day for Biological Diversity' while covering the theme of this year i.e. "Be Part of the Plan" on 23rd of May, 2024. This theme calls on governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, lawmakers, businesses, and individuals to showcase their efforts to support the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan. This year students and faculty members of Dogra Degree College celebrated this day by clicking selfies with the native plant species of India under the supervision of Ms. Palak Gupta (Convener Eco Warriors Club). Biological diversity is often understood in terms of the wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms, but it also includes genetic differences within each species – for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of

livestock – and the variety of ecosystems (lakes, forest, deserts, agricultural landscapes) that host multiple kind of interactions among their members (humans, plants, animals). The focus of this day was to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. Biodiversity is the living fabric of our planet. It underpins human well-being in the present and in the future, and its rapid decline threatens nature and people alike. The main global drivers of biodiversity loss are climate change, invasive species, over-exploitation of natural resources, pollution and urbanization. To halt or reverse this decline it is vital to transform people's roles, actions and relationships with biodiversity.

Dr. Samar Dev Singh Charak, Secretary, Dogra Educational Trust appreciated the initiative taken by Dr. Bela Thakur, Principal, Dogra Degree College for conducting such an event to make students aware about the native plant species of India.

## Sant Nirankari mission hosts massive open Satsang Program



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

The Sant Nirankari Mission's Branch Panjarain Akhnoor, Jammu, successfully hosted a massive open Satsang program today, drawing an impressive gathering of devotees. The event underscored the Mission's commitment to spiritual enlightenment and unity among people of all ages and walks of life. Revered Ajit Singh, the esteemed Zonal Incharge of the Jammu region, graced the occasion, delivering an impactful discourse on behalf of the Sant Nirankari Mission. In his address, he highlighted the Mission's noble cause of promoting peace, love, and human brotherhood across the globe. He emphasized the Mission's core philosophy that true spirituality transcends religious boundaries, fostering harmony and understanding among diverse communities.

"Today's gathering epitomizes the success of our collective efforts towards fostering a spiritual environment that encourages selfless love and unity," stated Revered Ajit Singh. "The overwhelming turnout signifies the deep-rooted devotion and faith of our followers, which empowers us to continue spreading the message of Oneness."

The Satsang program featured soulful hymns, enlightening discourses, and shared prayers, creating an atmosphere filled with devotion and spiritual energy. Devotees, both local and from neighboring regions, participated enthusiastically, underscoring their unwavering faith in the Mission's divine teachings. The event also provided a platform for followers to engage in meaningful interactions, further strengthening their spiritual resolve.

Shri Babu Ram Mukhi Panjarain, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all devotees who attended the program.

## Police launches drive against illegal cultivation of poppy in Pulwama & Budgam

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

As a part of its persistent efforts to curb the menace of drugs in the society, police launched a special drive against illegal cultivation of poppy along with the teams of revenue & excise officials in Pulwama & Budgam districts.

The intensive drive against poppy cultivation, carried out by the joint teams led to the destruction of poppy cultivation spread over a vast area of land at two different places, Arihal and Tahab, in Pulwama and Gariend Kalan area in Budgam.

Accordingly, a case FIR No 174/2024 under relevant section of law has been registered at Police Station Budgam and in Pulwama case FIR Nos 94/2024 & 95/2024 under relevant section of law has been registered at Police



Station Pulwama against 15 accused persons. The accused persons have been identified as Rafiq Ahmad Sheikh son of Assadullah Sheikh, Ali Mohd Sheikh son of Gh Mohd Sheikh,

Zahoor Ah Dar son of Gh Mohidin, Gh Mohidin Ganie son of Qadoos, Fayaz Ah Sheikh son of Gh Qadir Sheikh, Gh Mohd Sheikh son of Wali Mohd Sheikh, Bilal Ah Ganie son

of Sulla Ganie, Yaseen Ah Ganie son of Sulla Ganie, all residents of Tahab Pulwama and Nazir Ah Bhat son of Mohd Shaban Bhat, Mohd Abdullah Parry son of Gh Mohd Parry, Nazir Ah Ganie son of Gh Mohd Ganie son of Mushtaq Ah Ganie son of Gh Mohd Ganie, Zahoor Ah Raina son of Mohd Maqbool Raina, Manzoor Ah Raina son of Ab Kabir Raina and Ab Hameed Dar son of Gh Mohd Dar, all residents of Arihal Pulwama. Further investigation has been set into motion. The general public of these areas have appreciated the action of the police and has urged to continue this drive in nearby areas as well. Police appeals the general public to extend their cooperation in this drive against drug abuse.

## Elect honest, upright candidate in ongoing LS elections: Khatana to Rajouri-Poonch people

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MAY 23

Appealing to the people of twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch to elect an honest and upright candidate in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana on Thursday said that voting in favour of dynasts will again sabotage the developmental spree which has changed the lives of the people in the mountainous region.

Addressing a public meeting in Meharije Gujran area of Rajouri which was organised by District BJP Secretary and Sarpanch, Sazia Choudhary, MP Khatana said that the people should vote for peace, progress and development.

"Today your children are getting good educa-



tion, there is a Medical College in Rajouri itself, two tunnels are under construction on Jammu-Rajouri highway and are expected to be made functional within months—all these developments apart from many in pipeline were possible only in the last 10 years of BJP rule under the leadership of PM Modi," he said while addressing the mammoth gathering in the public meeting. The senior BJP leader also said that third term for PM Modi will usher more developments in the J&K and life of tribal community of Gujjars and

Bakerwals will be completely transformed. "Congress, National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have a proven track record of bloodshed, uncertainty, mis-governance, divisive politics and pushing Jammu and Kashmir to terrorism," Khatana maintained adding: "Only BJP has honest and the true solution for the issues of public."

The MP said that Gujjars, Bakerwals and other Muslims were used by Congress, NC and PDP as vote banks only and these political parties never did

anything for the welfare of these communities.

District BJP Secretary and Sarpanch, Sazia Choudhary while addressing on this occasion said that BJP along with its allies will hit the target of over 400 marks in the Lok Sabha elections and PM Modi will get the third term to helm the world's largest democracy.

She said that for the first time in the history of our country remarkable developments have taken place and same are expected to continue further.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Kapil Saryal, District BJP Vice President; Prabhari, Jugal Kishote; Mahila Morcha Vice President, Neelam Raina; Councillor, Sudershana Saryal; Sarpanch, Karan Saryal; Vice President, Zaman, Captain Bola Sharma, Malar Kazmi and others.

## Manjit holds series of meetings in Nowshera in support Zafar Manhas



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MAY 23

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh has continued the election campaign in favour of the Party's candidate for Rajouri – Anantnag Parliamentary seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas.

In this regard, the Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh accompanied by other leaders of the Party chaired several meetings in Nowshera in support of Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahab.

During these meetings, the people extended their support to the Apni Party candidate.

Expressing his gratitude to the people, S. Manjit Singh said that the issues of development that remained unsolved for decades will be addressed by the Party candidate, if

he gets elected to the Parliament.

He said that the Party has prepared a framework to undertake developmental activities and improve road infrastructure. He said that the railway line projects need to be completed as early as possible.

For this purpose, he expressed the commitment of the Party that they would raise the issue with the Railway Ministry to get sanction of timely completion of the railway line from Jammu to Poonch.

He also assured that the Party would also work on addressing the increasing unemployment issue. Meanwhile, Both Bhagat, Vishal Narina, Vicky Sudan, Adv Lovely Mangol, Mangat Ram, and other leaders also addressed the meetings.

## JSW Paints posts its first Operating Profits within 5 years of business launch

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23



JSW Paints, India's leading environment-friendly paints company and part of the US\$ 24 billion JSW Group, posted its first full year operating profits at an EBITDA margin of more than 3% (approx. Rs 67 crores) for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024. This makes JSW Paints the first and youngest Indian paints company to post operating profits in the shortest span of 5 years from its business launch. The company's gross revenues crossed the targeted Rs 2,000 crore milestone registering more than 10x industry growth rate. The scale-up in gross revenues was supported by a significant ramp-up in both Decorative Paints and Industrial Coatings businesses.

The current growth rate puts JSW Paints firmly on track to pursue its target of achieving Rs 5,000 crore within the next two years (i.e. by FY26). This will be supported by significant business transformation initiatives in the decorative paints segment. The company has appointed Mr Ashish Rai as Chief Business Officer - Decorative to lead the transformation & growth

in its Decorative Paints Business. With over two decades of experience in global organizations like Unilever where he led Distributive Trade Transformation, Ashish will be leading the Decorative Paints Business at JSW Paints to continuously deliver profitable top line growth.

According to Parth Jindal, Managing Director of JSW Paints, "It has been an exciting and eventful five years for JSW Paints to achieve our guidance of being the youngest paints company to turn profitable in the shortest span of time. We are now determined to capitalize on the new opportunities as Indian consumers evolve their preferences towards purposeful living and environment-friendly products. As we navigate the next phase of growth in our manufacturing and marketing investments, I am happy to welcome Ashish Rai to transform and lead the next phase of growth in our decorative paints business."

JSW Paints remains committed to building its business with the youngest, most gender diverse,

## DGP extends warm greetings to Police Pariwar, people of J&K on Buddha Purnima

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 23

On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, the Director General of Police, J&K Shri R.R. Swain has extended heartfelt greetings and warm wishes to dedicated police Pariwar, families of martyrs and the community the J&K Police serve.

DGP in his message said that this day serves as a reminder to all of us to embrace the timeless principles of peace, love, and self-awareness. Let the noble principles of Lord Buddha continue to illuminate our

path, and may we all strive to genuinely contribute to the well-being and prosperity of the society. Buddha's teachings guide us towards a state of balance, resilience, and selflessness, which are crucial in fulfilling our duties as law enforcement personnel, DGP added.

In the spirit of Lord Buddha's teachings, "I sincerely emphasise upon all our police personnel to lead their lives with a strong sense of responsibility, integrity, and self-discipline, and strive to serve the community with dedication and humility, DGP further added.

## Sadguru Shri Madhu Paramhans enthalls Sangat with his sermons on occasion of Purnima

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23



Sadguru Shri Madhu-paramhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandgi, while enthraling the Sangat with his satsang in Ranjodi today on the occasion of Purnima, said that nowadays there are many Gurus in the path of devotion. Because money is easily available. That's why Sahib has also told the characteristics of the Guru. When Dharamdas ji asked Sahib about the characteristics of a Guru, Sahib said that first test the Guru and then take initiation.

First-Guru should be a Sanyasi. The householder should not be a guru. Because he himself is trapped in illusion, so what will he do for your welfare? Second - it should be free from restrictions. Sahib is saying that if one finds a true Guru then all the quarrels end. There is nothing left to attain salvation. Third: Guru should be comprehensive. Eat from your earnings. Fourth - Be a supplicant. Don't take alms. There are three types of alms. Manas, Rajas and Tamas. Nowadays there is loot-

ing. Mental begging is that wish from the heart that so and so should give me something. The one who wants something from you cannot give you anything. The second alms is Rajas. Some say that we have opened a cowshed, give money. This is rajasic alms. Persuading someone to donate is rajasic alms. The third is tamasic alms. I will do this work for you, give me the money. A true Guru does not take any kind of alms. He moves only by Akashvritti i.e. whatever comes on its own.

Being unrestricted means that whatever money comes to him, he should not give it to anyone in his family. If he is taking the money of the poor and investing it in his family, then Sahib said that he will go to hell along with his generation. Will not go alone. Because this is a big sin. The only person worthy of donation is the Guru. But the teacher must be truthful.

products that will delight our consumers."

The rapid topline growth recorded by JSW Paints has been driven through thoughtful disruptions and innovations it has offered to its consumers across India.

JSW Paints remains the only company in India which offers the unique "Any Colour One Price" in Indian paints market.

The luxury interior emulsion Halo is the Best Paint of India as has been tested against comparable offerings.

JSW Paints waterproofing range iBlok is the surest way to waterproof homes. The company is scaling marketing support with a new advertising campaign it recently launched across the country. Aquaglo - the water-based enamel - continues to delight consumers as the only non-smelly paint for wood & metal at home.

JSW Paints has launched Opera range of luxury wood finishes that are Made in India to take on imported Italian wood finishes. In Industrial coatings JSW Paints is leader in Coil Coatings and is expanding its offering to other segments like protective, pipe, windmill, floor and general industrial coatings.

## EDITORIAL

Protected  
Monuments need  
immediate attention

Recently, revelations were made about encroachments and neglect of State Protected Monuments in various parts of the Jammu region which were deeply concerning. These heritage sites, which are integral to our cultural and historical identity, are facing threats of damage and degradation due to illegal constructions, lack of maintenance, and bureaucratic hurdles. The Directorate of Archives, Archaeology, and Museums has repeatedly raised alarms about the precarious state of these monuments, including the Shahi Mughal Masjid in Nowshera, Poonch Fort, Dhanidhar Fort, Temple Samadhi Chadai Muttal, Bahu Fort, Jaganoo Fort, Samba Fort, ancient Buddhist site Godha Gali, and Thein Fort. These sites, declared as State Protected Monuments, are supposed to be safeguarded under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments Preservation and Conservation Act, 1920 AD, and its subsequent amendments. Under the Act, no person can fiddle with the structures of State Protected Monuments. Even Deputy Commissioners are empowered to take action in case of violation of the Act. The fact that illegal constructions continue to go unchecked inside these monuments, and in some cases, they are being used for purposes like operating schools, is a clear violation of the law and a betrayal of our cultural heritage. The delays in obtaining forest clearances for restoration work further exacerbate the situation, leaving these monuments vulnerable to irreversible damage. The responsibility to protect and preserve our heritage rests not only with the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology, and Museums but also with the concerned district authorities, security forces, and other relevant agencies. Neglect and lack of maintenance also pose significant threats to these monuments. Without regular upkeep and conservation efforts, they are susceptible to decay, weathering, and vandalism. Preservation of State Protected Monuments requires sustained investment in restoration, maintenance, and awareness initiatives to ensure their long-term survival. It is imperative that they work together cohesively to address these pressing issues and take immediate corrective measures. The upcoming review meeting of the Culture Department, chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on March 28, presents a crucial opportunity to address these challenges comprehensively. It is essential that all stakeholders come together to devise a strategic plan for the restoration, maintenance, and protection of these State Protected Monuments. Moreover, transparency and accountability must be upheld throughout this process. Public awareness campaigns, community involvement, and regular monitoring mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that the efforts to preserve our heritage are sustained and effective. The Director of the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology, and Museums' commitment to raising these issues at the highest level is commendable. However, what is needed now is swift and decisive action backed by political will and administrative support to prevent further damage to these invaluable treasures of our cultural legacy. Preserving our heritage is not just a legal obligation; it is a moral imperative that we owe to future generations. As custodians of these cultural treasures, we must prioritize their preservation to ensure that they continue to inspire, educate, and enrich future generations. The time to act is now, for the legacy of our past is the legacy we leave for the future.

## Defence sector challenges before the new government

PRAKASH CHANDRA

lections are often barometers indicating the shape of things to come in a country's national security domain as a new government takes office.

In the Indian context, the new government has its task cut out on national security as the priorities of defence planners have seldom been clearer: changing geopolitical realities such as an assertive China's arms build-up, political and economic instability in neighbouring countries, and the insurgencies in some restive states.

The military being a key instrument in addressing these challenges, the new government is expected to recalibrate India's defence posture by reviewing these challenges vis-à-vis the armed forces. Given the blurred lines separating India's internal and external security situations, with the military often called upon for internal conflict resolution, it is an enormous drain on defence resources. This makes it challenging for the armed forces to maintain combat capabilities while simultaneously pressing ahead with the Ministry of Defence (MoD)'s two-pronged reform and modernisation

programmes.

One of the immediate focus areas for the new government is the restructuring of the tri-services commands in the armed forces: the centrepiece of defence reforms. Almost three years after an exclusive Department of Military Affairs was set up in 2021, the establishment of integrated theatre commands (ITCs) for jointness in operations is nowhere near completion. The proposed force structure will have the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) presiding over the ITCs whose commanders report directly to the CDS, which is the practice in advanced militaries like that of the United States. This is to ensure that financial, materiel, and operational capability resources are shared optimally by the ITCs, unlike the current practice of the armed forces achieving joint operations only at the tactical level.

That there has been no substantial movement on the establishment of ITCs so far has a lot to do with the stiff resistance from the Indian Air Force (IAF) which is loath to share its aircraft with disparate theatres, especially those commanded by non-IAF officers. It would be interesting to see how the government tackles this key issue of inter-service har-



mony, and speed up the modernisation.

Another factor blocking the ITCs is the conspicuous absence of a National Security Strategy (NSS) to spell out India's security objectives and strategies. Proposed more than 20 years ago, it is unfortunate that the NSS remains a work in progress. Defence planners must address this urgently because without an NSS the strategic calculus is opaque to the military, which is technically in the dark as far as its exact mission beyond defending the country and its island territories is concerned.

Creating a procurement system based on an indigenous production capability is another critical requirement for the military. The government will

undoubtedly seek to build on the success of the 'Make in India' programme as it uses 'atmanirbharta' (self-reliance) in defence manufacturing to guide future acquisitions. An indicator of this is the regularity with which advanced indigenously developed missile systems are rolling off the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)'s drawing boards. Nevertheless, these are very early days for achieving self-reliance in arms manufacture, and India still needs to shop for key weapon platforms in the international market, be it fifth-generation fighter jets, combat drones and anti-drone systems, air defence systems, or artillery guns.

In the military's indigenously-based modernisation

effort, the Indian Navy (IN) is steaming ahead of the army and the IAF, with shipyards currently building more than 40 vessels of different types. However, it cannot be denied that even the IN's declared goal of having a 175-ship fleet in the next 10 years pales before China's rapidly expanding People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN). The rate at which PLAN is growing, it will have expanded to a mammoth fleet of 435 ships, including supercarriers and submarines, by 2035. Asymmetries to a lesser extent exist in the land and air forces too vis-à-vis India's eastern neighbour.

While New Delhi cannot match Beijing's colossal defence spends – India's defence budget is barely 28 per cent of China's –

and play the numbers game, it could turn to adroit policymaking to meet these challenges. For instance, the IN could augment its sea-denial capabilities with theaterised resources using land-based air power to counter PLAN's attempts to dominate the seaways near, say, the Maldives or the Straits of Malacca.

Defence planners must learn to juggle a modest budget with personnel costs, weapons acquisition, and upgrades in the three services, besides ensuring wider industry participation in defence procurement. The next five years offer the government a unique opportunity to tap the immense potential of India's civilian scientific base to develop frontier technologies, and innovative capabilities for the armed forces. This will help realise a robust military-industrial ecosystem in the subcontinent that is so essential to meet the technological challenges on the 21st-century battlefield.

(This article is the second in a series of articles on the challenges and opportunities before the next Union government.) (Prakash Chandra is former editor of the Indian Defence Review. He writes on aerospace and strategic affairs.)

## Is AI a game changer or a disruptor in the communication landscape?

CHAITANYA K PRASAD

The growing tentacles of AI have become a push factor for change, innovation and disruption in the borderless world that we live in today. AI tools, processes and its vast architecture have been billed as game changers, influencing a vast range of stakeholders including policymakers, Governments, multilateral bodies, agencies and institutions, which are responsible for carving out the road ahead. The debate today hovers around whether AI has become a disruptor or a transformative catalyst leading to a new normal, which is unpredictable, tech-driven and bereft of the necessary human connection. It has disrupted the new normal driving the communication engagement matrix to a terrain that at times is daunting, unpredictable, spontaneous and instant. In the given context, it is important to understand that AI has truly created

layers of dilemma, a tug-of-war related to ideas, content, data analysis and the conflict between human minds and data-driven mindsets. We are in a situation perhaps where we over-depend on machines, their learning tools & predictability leading to an ecosystem that is technology savvy, the behaviour of stakeholders being driven by data metrics and accompanying models and influenced by the power of prediction. The impact of AI has been profound in several areas, as the search for the unknown has grown bigger. A report on India's media and entertainment sector published by EY #Reinventin 2024 mentions that AI can provide an Rs 450 billion boost to the Indian M&E sector by 2027. The report also mentions AI and especially Gen AI - gives it the tools the sector has always dreamed of and can result in a 10 per cent revenue growth and 15 per cent cost efficiency. AI is now used for mea-

suring the effectiveness of campaigns, the growth of customised solutions for addressing issues, analysing data for data-driven narratives and stakeholder engagement and changing equations in the context of the client-agency relationship. There is a need to balance human competence with tech tools and the fear of the unknown in the future. For AI to succeed its performance indicators must be based on open, transparent and inclusive. Its tools are re-engineered to reflect the spirit of "Oneness", and "The World is One Family" and the social and economic impact is studied and analysed.

As far as outreach is concerned, the need is to balance the technology push that characterises AI outlining its operational efficiency and the creative quotient of human beings. As a tool for outreach AI supplements outreach with data-focused audience insights which provide practitioners with a

feel of audience preferences and behaviours leading to focused and targeted communication strategies.

The data processing of the medium also leads to a better and more comprehensive understanding of stakeholder demographics, dynamics, strategy protocols and audience behaviour.

There is an urgent need to integrate the communication matrix with the broad themes to ensure a seamless operation of both verticals. AI being futuristic commands the means to create a positive perception of the AI architecture. Some of the themes to be discussed are AI and Machine Learning in communication networks, AI-powered communication networks: Shaping a greener digital future and including other sectors such as health, environment and education.

In all such discussions, the process of communicating the theme will be critical for both policymakers and practitioners.

It is also critical that in the era of change, the continuity of technology is weaved with access that is open and democratic. The benefits of positive change must be beneficial to all through the principle of open sourcing: tools, processes, opportunities and community participation.

There must be standard operating procedures and processes that ensure the standardisation of algorithms, address the frailties of human behaviour and integrate the machine and human mind. Technological advancement is only possible if the gap is bridged between the haves and have-nots. AI as a tool for policy formulation and information dissemination should be based on the strong foundations of adaptability, cohesiveness, inclusivity, access and a proper understanding of the complex and diverse social ecosystem of which we are its key constituents.

As the impact of AI grows across different terrains, the evolution has

to be in sync with human abilities and the irreplaceable human trait that characterises outreach. To ensure a sustainable process, AI needs to follow the five mantras of outreach communication: Being Receptive, Responsive, Responsible and Reciprocal and Reconcile to the needs and requirements of an ecosystem that believes in equity, equal participation, mutual recognition and collaboration. The success of communication depends on the balance between perception, tools and trust i.e. positioned across different platforms and sectors. A model of this nature will certainly ensure a perfect symphony between AI and the communication landscape bringing forth an effective and lasting communication process.

(The writer is a former civil servant. Views are Personal. Inputs by Vaishnavie Srinivasan and Zoya Ahmad)

## Deleterious effects of workplace gaslighting

SAKSHI SETHI

In the network of modern workplaces, emerges a shadowy spectre, threatening the very fabric of organisational culture and well-being - Gaslighting, a form of psychological manipulation in which one person seeks to undermine another person's perceptions, beliefs or reality often done regularly or subtly making the victim doubt their perception, memories or sanity by shifting blame or responsibility onto the victim.

Gaslighting can create a hostile work environment where employees feel anxious and confused and at times even question their competence causing a detrimental effect on themselves, their teams and organisational culture. It is a form of psychological manipulation that can have serious consequences for the well-being

and productivity of those involved. When talked about the workplace, the term Gaslight can manifest in myriad forms, often subtle and insidious. It may begin with seemingly innocuous comments undermining an individual's contributions or abilities and may gradually lead to dealing with small instances of manipulation that escalate over time. Gaslighting tactics often target an individual's sense of self-worth, competence and confidence resulting in significant emotional distress, including feelings of anxiety, depression and confusion. It even isolates victims from their support networks by undermining their relationships with coworkers, friends and even family members.

It is often believed that toxic workplace gaslighting can stem from various causes that are often rooted in systemic issues, interpersonal dynamics



or individual motivations such as power imbalances, insecure leadership, lack of accountability, interpersonal conflicts and many more. When communication breaks down, tensions escalate, egos clash and employees/individuals start resorting to gaslighting as a means of gaining leverage or inflicting harm.

Addressing the toxic workplace gaslighting

requires a comprehensive approach that involves raising awareness, fostering a culture of respect and accountability and providing support for those impacted. Promoting transparency, accountability and psychological safety in organisations is crucial to recognise toxic gaslighting behaviour effectively.

Undoubtedly, work-

place gaslighting thrives on power imbalances and psychological manipulation. Victims of gaslighting suffer immense stress, anxiety and identity erosion. Prolonged exposure leads to physical health issues like headaches, GI problems and sleep disturbances, weakening immunity and increasing illness risks.

It becomes crucial for the victims to first recognise and validate their experiences, refusing to internalise the gaslighter's manipulations. The use of assertive communication techniques, such as "I" Statements and boundary-setting, can help individuals confront gaslighting behaviour while preserving their self-esteem and dignity. Additionally, fostering a

culture of accountability and transparency within organisations empowers employees to speak out against gaslighting tactics without fear of reprisal.

Remember, when personal gain takes precedence over ethical conduct, gaslighting may become a tempting strategy. The only way that may benefit the victims of gaslighting is by seeking support from trusted colleagues, mentors or mental health professionals. By creating a workplace culture that promotes open communication, respect and accountability can the organisation help prevent gaslighting and other forms of manipulation from taking hold as left unchecked, it can inflict lasting psychological harm, exacerbating issues of mental health and well-being in the workplace.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)



## G A Mir, Mian Altaf jointly address election rally

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG MAY 23

Seeking votes for INDIA Alliance Candidate for Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha Segment, All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary & Former JKPC President Ghulam Ahmad Mir today reiterated that the ongoing General Elections is the best opportunity to get rid of misrule, coercion and anti-people policies unleashed by the BJP, while reaffirming Congress Party's commitment to ensure Nayay (justice) to every section living in the country.

Mir was addressing a largely attended election rally at Omoh Verinag in South Kashmir where he made a passionate appeal to electorates of Anantnag-Rajouri to support INDIA Alliance Candidate Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi wholeheartedly and ensure his victory with a thumping majority. On this occasion, Mir slammed the fake narratives and propaganda unleashed by the NDA against INDIA Alliance and said it will not deter us from securing vic-



tory in the ongoing Lok Sabha Elections, which is set to happen on June 4. There will be next Govt of INDIA Alliance at the Centre which will ensure respite to people from BJP's anti-people and wrong policies, he said.

Referring to the anti-minority election speeches by BJP Leaders especially by the PM himself, Mir termed such a mindset as the reflection of BJP desperation and defeat, which they realized after the third phase of the elections. The anti-minority outburst shall neither change the reality nor it can change the mood of the people, who are well

aware about BJP's falsehood, communal politics and have decided to vote INDIA Alliance to power.

PM and his other colleagues attempted to create a communal atmosphere for the votes, but it was rejected by all Indian unequivocally, who want change in the country to safeguard the Constitution, which happens to the next target of NDA, Mir added and said Congress Party will fulfill all the promises made to the people and will put an end to the discrimination, hatred, open loot of public money and various other anti-people measures on the part of NDA Govt.

Stating that restora-

tion of Statehood & democratic rights in J&K are among the top priorities of Congress Party, Mir assured that the next INDIA Alliance Govt at the Centre will immediately fulfill these urgent demands.

Addressing the gathering Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi said that INDIA Alliance in the country is fighting for the rights of the people which are under assault since the NDA assumed power at Centre the ongoing Lok Sabha Elections has provided public an opportunity to though it (NDA) out of power for failing them on all fronts.

He further said that the NDA Govt at Centre snatched our democratic rights, our jobs, and land by forcibly enacting different laws after the reorganization of the full-fledged princely State. He appealed to the people to support INDIA Alliance by ensuring his victory from Anantnag Rajouri Lok Sabha segment with an overwhelming majority as that it is the INDIA Alliance which will address all the issues concerning the Country.

## Confederation of Dalit OBC Minority celebrates Buddha Purnima

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

All India Confederation of SC/ST/OBC & Minority Organisations J&K observed Buddha Purnima today at MIRANSAHIB Jammu. People from all walks of life joined to pay their homage to Lord Buddha showering flowers.



RK Kalsotra, State President Confederation, extended his heartfelt greetings to the masses on the eve of Buddha Purnima and said that Dr BR Ambedkar was a pioneer when it comes to revival of Buddhism in India. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar saw Buddhism as a means of empowerment and annihilation of the caste system, which had oppressed the depressed and backward sects for centuries. He thought of transforming the social fabric of Indian society from Bahiskrit Bharat to Prabuddha Bharat. His tireless efforts towards creating a society that is free from discrimination and prejudice through the notion of a welfare state as envisioned in the directive principles of state policies within the Indian Constitution continue to inspire

us all. Kalsotra further said Buddha's philosophy was "Don't accept something just because it is accepted, don't accept it just because it has been traditional and believed for generations, don't accept it just because it has been said that way by many, don't accept it just because Do not accept the fact that some scripture inspired by a sage has been presented in proof of this, just because it is in accordance with our opinion and nature, do not accept it just because the person saying it is our Guru and is revered. Know and test yourself from your own experience that this thing is logical, and at the same time it is beneficial for the whole world, only then accept it, and live your life accordingly." Darshan Banmotra Teh President R S Pura said

this year let us honour Lord Buddha's legacy and take a pledge by embracing the morals and values of the scientific and theological temperament of the Tathagata, which emphasise the importance of compassion, madhyam marga, and mindfulness. He also added that these values should be inculcated in one's daily life through "Atta deepo bhava" meaning 'be a light unto yourself'. This is the righteous path to move on and look ahead for a brighter tomorrow for being and becoming a Vishwaguru. The influence of Buddhism can be seen in Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's drafting of the Indian Constitution to enable social justice for all. De Sameer Ch President National SC ST OBC Students & Youth Front(NSYF) said that Buddha became

an inspiration for Dr BR Ambedkar for writing the Constitution of India and many such ideals were included in it like equality, brotherhood, among other virtues. He also added that Lord Buddha highlighted the importance of peace in the world and considering how things are in turmoil, such issues should be addressed through the teachings of Lord Buddha. Bahadur Lal Ex Sarpanch added that there are increasing cases of violence today, be it on the basis of caste, creed, gender or religion. Lord Buddha taught us that non-violence should be the way of life and thus, such teachings should be incorporated by all. Tilak Raj said that Buddhism is one such religion that promotes prosperity and progressiveness. It also focus on the importance of self and mind and not on rituals that promote hierarchy in the society. Thus, the message of 'apna depak Khud Bano' becomes an important one in today's time. Others prominent who present included Ramesh Chander, Baba Ram Pandit Mohan Lal, Ashwani Kumar, Naresh Kanth and many others.

## No innocent person will be picked up by police, security forces in my govt: Azad

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR MAY 23

Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad, addressed the public on the concluding day of the campaign in Dooru, Anantnag. He asserted that during his tenure as CM, there were almost no fake encounters. He recounted an incident where a deputa-



tion claimed that individuals presented as militants were actually innocent laborers. Azad immediately ordered an inquiry, confirmed their innocence, and had the responsible officers jailed. He criticised the current trend of youth being unjustly detained, vowing that under his leadership, no civilian will face false allegations or charges. He promised to protect daughters, sisters, and young boys from harassment. He stated, "In my government, I ensured justice to people, irrespective of caste or religion. Our youth, especially girls, should be able

to move freely. Today I received many complaints that police are picking up innocent civilians; this must stop. You are further alienating them. In my government, youth will be given the full freedom to live their lives. This drug menace has harmed our society, and we will ensure better education and jobs." Azad further criticised the National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for their silence on critical issues such as Article 370 during parliamentary sessions. He said that the three MPs from these parties failed to speak up when he protested in

parliament, showcasing a troubling pattern of inaction. "They are deceiving the people," Azad declared. "They remained silent even on the land eviction order when the government attempted to bulldoze houses and seize land. It was our intervention that halted the government's actions." Azad also accused NC leaders of using religion and caste to divide the population. "At the national level, a party tried to split Hindus and Muslims. Now, these parties are attempting to divide Pahari, Kashmiri, and Gujjars. How can an MP do justice to other communities when

they campaign and speak against each other?" He warned of the dangers of such divisive politics, stressing the importance of unity in Jammu and Kashmir. "This style of politics is harmful and damaging for the people of J&K. We must unite and work for everyone. Our focus should be on bringing people together, not creating divisions." Azad pointed out the lack of development during the periods when the government was primarily run by NC and other parties. He emphasised that he had only two and a half years in power, during which he initiated significant projects and reforms. "They did no development, but only exploited people with slogans of self-rule and autonomy, which they eventually forgot. They did no justice to the poor. Where are the jobs? Where are the schools, colleges, districts, and tehsils? What did they achieve? Nothing," Azad

## Womenfolk largest takers of PM Modi's VBV, vow to support BJP at all levels: Kavinder

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GURDASPUR, MAY 23

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta on Thursday said that womenfolk are the largest takers of PM Narendra Modi's vision for Viksit Bharat (Developed India), and this is the reason behind this section supporting BJP wholeheartedly. The BJP stalwart leader was speaking during a meeting with prominent citizens of Gurdaspur Parliamentary seat. He said that the work done by the Modi Government in the last ten years to empower the women in the country has convinced this section of society that there is no other party which can accomplish things which the Modi Government has accomplished. Kavinder said that womenfolk in the region



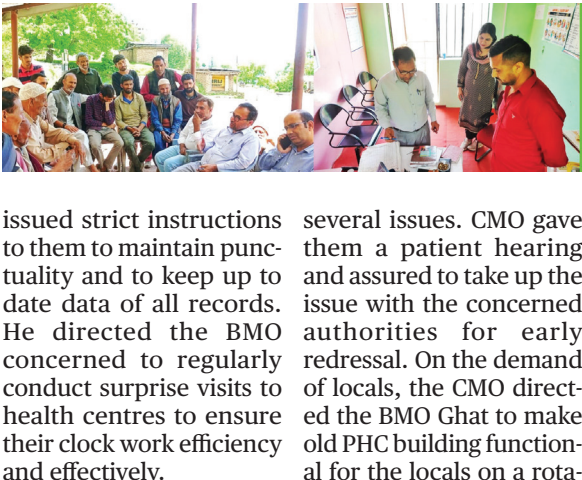
have shown undaunted faith in the BJP Government and are united in supporting BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls giving another opportunity to the Saffron party to fulfill the unaccomplished tasks in the constituency besides steering the country to new heights of progress. He said that Viksit Bharat, or Developed India, is the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and represents a complete blueprint for the country's prosperity. "This vision having the support of all Indians especially the women will be a guiding principle for

India during its Amrit Kaal. With a combination of social changes, technical innovations, and economic reforms, Prime Minister Modi hopes to raise India's position at the global level. This vision has many components, from economic growth to all-inclusive development and imbibing technological innovation", he said, adding that people should help BJP to get maximum seats to realize this dream envisaged by none other than PM Modi to make the country part of the elite group of developed nations all across the globe. The prominent citizens present in the meeting include Mohit Mahajan, Raghav Mahajan, Neelam Mahant, Rakesh Pant, Gurmeet Kour, Bindiya and Sujata Gupta.

## CMO Doda visits PHC Bharath, SC Bhelli; inspect facilities

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAY 23RD:

To evaluate the healthcare services and facilities provided to the community, the Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Om Kumar on 22-05-2024 visited PHC Bharath and AAM- Sub Centre Bhelli in Medical Block Ghat District Doda.



The visit was a part of the ongoing efforts by the health department to monitor and improve the healthcare standard across the District and the purpose of the visit was to gain firsthand knowledge about the hospital's infrastructure, patient care and the overall healthcare delivery system. During his visit to the newly constructed PHC Bharath, the CMO Doda took a detailed round of all the sections of the hospital and were pleased to observe that all sections of the PHC were working in close coordination with each other.

issued strict instructions to them to maintain punctuality and to keep up to date data of all records. He directed the BMO concerned to regularly conduct surprise visits to health centres to ensure their clock work efficiency and effectively. Maintaining that patient care should be top priority, the CMO directed the concerned to make optimum use of the resources available for the better patient care. He underlined that the goal is to ensure that the health facilities meet the highest standards and we are able to provide effective healthcare services to the patients living in far flung areas.

While interacting with the staff on duty, the CMO

During the visit, a public delegation of Bharath called on CMO, wherein they put forth several issues. CMO gave them a patient hearing and assured to take up the issue with the concerned authorities for early redressal. On the demand of locals, the CMO directed the BMO Ghat to make old PHC building functional for the locals on a rotational basis where Routine Immunization and other first aid services shall be given in the interest of better patient care. Later CMO visited AAM- Sub Centre Bhelli and took a detailed stock of health facilities, check record and attendance of the staff. The CMO was accompanied by Block Medical Officer Ghat Dr Abdul Gafoor, BMEO NHM Ghat Mr Mashhood Latif besides officials from Dy CMO Office Doda viz Mr Ravinder Singh and Mr Pawan Kumar.

## Zafar, Vibodh hold massive road show in Rajouri's Jawhar Nagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MAY 23

Apni Party's candidate for Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha Seat Zafar Iqbal Manhas along with BJP J&K General Secretary and Incharge for Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary seat Vibodh Gupta held an impressive roadshow in Jawhar Nagar, Rajouri on thursday. The roadshow, marked by a large turnout, saw enthusiastic supporters moving in support of the Apni Party's candidate. Addressing the gathering Vibodh Gupta said that the National Conference and PDP have no ideology and simply want to gain power by any means. "INDI alliance is dynastic, corrupt, and engages in the politics of appeasement. This is the case with PDP also. They only know how to engage in the politics of appeasement and engage in corrupt practices; they have no concern for the people", he added. Vibodh urged people to vote and support dynamic and charismatic Apni Party



leader Zafar Iqbal Manhas Sahab and strengthen Modi Ji's vision of Viksit Bharat. He strongly asserted that under his leadership, marginalised and deprived sections of the society will be further empowered with the mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas". He stated that voters should align themselves with nationalist forces and contribute to the progress of the nation. Speaking on the occasion Zafar Iqbal Manhas expressed gratitude to the the people of Rajouri-Poonch-Anantnag for showering overwhelming love and blessings on him and asserted, "I will dedicate myself to the all-

inclusive and comprehensive development of my people ensuring better roads, rail connectivity, accessible health care and education." Manhas said that there was a time when politics was based on caste, religion, region, and nepotism, but under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, politics in the country is now guided by good governance. He maintained that delivery of ST status to Paharis and political reservation and Forest rights to Gujjar-Bakerwals have empowered both these tribes and the people of these tribes will definitely vote Apni Party in retort to NC-PDP leaders who misguided and exploited them for decades.

## Indian Army organised 'Swasth Bharat' - Yoga Day at Keri, Rajouri



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MAY 23

Yoga, an ancient art connecting mind and body, was the focus of a special session by the Indian Army for residents and students of Tender Feet School at Keri, Doongi Block Office. The event emphasized physical fitness, mental well-being and discipline. Experi-

enced Army personnel led the session, engaging participants and sparking interest in yoga. A brief talk highlighted yoga's benefits, namely enhancing focus, reducing stress and improving overall well-being. This session was part of a broader community outreach program promoting health, wellness and positive values amongst the youth.



## Sham Gupta lauds historic turnout in Baramulla LS elections

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

Sham Lal Gupta, Chairman of the Anti Crime Bureau (ACB) NGO, has commended the historic 59 percent voter turnout in the recent Baramulla Lok Sabha elections. This record participation is seen as a significant indicator of the citizens' strong support for democracy in the Kashmir Valley.

Expressing his pride, Gupta lauded the people of Baramulla for their active involvement in the democratic process. He noted that this high level of engagement marks a dramatic shift from the past, when the region was often marred by election boycotts, stone-pelting, and strikes.

"The impressive voter turnout of 59 percent in Baramulla showcases the people's unwavering commitment to democ-

racy," said Gupta. "It signifies a new era in Kashmir's political landscape, where citizens are now enthusiastically exercising their democratic rights."

Gupta credited this positive transformation to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under whose administration the region has seen substantial progress and stability. He highlighted that PM Modi's initiatives and policies have been crucial in reshaping the socio-political environment of Kashmir.

"Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, we've witnessed a significant reduction in violence and disruption. The era of boycotts, stone-pelting, and strikes has ended, paving the way for peace and development. This historic voter turnout reflects the con-



fidence and trust that the people of Kashmir have in PM Modi's leadership," Gupta added.

Gupta also discussed the socio-economic benefits of the newfound stability, particularly its positive impact on tourism. He noted that Kashmir is now experiencing an influx of tourists, which is boosting the local economy and enhancing the region's prosperity.

"The peaceful environment and the suc-

cessful elections have made Kashmir a popular destination for tourists once again. This resurgence in tourism is a clear sign of the region's return to normalcy and its potential for economic growth," said Gupta.

Emphasizing the importance of ongoing democratic participation for the region's development, Gupta called on all stakeholders to continue supporting the democratic process. He stressed the need for collective efforts to ensure the sustained progress of Jammu & Kashmir.

Gupta reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to the region's safety, security, and prosperity. He urged citizens and leaders to maintain this positive momentum and foster a culture of democratic engagement and peaceful coexistence.

"The significant voter turnout in Baramulla is a beacon of hope and progress. It demonstrates that the people of Kashmir are ready to move forward, embracing peace and democracy. The BJP remains dedicated to the region's development and will continue working towards a bright future for all its residents," Gupta concluded.

Sham Lal Gupta's commendation highlights the transformative impact of effective governance and sustained democratic engagement in Kashmir. The successful elections and resulting voter turnout signal a renewed sense of hope and stability, paving the way for further socio-economic development and prosperity. This milestone underscores the potential for positive change through collective effort and visionary leadership.

## BJP OBC Morcha, JKUT condemns religion based reservation by West Bengal govt

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

Sunil Prajapati President BJP OBC Morcha held a press conference and condemned the West Bengal Govt decision of 2011 regarding grant of reservation on the basis of religion to the Minority community diluting OBC quota, which is against the spirit of Article 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution as well as the Recommendations of Mandal Commission and not on the religion based. It was a great conspiracy to attract the Muslim vote bank under appeasement politics as well as to snatch the constitutional rights of the OBC Category people.

The High Court of West Bengal, Calcutta, in its judgment has considered the reservation granted to 118 castes of Muslim out of OBC quota as illegal and unconstitutional and accordingly ordered to cancel all OBC certificates issued during 2010 onwards. The West Bengal



TMC Govt had granted reservation to the Minority community people unconstitutionally as the OBC reservation is meant for the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes as recommended by the Mandal Commission and not on the religion based. It was a great conspiracy to attract the Muslim vote bank under appeasement politics as well as to snatch the constitutional rights of the OBC Category people.

Sunil Prajapati expressed great concern that 5 Lakhs OBC certificates were issued illegally to the Muslims including Rohingyas and Bangladeshis who entered into

India illegally and settled in the West Bengal, who otherwise not entitled to Reservation. The West Bengal Govt has very cunningly has attracted Muslim vote Bank deceiving the real contender of the OBC Reservation. But the West Bengal Govt violated all the constitutional provision and provided reservation to Muslims on the basis of Religion to attract Muslim Bank in a view to remain in power through unconstitutional reservation, which the Country will never accept. It is matter of great concern the Calcutta High Court has order to cancel 5 Lakh OBC certificate due to illegality.

## BFDC demands action against miscreants tampering with archaeological protected structure of Bawe Wali Mata, Bahu Fort

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

Bahu Fort Development Committee (BFDC) has condemned the attempt of tampering with archaeological protected ancient structure of Bahu Fort, which housed Jammu's deity Maa Bawe Wali by unknown miscreants and unobvious silence of the administration on the criminal act.

Speaking to media, Rajeev Charak President BFDC said that some miscreants tried to installed fabricated structure in fortified archaeological protected monument, which remained under tight security of Jammu and Kashmir police and para military forces.

Charak surprised to know that despite being protected by men and technology driven gad-



gets, nobody knows that about so called miscreants who raised constructions in broad day light.

He alleged that police and district administration tried to save offender, which is again a criminal offence as per laid down laws.

He said after BFDC raised the issue, the directorate of archeology and museums, Jammu and Kashmir writes to district administration to take action against violators under relevant sections

of J&K Ancient Monument Preservation Act 1920. However, so far, no action has been initiated and police has been failed to identify the violator who raised the structure. Charak further said that earlier also the temple management tempred with the protected monument and raise dvarious constructions but complaints and representations by people stillbiting dust in deputy commissioner's office.

He urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to constitute a committee and investigate the matter.

Charak Further said that since 1997 to till now, BFDC held protests, campaigns and press meets demanding constitution of Shrine Board for Bawe Wali Mata temple, but our demand has been put on back burner.

## Rahul Sahai submits comprehensive representation to Director Industries, Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

The PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI), Jammu Chapter, under the leadership of Chairman Mr. Rahul Sahai, has submitted a comprehensive representation to Shri Arun Manhas, Director of Industries & Commerce, Jammu, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. Mr Sahai expressed gratitude towards Sh Manoj Sinha Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K and Sh Vikramjit Singh Principal Secretary I&C for deciding to hold this consultation meeting every month so that problems of Industries could be solved.

The representation outlines critical suggestions, recommendations, and issues affecting both upcoming and existing industries in Jammu. Key points include the urgent need for full commission-



ing of the promised 320 MW power in Ghati/Samba, ensuring uninterrupted power supply by keeping industrial Power feeders separate from residential and commercial connections, and extending the NCSS Package and application deadline beyond September 30, 2024, with an increased budget. PHDCCI also emphasized the necessity for expedited departmental permissions for setting up new industries and apprized the house that 8 departments involved in permissions etc which are taking 113 days and only 131 days are left for the sub-

mission of the application for NCSS package, equal benefits for existing units under the NCSS 2021 package should be there, and a stable 24-hour power supply to avoid production losses due to frequent power cuts in existing industrial areas of Gangyal, Bari brahmma, Birpur etc. Additionally, the representation highlighted the significant delays in CGST reimbursement which is pending since 2nd quarter of 2023 and working capital of units are blocked and choked the industry, in this GST department has cleared the cases but these

are pending in treasuries, urging a special meeting with the Secretary Finance Department to address this issue. It also called for expedited land allotment to local entrepreneurs, alternate sites for unsuitable industrial estates like Meencharakan, promotion of tiny, micro, and small industries, and awareness programs for solar power generation benefits to industries and commercial establishments. Other concerns include the need for modern facilities in new industrial estates, a review of residential quarter policies in old industrial estates managed by J&K SIDCO were advocated.

Mr. Rahul Sahai expressed gratitude to Shri Arun Manhas for the opportunity to present these pressing matters and anticipates prompt and favourable actions to enhance the industrial sector in Jammu.

## MeT forecasts 'heat wave' over J&K's plains for next six days

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR MAY 23

With people in the valley already under the scorching temperature, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecasted the "heat wave" over the plains of J&K during the next six days.

As per the news agency CNS, an official from the MeT Centre Srinagar said that there would be "hot and dry" weather over hilly districts of the UT during the next six days besides heat waves over the plains of J&K during the same period.

While giving out the weather forecast from 23-28 May, the official said that generally dry weather would be observed, with the possibility of a thundershower not to be ruled out.

## Apni Party takes out impressive roadshow in Mendhar

JNEWS SERVICE  
MENDHAR (POONCH), MAY 23

Apni Party on Thursday took out an impressive roadshow across Mendhar Town with the participation of hundreds of people with their vehicles and motorbikes in support of the Party's candidate for Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas.

The mega roadshow started from Children Park, and it concluded at the Bus Stand, Mendhar in Poonch District of Jammu and Kashmir in which Former Dy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh, Yudhvir Sethi, Mumtaz Ahmad Khan and other leaders also participated along with the Apni Party leaders.

As a show of strength, the rally of people passed through various roads, and chowks expressing their support to the Party candidate, Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahib.

Expressing his gratitude to the people of Pir Panjal, who have shown their affection and support to him, the Party's candidate, Zafar Iqbal Manhas cautioned to the people of Pir Panjal from the microscopic elements, who are bent upon to disturb brotherhood, and mutual coexistence of the Gujjars and Pahari tribes in the region for centu-

ries. "These microscopic people in the region are trying to create misunderstanding by sowing the seeds of discord in the society as they don't believe in Live and Let Live. However, we will fight them at any cost to defend the mutual respect, and brotherhood of Gujjars - Paharis in the region," said Manhas, while urging the people to stay vigilant from such elements.

He recalled how National Conference and its alliance partner, Congress Party deliberately divided Pir Panjal Region (Pahari areas) and created a Line of Control by dividing the Region in two parts i.e., one part of it is presently under the occupation of Pakistan since 1947.

These two parties joined hands to divide the strategically important border belt of Pahari speaking people into two parts, the Apni Party candidate said, while blaming the National Conference, and its alliance Congress Party as both were in power both in Centre and in J&K respectively.

He said that they were responsible for making the whole region stretching from Rajouri to Karnah, a border area that opened the door of unending miseries and sufferings of both parts



of the people of the undivided State of Maharaja.

Remembering the struggle of more than 45 years of Pahari tribe (one of most backward and neglected tribes) to get the recognition, and reservation; Manhas said that some of the vested interests, tried more than once to crush Pahari movement that has now grown into a fully grown tree with its large trunk following its long struggle.

"I warn these self-interest individuals that we will not allow any kind of compromise with the

future generation. Majority of Gujjars-Paharis live in peace, and brotherhood with each other since centuries in the Region. However, we will not allow destructive plans of a few against the reservation to Pahari Tribe, neither we shall allow them to harm our centuries old brotherhood" he stated.

He said that the urbanized microscopic minority is creating misunderstanding among the Gujjars - Paharis tribes for their vested interest, who have settled in urban areas of Jammu and other

parts of the region.

"We will expose them when the time comes and will not allow such elements to hurt the peaceful atmosphere in the region," he warned again.

Meanwhile, he assured that if he gets elected to the Parliament, he will revamp the development and tourism in the region which would generate employment and boost the local economy.

The region has huge potential that needs to be explored for the sustainable development, and exploration of new

avenues of employment opportunity.

He also referred to his commitment that he would leave no stone unturned to fight for get a separate Parliamentary seat for Rajouri - Poonch so that the people get their own representative to the Parliament.

He also pitched for Hill Development Council, and funds on the pattern of Ladakh. He also brought the attention of the people towards the plight of the families whose youth have been detained under different charges and assured that the Party would try to get them released from the custody.

"We want to provide an opportunity to the detained youth to return to normal mainstream life," he added, while reiterating the assurance to get a sanction for the construction of two important tunnels on historic Mughal Road i.e., Dera Ki Gali, and Peer Ki Gali to keep the highway operational in all the weather conditions. Prominent among those who participated in the roadshow include Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, Wajid Bashir Tikoo, Zulfkar Mumtaz, Aftab Tabi, Ajaz Khan, Kafeel Khan, Nazakat Shah, Tariq Khan, Shakeel Khan, Rt. SP Razaq Khan, Abdul Gani Manhas, and others.

## Rajinder Parshad Sharma conducts tour of several Pyts in Nowshera



JNEWS SERVICE  
NOWSHERA, MAY 23

On the last day of campaign, Rajinder Parshad Sharma, Senior Congress Leader today conducted a long day tour at gross root level of panchayats including Lam, Laroka, Jhanger, Sarya & Bhawani of Nowshera Assembly and asked workers to vote and support INDIA Alliance Candidate Janab Mian Altaf Sahib.

Sharma asked people to come out in large numbers for voting and make Mian Altaf Sab win this seat with a historic margin.

He alleged that BJP leadership has betrayed the educated unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress leader said that BJP has always

exploited the sentiments of youth by making false promises every time particularly during elections but practically they did nothing even after 10 years of power in Centre and their real face stood exposed.

While addressing the people, Rajinder asked the voters to cast their votes on the merit of the candidates without getting misled by propaganda, slogans and promises. We should not repeat the mistake of 2014 and 2019; he said, assuring that the INDIA Alliance will fulfil its promises.

"We will work for the upliftment of poor and downtrodden sections of the society", he added.

Sharma also paid his obeisance at historic Mangla Mata Temple in Bhawani.

## Declare summer vacation in schools in view of scorching heat-wave: Kesri

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

In the midst of a blistering heat wave in Jammu, Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today demanded that summer vacation be declared in educational institutions up to the higher secondary level as Jammu is experiencing searing heat, with temperatures climbing beyond 43 degrees Celsius. Addressing media persons in Jammu during a press conference, Kesri said the excessive heat is causing challenges for children attending school, particularly those in lower grades. He said that the children were experiencing hassles in classrooms as the temperatures rose with each passing day and at the same time educational institutions and transportation were not completely out-fitted with necessary provisions to tackle the heat wave prevalent in Jammu. He said that students in primary schools were the hardest affected by the extreme heat wave. "With



the rising temperature, we appeal to the authorities in the Education Department to close schools for at least two weeks so that students can get some relief from the heat," said Kesri. The daytime temperature has risen sharply in recent days, accompanied by heavy humidity, making it difficult for the students to go to school. Given the increase in everyday temperatures, Kesri said students in the school are finding it difficult to stand the heat, which can be harmful to their health. "Students these days get deadly exhausted in the early hours in schools and later complain of headaches and other ailments while returning home," he said. Kesri demanded that the School Education Department accept their request and proclaim two-week summer holidays for schools, which might be extended based on the temperature in Jammu. "The department should not postpone the decision because prompt action can benefit students," he said. "We have been seeing for so many days that children are getting sick due to the ever-increasing heat and the attendance rate in schools is falling continuously. Therefore, in this view the schools should be closed immediately without delay and holidays are to be declared," he said.

## GHSS Halaran, Doda, is being run by two lecturers, exposes tall claims of govt: AAP

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Senior AAP leader, in a press statement issued here said that at present out of 14 sanctioned post of lecturers in Hr. Secondary School Halaran, only two posts are filled & out of sanctioned 3 posts of master's, all are vacant & out of sanctioned 7 posts of teachers only 2 posts of teachers & one RET teacher, are filled, in Government Higher Secondary School Halaran, up-graded to Higher Secondary School in the year 2008. It is unfortunate that at present only two lecturers each of Chemistry & Mathematics is there in this Higher Secondary School & functioning without any Principal. It has always been without teaching staff right from its establishment. There are no faculty members of important subjects like English, Physics, Botany, Zoology, Computer Science, Political Science, Hindi, Economics, Sociology, Islamic studies, Environmental Science, History & Physi-



cal Education etc, making the system a complete joke & detrimental to the future of young generations, Mr. Rao said and appealed the Lt. Governor, of J&K UT, Sh. Manoj Sinha & the Education authorities to immediately fill up all sanctioned 10+2 posts of Lecturers in Higher Sec. School Halaran in particular & other sanctioned posts of 10+2 lecturers of Chenab Region in General and also urged the LG administration to fill up all vacant posts of teachers in Middle & High Schools of Chenab Region without any further delay. It is pertinent to mention that the wards of the four Panchyats, i.e. Jaura Kalan, Jaura Khurd, Halaran & Jia of Sub-Division Thathri are unable to choose subjects like environmental Sci-

ence, History & Physical Education in 11th & 12th as these subjects are not sanctioned in Hr. Secondary School Halaran & also many other Hr. Secondary Schools of Chenab Region. Rao further said that the promise of providing 2 crore jobs annually to the youths of the country in 2014 and 50,000 jobs to the youths of J&K after abrogation of Art. 370 still haunts the minds of young people here, which never saw the light of the day. Adding fuel to the fire, several thousands of youths engaged on contractual basis, ad-hoc basis, daily wagers or need based arrangements in all departments be it Home guard, Education, PDD, PHE, Health, Food & civil supplies & so on so forth has compounded the miseries of frustrated youths with every passing day as scores of them are crossing age limit or nearing the same without any hope of ACHHE DIN, he maintained and said that previous leaders of successive state governments are squarely responsible for the pres-

ent mess who, without any planning & application of mind, adjusted the youths simply to create vote banks & appease their kith & kins, has put thousands of youths in great dilemma & worst confusion, he claimed & maintained that Educational Institutions were opened with political considerations without proper infrastructure in place, Health Institutions sanctioned without availability of staff & Buildings. He appealed the Lt. Governor to immediately create the posts of lecturers of all streams in Higher Secondary Schools & colleges in rural area of J&K UT without any further delay & fill all the vacant posts in all Educational Institutions in rural area of J&K UT, for justice to the poor students of rural areas & also to the ignored poor highly educated & trained unemployed youths of J&K UT, so that whole lot of highly educated trained and frustrated lot, is adjusted and a sense of confidence building is created in their minds purely on merit basis without caste, creed and colour.

## Govt should make concrete arrangements for safety of Amarnath pilgrims: Kapoor

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

State President of Hindustan Shiv Sena, Vikrant Kapoor has demanded from the government that strict arrangements should be made for the security of the pilgrims coming for the holy Shri Amarnath Yatra which will continue from June 29 to August 19. He also strongly condemned the incident of killing of a former Sarpanch by terrorists in Shopian district. He said that to scare the pilgrims, pro-Pak terrorists are also targeting tourists and carrying out targeted killings. He said that terrorists will never succeed in their nefarious plans.

Hindustan Shiv Sena State President Vikrant Kapoor said this in a press conference in Jammu. Vikrant Kapoor said that the process should be simplified for those setting up langar for the holy Shri Amarnath Yatra 2024.

## Voters ready to make Kashmir Mukt from NC, PDP, Cong: Pathania

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, MAY 23

While winding up election campaign in Anantnag-Rajouri-Poonch Lok Sabha and addressing a series of meetings at Nowgam, VeeriNag, Gohan, Gur Dramman, Kokernag, Pahalgam, and Anantnag, Mr. Ranbir Singh Pathania, BJP Spokesperson, while addressing sector in-charges, booth presidents and senior leaders of BJP said that people across the valley have virtually made up their minds to wipe out NC, Congress, and PDP from the political profile of Kashmir - lock, stock, and barrel. These political parties have consistently betrayed the aspirations and hopes of the Kashmiri people, delivering a slew of failures, resulting in unemployment, bloodshed, and terrorism in the region. Mr. Pathania highlighted that the people have resolved to teach a lesson to these opportunistic political parties, which have misled the public but failed to deliver substantial results. Their



false and deceptive narratives have been exposed. NC, PDP, and Congress are seen as the villains behind the rigged elections of 1987, the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits, and numerous failures and missed opportunities. Now, the people of Kashmir are ready to move beyond the era of bloodshed, unemployment, dynasty politics, and the politics of populism and rhetoric. They seek a future based on employment, development, tourism promotion, and a new realm where Kashmiris can achieve lofty goals.

It is high time for these parties to move on and stop misleading the public. "He urged the leaders of NC and PDP to focus on constructive politics

and contribute positively to the development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Pathania reiterated the BJP's commitment to the region's development and integration with the rest of the country. BJP is committed to the principles of nationalism, democracy, and inclusive development. With a strong presence across the nation, the BJP works tirelessly to uphold the interests of all citizens and promote India's growth and prosperity. We will stand by and support such forces. The meetings were also addressed by Haji Mohd Yusuf Majnu, Mohd Yusuf, Imran Rasool, Parveena Begum, Muneera; Ch Basharat and a galaxy of local leaders.

## Will never allow BJP-RSS to destroy our Constitution: Rahul

New Delhi, May 23: Hailing the Indian Constitution for reflecting the country's age-old ideology and thinking, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said he will never allow the BJP and RSS to destroy the Constitution by ending reservations for them never had any role in framing it.

The Congress leader addressed two back to back election rallies in Dilshad Garden and Mangolpuri in the national capital, from where party candidates Kanhaiya Kumar and Udit Raj are contesting from North East Delhi and North West Delhi Lok Sabha seats respectively.

Addressing the rally in Dilshad Garden here, Rahul Gandhi said, "The BJP and RSS had never accepted the Constitution or the National flag. Now they are saying that when they will come to power they will tear the Constitu-



tion and end reservation. "They should understand that the Constitution has given the right to reservation to the poor and it is not difficult but impossible to eliminate reservation."

The Wayanad MP advised the BJP to stop daydreaming and said that they will never be successful in their intentions

as the Congress will not allow such misadventure to happen.

Taking a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "divine power" remarks, Gandhi said, "The person who has been sent by the god is only working for 22 people and ignoring the poor populace of the country".

Reiterating his party's

stand of fulfilling its manifesto promises, he said, "The first work after our government is formed on June 4th will be to tear and throw the Agniveer Scheme into the dustbin."

"From July 5th crores of women will become lakhpati as they will get Rs 8,500 into their account every month through the Mahalakshmi scheme. With our 'peheli naukri guarantee' we will fill all the 30 lakh government post that are lying vacant".

Accusing Modi of working for just 22 people, Gandhi said, "The Prime Minister has openly given all the country's assets such as railways, ports, airports, PSUs to Adani. But he cannot waive off loans of the poor or farmers of the country".

The Congress leader also accused the media of ignoring issues related to public but were busy making a beeline to take

interviews of the Prime Minister and showing functions taking place at Ambani residence.

Later addressing the Mahila Vichar-Vimarsh in Mangolpuri here, Rahul Gandhi said that unlike BJP, Congress has never considered women as "second-class citizen" and assured that 50 per cent jobs will be reserved for them.

He said that until a woman is made financially strong, her family cannot become strong and that was the reason the Congress has come up with the Mahalakshmi Scheme, wherein every month, the amount of the eligible women will be credited with Rs 8,500.

He said the Congress manifesto was meant for the poor, women, youth, farmers and labourers. The party will be sincerely working for them and results will be visible soon.

## Burglary case solved, stolen items recovered by PS Miran Sahib, Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 23.5.24

On 21-05-2024 one person namely Arvind Razak S/o Munish Razak R/o A/P Khour Deonian reported at Police Station Miran Sahib that someone has stolen his household items from his house at Khour Deonian, Miran Sahib.

On this report a Case FIR No. 51/2024 U/S 454/380 IPC was registered at Police Station Miran Sahib and investi-

gation started.

During the course of the investigation and with the help of technical assistance including CCTV Camera and human intelligence one person namely Navjot Singh @ Shitu S/o Vikram Singh R/o Khour Deonian, Miran Sahib, Jammu was arrested and enquires were made regarding the theft. During the sustained enquiry he confessed his crime and disclosed that he along with another person have committed

this theft.

On his disclosure all the stolen items i.e  
1. Three gas cylinders  
2. One Inverter Battery  
3. One LED TV and One Stabilizer total Cost about Rs 52000/ got recovered. The arrest of one person is pending, however all the stolen items have been recovered. The arrest and recovery was made by a Police team of PS Miran Sahib led by SDPO RS Pura assisted by SHO PS Miran Sahib and IC BPP Kullian.

## Modi introduced culture of equitable delivery, minorities equally benefited: Dr Jitendra

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that quite in contrast to the appeasement driven practice followed during the Congress or UPA rule, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had introduced a culture of equitable delivery wherein minorities were equally benefited.

Modi had successfully raised the standards of public delivery above vote consideration, based on the principle of justice for all, he said.

In an exclusive interview to a monthly magazine, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Modi will always be credited for having introduced a new work culture in India wherein each of the pro-poor and public welfare schemes were designed in such a manner so as to reach the most needy or the last man in the last queue, regardless of cast, creed, religion or vote consideration.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, purely objective parameters were followed to meet the requirement, wherever the requirement was not met in the



past and to deliver justice wherever justice had been denied in the past. This, he said, was quite a departure from the past practice followed by Congress and its allied governments wherein vote bank politics pre-determined the selective rolling out of State benefits.

Citing an example, the Union Minister said, the citizen-centric schemes like PM Awas Yojna, Ujjawala Yojna, Sochalaya, etc., reached every such household where these amenities were found lacking and the authorities never asked as to which religion or caste the family belongs to, or which political party they had voted for in the last election. This

new work culture, he said, will become a new norm in Indian politics and the masses will expect every political party to follow the same.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that due to game changer schemes like Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana, Jan Dhan, Ujjawala, Sauchalaya, PM Aawas, Har Ghar Jal, Har Ghar Bijli and Ayushman, the people of the country have reposed faith in Modi Government time and again both at the Centre and in most of the States. He said, people are getting the benefits of welfare schemes without any discrimination, unlike in the past, when appeasement policy was rampant.

## NS Bhau seeks blessings at Dev Sathan on Buddha Purnima



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

Renowned community leader Narinder Singh Bhau graced the Raj Mandlik Dev Sathan Panchayat in Gaur Dagari temple with his presence on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima. Surrounded by esteemed personalities including Kharah Balli Mandal Pardhan, Bawa Naryan Dass, Booth Pardhan Ashwani Kumar, Naresh Kumar, Banwari Dass, Cpt Raj Singh, Kewal Manhas, Harshvardhan, and others, Narinder Singh Bhau sought blessings and offered prayers for peace and harmony.

Expressing his thoughts on this sacred

day, Narinder Singh Bhau emphasized the importance of following the teachings of Buddha to attain enlightenment and inner peace. He quoted the principles of non-violence and truth, as taught by Sanatan, urging everyone to fill their spirits with these virtues. "Let us join our hearts and minds in prayer for peace and harmony for the betterment of all humankind," he remarked.

The visit of Narinder Singh Bhau to the Raj Mandlik Dev Sathan Panchayat Dagari marks a significant moment of reflection and unity, as the community comes together to celebrate the timeless wisdom of Buddha.

## Narine the 'missing puzzle', could bring joy to WI with retirement reversal one last time: Russell

NEW DELHI:

Andre Russell holds the opinion that Sunil Narine's presence in the West Indies team is crucial, despite the latter's decision to retire from international cricket. Russell considers Narine to be the "missing puzzle" in the West Indies squad.

Although Narine, now 35, announced his retirement in 2023 and last represented the West Indies in a T20I match in 2019, he has been in spectacular form in the IPL, showcasing his prowess with both bat and ball.

Russell believes that if Narine were to reconsider his retirement decision and make a comeback, it would bring immense joy to the entire nation.

"I'm so happy for Sunil to be honest. I think getting close to 500 runs is no joke,



being a premier bowler that is going to look to bowl four overs and has 16 wickets under his belt in this season

as well, that just goes to show the true all-rounder-ship in him," Russell said on Star Sports Cricket Live.

The left-hander has scored 482 runs, providing Kolkata Knight Riders with explosive starts in the powerplay. Additionally, he has taken 16 wickets with an impressive economy rate of 6.90, playing a crucial role in their journey to the final.

The two-time champions defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad in the first IPL Qualifier to secure their fourth final appearance. They now await the winner of Qualifier 2 between SRH and Rajasthan Royals, scheduled for Friday.

Narine has earlier made it clear that he has "made peace with that decision" and the "door is now closed" for coming out of the international retirement for the T20 World Cup next month in the Caribbean and the USA.

But Russell made one final plea.

"Yeah, I definitely think so, I was trying to get in his head before the squad announced for like two weeks straight. (Sherfane) Rutherford and I tried to talk to him and say just for this World Cup, then you can retire do whatever you want to do.

"Though he's the missing puzzle, I think he made his decision and I respect his decision as well, as a big man and as a player that do well. I think if he could change that decision the whole West Indies would be happy," the Jamaican big-hitter said.

The last time, KKR travelled to Chepauk they suffered a batting collapse against the Chennai Super Kings and were restricted for a below-par 137/9. CSK won the match by seven wickets with 14 balls to spare.

## Rafael Nadal to face Alexander Zverev in opening match of farewell French Open

NEW DELHI:

Rafael Nadal is set to commence his final French Open campaign with a highly anticipated clash against world number four Alexander Zverev. The draw has pitted these two formidable players against each other in the opening round.

Despite his incredible record of 14 titles at Roland Garros, Nadal enters the tournament unseeded due to a recent injury that caused his ranking to plummet to 276.

This marks a significant change from his usual status as a top contender.

Nadal and Zverev have a notable history at the French Open, having faced each other in the semi-finals of the 2022 edition. In that match, Zverev was forced to retire after sustaining a severe ankle injury, cutting their encounter short.

As Nadal approaches his 38th birthday next week, he has announced that this season will be his last on the professional tennis tour. With 22 Grand Slam titles to his name, the Spaniard's legacy in the sport is unparalleled, and his farewell at the French Open is sure to be an emotional and memorable occasion for fans worldwide. Zverev, 27, arrives in Paris on the back of lifting the Rome Open title last weekend.

"I'm going to play the French Open thinking that I can give my all, 100 per cent," said Nadal after a second round exit in Rome last week.

As well as 14 titles in Paris, Nadal can boast a record of 112 wins and just three losses, two of which came against Djokovic who will be chasing a fourth



French Open title.

Djokovic turned 37 on Wednesday and marked the occasion by winning the 1,100th match of his career in Geneva.

The Serb has yet to win a title in 2024 with runs to the semi-finals at the Australian Open and Monte Carlo Masters his best performances.

Following Thursday's draw, Djokovic is seeded to face Zverev in the semi-finals.

World number two Jannik Sinner, who took Djokovic's Australian Open title in January, faces Christopher Eubanks of the United States.

Third-seeded Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz, a semi-finalist in Paris in 2023, plays a qualifier.

Sinner and Alcaraz are seeded to meet in the semi-finals but both men have been suffering from injuries which forced them to skip the Rome event.

Andy Murray, the 2016 runner-up, is also competing at the tournament for the final time.

The 37-year-old tackles 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka, 39, in a battle of grizzled Grand Slam veterans.

The pair have met 22 times in a two-decade rivalry with Murray boasting

a 13-9 edge.

Three of those clashes have come at Roland Garros with Murray winning in the semi-finals in 2016 while the Swiss came out on top in the last-four in 2017 and first round in 2020.

In the women's draw, top seed and world number one Swiatek will take on a qualifier with Osaka facing Lucia Bronzetti of Italy in their openers before a potential second round clash.

Swiatek is bidding to win a fifth major and fourth French Open title.

"It feels like home here," said Swiatek who arrives at the tournament with clay-court titles in Madrid and Rome under her belt.

Former world number one Osaka, now ranked 134, has never got past the third round in Paris. Bronzetti, the world number 48, has yet to win a main draw in two visits.

Osaka, 26, has endured a bittersweet relationship with the French Open.

In 2021, she was fined for opting out of mandatory media commitments before withdrawing from the competition after just one match insisting she was protecting her mental health.

Osaka missed the 2023 edition due to being pregnant before giving birth to a baby girl in July.

### SHORT NEWS

#### Frustrated Virat Kohli smashes bottle on ground during RCB's Eliminator loss

NEW DELHI:

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's loss in the Eliminator clash on Wednesday against Rajasthan Royals ended their dream second half run as they crashed out of IPL 2024. Unable to defend a par 172, the defeat in the knockout game halted RCB's six-match winning streak. Although RCB did claw back in game for a brief period when scrawny Royals lost quick wickets mid-way in chase but a composed Riyan Parag and later Rovman Powell ensured that their side crossed the finish line with an over to spare. And with the game slipping away from RCB's grasp towards the end, team's star Virat Kohli was visibly angry as he was seen mumbling and smashing bottle while fielding at the fence. In a viral video, Kohli's frustrated avatar came to the fore when Yash Dayal was hit for consecutive boundaries in the 17th over of Royals' chase. In the video, Kohli can be seen complaining to fellow RCB player and support staff as Dayal leaked boundaries. Royals ended RCB's roller coaster run with a scrappy four-wicket win in the Eliminator. After their bowlers had done their part well to keep RCB to 172 for 8, RR batters stuttered in the middle overs to allow RCB back into the contest which remained hung in balance for the majority of the second half, but the 2008 winners eventually got home with an over to spare. Chasing 173, Rajasthan ended with 174 for 6 as Powell (16 not out) provided the finishing touches in a tense finish.

#### Sri Lanka T20 league set to go ahead despite arrest of franchise owner on suspicion of match-fixing

NEW DELHI:

The Lanka Premier League (LPL) in Sri Lanka has pledged to continue as planned in July, despite the recent arrest of Tamim Rahman, the British owner of the Dambulla Thunders team, on suspicion of involvement in match-fixing. Rahman was apprehended at Colombo's airport on Wednesday, preventing him from boarding a flight to Dubai. He has been remanded in custody by a Colombo court until May 31. The arrest took place just one day after the team spent \$450,000 to acquire 24 players at auction. IPG Group, the rights holder for the LPL, announced in a statement that new owners will take over the Dambulla franchise. "The Dambulla franchise, despite the recent changes, will participate under new ownership," the statement read. "We are in the final stages of confirming the new ownership, ensuring a seamless transition and uninterrupted participation of the team in the tournament." The arrest, carried out by a specialized police unit focused on corruption in sports, marks the first time an LPL official has been detained since the tournament's inception four years ago. Police informed the court that Rahman, who has significant business connections in Bangladesh, was under investigation for alleged offences related to match-fixing and organized betting. Under the sports act, those found guilty face substantial fines of up to 100 million rupees (\$333,300) and prison sentences of up to 10 years.

#### Kerala Blasters appoint Mikael Stahre as head coach

KOCHI:

Kerala Blasters FC has named Mikael Stahre, a 48-year-old Swedish coach, as their new head coach on a two-year contract that will keep him with the team until 2026. Stahre will replace Ivan Vukomanovic, who departed after three seasons as head coach. The new coach is set to join the team at the beginning of the pre-season. Stahre managed over 400 matches with notable teams across various countries, including Sweden, Greece, China, USA, Norway, and Thailand. His most significant achievements include leading AIK to the Swedish Allsvenskan title, Svenska Cupen, and Supercupen, as well as guiding IFK Göteborg to the Svenska Cupen. "After some inspiring & positive discussions with the management, I'm delighted to be joining Kerala Blasters. It is a fantastic privilege. I am very proud to be able to continue my coaching career in Asia, and to explore my third country on this beautiful continent. I look forward to coming to India soon and meeting everyone. Let's do some great things together," said Stahre. "Mikael is an excellent candidate, full of hunger and motivation, who ticked all the boxes of what we were looking for in our coach. He possesses immense experience and strong leadership. I'm happy to have Mikael on board and I look forward to working together," said Blasters' sporting director Karolis Skinkys. Stahre's coaching career began with Vasby United before he took charge of AIK in 2008, leading them to a Swedish League Title and Swedish Cup double in 2009. He then had stints with Panionios in Greece, IFK Göteborg in Sweden, Dalian Yifeng in China, BK Hacken in Sweden, San Jose Earthquakes in the USA, Sarpsborg 08 in Norway, and Uthai Thani in Thailand.

## World No. 5 tennis star Jessica Pegula withdraws from French Open 2024

NEW DELHI:

American tennis player Jessica Pegula, currently ranked fifth in the world, has withdrawn from the upcoming French Open to prioritize her recovery from recent injuries. The 30-year-old had expressed uncertainty about her participation in the tournament earlier this month, following a disrupted clay-court season.

Pegula's last competitive appearance was in the Billie Jean King Cup in April, having missed the Middle East swing in

February due to a neck problem.

In a post on Instagram, she stated, "Unfortunately pulling out of Roland Garros this year. I'm just about back to practicing normal haven't had any issues for weeks... If I had another 5-7 days I would have been there 100%."

Despite her withdrawal from the French Open, Pegula remains optimistic about her future plans, adding, "So I will definitely be back for a full grass season and the rest of the summer and grinding out the rest of the year."

Gotta get that match count up." The specific nature of her latest injury was not disclosed, but it has also forced her to miss tournaments in Rome, Stuttgart, and Madrid this season.

Pegula, known for her consistency on her WTA Tour last year, claimed the Montreal title in the lead-up to the U.S. Open, where she reached the round of 16.

The first round of the French Open is set to commence on Sunday, with Pegula's absence leaving a void in the tournament's lineup.

## 'He's so good': Bret Lee lauds Jake Fraser-McGurk following his selection in T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI:

Former Australian speedster Brett Lee on Thursday praised Jake Fraser-McGurk for his outstanding performance in the Indian Premier League 2024 which earned him a spot as a reserve player in the T20 World Cup 2024 squad. Fraser-McGurk, who represented the Delhi Capitals was on-song throughout the tournament. In nine matches, he amassed an impressive 330 runs at a remarkable strike rate of 234.04.

Further, the 47-year-old Lee spoke about the pitches in the West Indies where the T20 World Cup will be taking place next month in June. He said that the pitches in the West Indies are slow and spin will be a big option there.

"There's a bit of conjecture around pace and spin, but I know in the West Indies the ball does traditionally spin. You know, they're low slow wickets, so spin will be a big option over there," the former Australian cricketer added. Australia open their T20 World Cup campaign against Oman in Barbados on June 5, before Group B fixtures against England, Namibia and Scotland.

Earlier in May, Australia named their squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup.

## 'India taking four spinners to T20 World Cup is absolutely the way to go in the Caribbean'



NEW DELHI:

Former England spinner has backed India's strategic move to include four spinners in their squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup, which will be hosted by the USA and the Caribbean. The selection of four spinners in India's 15-man squad for the cricketing, commencing on June 1, caught many fans and experts by surprise. During the press conference earlier this month, India skipper Rohit Sharma revealed that he wanted four spinners in the squad for the highly-anticipated tournament. Some sections of fans and former cricketers have questioned India's decision to take four spinners for the tournament. But Swann believes that India made the right call of picking four spinners in their 15-player squad. "I think taking four spinners is absolutely the way to go in the Caribbean, and I think you should never question that," Swann told. Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh had questioned India's decision as he feels that four spinners are a "bit too much". "I think selecting four spinners is a bit too much. Three would have been enough. I do not think we will ever play four spinners in a game. Ravindra Jadeja will play. Maybe Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal will play with him.

## I think KKR are going to be favourites to win the IPL this year: Graeme Swann

NEW DELHI:

Former England spinner Graeme Swann has thrown his support behind the Kolkata Knight Riders to claim their third Indian Premier League trophy, citing their impressive performances in the ongoing season. The Knight Riders have been soaring in this edition of the cash-rich league, delivering clinical displays on the field. Making history, they topped the group stage for the first time ever, amassing 20 points in 14 matches to secure the top spot on the table.

Their path to the final was paved with a convinc-



ing victory over the high-scoring Sunrisers Hyderabad in Qualifier 1 on Tuesday. "I think KKR are going to be favourites to win the IPL this year, just the way they have played. The only

loss was to Rajasthan who were flying in the league. But then they have caught them up quietly and then got past them so easily. The way they played against the Sunrisers was phenom-

enal. So any team has got to bring their A-game to beat KKR at the moment," Swann backed KKR to win while speaking to ANI.

Sunil Narine has been instrumental for KKR both as an opener and with the ball. Leading the charge, he stands as the top-scorer for the franchise this season, boasting 482 runs at an impressive average of 37.08 and a striking rate of 179.85 in 13 matches.

Narine showcased his prowess further by notching his maiden T20 century this season, showcasing a stunning 109-run blitz against the Rajasthan Royals.

## 'Very hopeful MS Dhoni will be available for CSK next year': CEO Kasi Viswanathan

NEW DELHI:

Chennai Super Kings CEO Kasi Viswanathan has stated that the franchise has consistently held the choices made by the iconic MS Dhoni in high regard. The decision regarding his future with the team has been entrusted to Dhoni himself, and they anticipate that he will make an announcement at the appropriate juncture.

The 42-year-old Dhoni's future as a player for CSK has been a subject of intense speculation following the team's failure to qualify for the IPL 2024 playoffs.

CSK suffered a 27-run defeat against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their crucial final league match, resulting in a fifth-place finish in the points table.

"I do not know. It is a question only MS (Dhoni) can answer. We have always respected the decisions taken by MS. We have left it to him and as all of you know he has always taken his decisions and announced them at the appropriate time," the CSK boss said. "We do expect that we will get a decision as and when he decides. But we are very hopeful he'll be available for CSK next year. That is the view and



expectation of the fans and mine," said Viswanathan in a video posted by the franchise on YouTube.

He also felt CSK's long-serving head coach, former New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming, won't apply for the India men's head coach job, whose deadline for applications is May 27. "Actually I got a lot of calls from the Indian journalists inquiring whether he is interested in taking a job with the Indian team."

"So I jokingly asked him, 'Have you applied for the Indian coaching assignment?' And Stephen just laughed and said, 'Do you want me to?' I know that it's not going to be his cup of tea because he doesn't like to be involved for nine to 10

months in a year. That's my feeling. I have not discussed anything more with him," he added.

Just ahead of the IPL 2024 season, Dhoni handed over the leadership duties to opener Ruturaj Gaikwad, surprising many on-lookers. Viswanathan revealed how the CSK management had discussed the leadership handover from Dhoni to Gaikwad.

"The discussions we had with the team management before a couple of years ago when Ruturaj came into the CSK and started performing well, we felt that he would be a good choice to captain the side. Both Flem (Fleming) and MS (Dhoni) had long discussions with him, they had plans to make him as a

future captain."

"His performances, and also the way he approached the game, and his thoughts whenever he spoke with MS as well as Fleming... both of them felt that he'll be a good captain at CSK. And we were not disappointed; he led the side comfortably. The seniors also helped him. It has not affected his performance with the bat. He has continued to be a very consistent performer," he noted.

Viswanathan observed that Gaikwad wasn't affected by leadership duties and expressed gratitude to CSK fans for accepting the change in the side's leadership.

"The pressure of captaincy has not affected him. We look forward to his contribution to CSK in the future. The pressure is too high because he's following the footsteps of MS Dhoni."

"Nobody can match him, but MS had the confidence that Rutu (Gaikwad) has it in him to do a very good job. The acceptance from the crowd really helped him for sure, that is for sure. Because if there is pressure from the crowd, you can imagine what happened to other captains," he said.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

# Poonch District gears up for polling; DEO holds meeting to finalise Electoral Preparedness

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, MAY 23

District Election Officer (DEO), Yasin M. Choudhary today chaired a meeting to finalize the preparedness for Polling scheduled to be held in the district on May 25 under the phase 6 of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

The meeting, held in the conference hall of Dal Bungalow Poonch, was attended by a host of officials, including the Senior Superintendent of Police, Youghal Manhas; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik; ARO's from Haveli, Mendhar, and Surankote, all Zonal Magistrates, Sectoral Magistrates, Nodal Officers, Micro Observers, Zonal Police officers, Sectoral Police Officers, Polling Staff, and Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

The meeting laid focus on the importance of fair and transparent electoral process. The sector and zonal officers were briefed on their role and responsibilities during the pre-poll activity.



Various logistical and operational issues were discussed in detail, including poll day, and post-poll activity.

ing lighting arrangements at polling stations, security measures, lunch arrangements, and the timely dispatch of polling parties along with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Sectoral officers were instructed to verify the deployment of security forces and provide timely reports to the control room.

On the day of polling, sectoral officers will be tasked with conducting inspection of polling stations, monitoring the presence of security forces, supervising the activities of polling agents and promptly addressing any issues or complaints that may arise. They will also oversee the proper handling and sealing of Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) at the conclusion of the polling.

District Election Officer Yasin M. Choudhary emphasized the critical role of each officer in fostering a conducive environment for free and fair elections.

# DIC Srinagar hosts Workshop at IE Khunmoh to promote NCSS



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 23

In a continued effort to bolster the industrial landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, the District Industries Centre (DIC) Srinagar held a Workshop cum Awareness Program at Industrial Estate Khunmoh.

The event witnessed significant participation from unit holders, including the President of the Industrial Association.

During the workshop, General Manager (GM) DIC Srinagar engaged with participants in a dynamic question-and-answer session. The General Manager underscored the urgency of leveraging the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS-2021) before the registration deadline, promising to highlight the issues raised by unit holders at the highest administrative levels.

The DIC officials and resource persons from Ernst & Young LLP (DPIIT PIU team Kashmir) addressed the scheme related queries like eligibility, document requirements, application procedure and quantum of incentives available for unit holders.

The unit holders were informed about the incentives under NCSS-2021 which include a 30/50% Capital Investment Incentive (CII), a 6% Capital

Interest Subvention (CIS) on term loans for seven years, a 100% GST Linked Incentive (GSTLI) for ten years, and a 5% Working Capital Interest Subvention (WCIS) for five years.

The program concluded with expressions of gratitude, and eligible units were facilitated in applying for NCSS registration on the spot.

Looking ahead, the General Manager announced that another Workshop cum Awareness Program is set to be held on June 4, 2024, at DIC Srinagar, aiming to provide further support and information to unit holders about the benefits of the scheme.

# Department of Botany at GDC Ramban Celebrates International Biodiversity Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 23

On May 22, 2024, Department of Botany, Government Degree College Ramban, in collaboration with the Innovation and Incubation Cell, GDC Ramban, came together to commemorate International Biodiversity Day under the patronship of Principal, Prof. Archana Kaul. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation and promote action towards its preservation. This year's celebration centered around the theme "Be part of the Plan," which calls for collective action to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, also known as the Biodiversity Plan. The theme emphasizes the role of governments, indigenous peoples, local communities, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and individuals in contributing to biodiversity conservation efforts.

The event began with a lecture delivered by Prof. Jawaid Sarver, Head of the



Botany Department, who shed light on the significance of the Biodiversity Plan and urged students to actively participate in conservation initiatives. Following the lecture, a field visit to the Kundi Village Ramban was organized, providing students with practical insights into local biodiversity. Accompanied by Prof. Ajay Kumar, HOD EVS, Dr. Kiran Parasher, and Dr. Arif Majid, the students explored the diverse flora and fauna of the village ecosystem, deepening their understanding of bio-

diversity conservation. As a symbolic gesture of commitment to environmental stewardship, Principal of GDC Ramban, Prof. Archana Kaul, planted a rare plant species collected from the Kundi Village Ramban during the field visit in the college campus and also stated that, the celebration of International Biodiversity Day underscores our shared responsibility to protect and preserve the Earth's rich biodiversity. Through education, awareness, and commu-

nity engagement, we can inspire positive change and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Additionally, the participation of Prof Satish Kumar, Prof. Raj Kumar Gupta, Prof. Sanjay Kumar Katal, Prof. Chankya, Dr. Romesh Chander, Prof. Aditya Sharma and Dr. Shiwali Gupta, added to the event's significance, reflecting a collective effort towards promoting biodiversity awareness and conservation at GDC Ramban.

# District level Model making competition held at GHSS Battal Ballian

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, MAY 23

A District Level Model Making competition was held at Udhampur in which 19 schools having Agaaz Astrophysics Lab participated.

The competition was hosted by the Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Battal-Ballian Kushal Kishore with elaborate arrangements made in the School for all the participants, escort teachers and Judges.

Chief Education Officer Geetu Bangotra, Vandana HOD DIET Kud and Ashwani Kumar Master acted as judges of the Model Making competition. Dy CEO Dr. Kalpana Jasrotia & SO Gita Kumari were also present. Model making competition was organised to provide students a platform to showcase their talent and foster their imagination and creativity in the field of science and astronomy. From each school, two models were presented, one each in the junior category represented by students of class 6th to 9th and senior category by class 10th to 12th.



The theme of the Model Making competition was "Kabaad se Jugaad/Waste to Wonder." The students from participating Schools presented captivating, unique Working Models with innovative ideas which were highly appreciated and acknowledged by the Judges.

Students showcased their creativity through working models as per theme such as Solar system, Constellation, Space technology, telescopes, Galaxies etc. which was made through Wastes material. Marks were assigned to the models in an impartial manner by the judges on the basis of judging criteria which includes Creativity & Novelty, Craftsmanship, Presentation skills,

etc. On the basis of their performance, Models of Government Higher Secondary School Sewna were adjudged best in both Junior and Senior categories at District level.

The district level selected model has to compete at Divisional level & UT level competition.

DRG Rakesh Singh and Rajesh Kumar on behalf of AGAAZ coordinated the competition.

It is pertinent to mention here that there are 22 Educational institutions having AGAAZ Astrophysics Labs which have received various Science Astronomical equipment at their Institution and Directorate of SAMAGRA SHIKSHA Jammu Kashmir has signed a MOU with IIT Kanpur in this regard.

# Police books a terrorist associate under PSA & 04 notorious drug smugglers under PIT-NDPS Act

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 23

After receiving formal detention orders from the competent authority, Police booked a terrorist associate linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT under PSA & four notorious drug smugglers under PIT-NDPS Act in Sopore & Handwara.

The terrorist associate namely Ahsan Ul Haq Khanday son of Nazir Ahmad Khanday resident of Nowpora Kalan Sopore has been booked under PSA while as three notorious drug smugglers namely Barkat Ahmad Dar son of Abdul Ahad Dar resident of Shair Colony Sopore, Umar Bashir Zargar son of Bashir Ahmad Zargar resident of Behrampora Rafiaband and Musab Bashir Lone son of Bashir Ahmad Lone resident of Wadoora Payeen Sopore have been booked under PIT-NDPS Act in Sopore. The booked persons have been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal, Jammu.

Meanwhile, Police in Handwara booked a notorious drug peddler Aijaz Ahmad Bhat @Tanveer son of Mohd Ramzan Bhat resident of Kralgund Qaziabad under PIT NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention order from the competent authority. The booked drug peddler has been detained and subsequently lodged in jail.

Pertinent to mention here that many cases are registered against the said drug peddlers and they were involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to the local youth. Despite their involvement in many FIRs, they did not mend his activities.

# Director Agriculture visits Potato SMFs of Kalnag & Rampora and Floriculture Farm Sirhama Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 23

The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited Potato Seed Multiplication Farm (SMF) Kalnag, SMF Rampora and Floriculture Farm Sirhama Anantnag, inspected different blocks of these farms and interacted with the concerned technical experts regarding various latest interventions adopted by the farms.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture said that the departmental farms are in a process becoming centers of excellence vis a vis different crop production, protection



technologies. He said Departmental farms are focusing on multiplication of high yielding varieties of agriculture crops, appropriate production and protection technologies, post harvest management and production of good quality seed.

Director Agriculture assured the concerned officers of every possible support from the department for strengthening the departmental farms on modern scientific lines.

He said that from the last two years the department is diversifying the departmental farms in terms of crops and other agriculture activities. We have achieved good results over the quality of planting material but still there is a great scope for improvement, he added. Earlier, Farm Manager Potato SMF Kalnag briefed Director Agriculture regarding various interventions introduced by the department for the development in the said farm on modern scientific lines. He gave a detailed presentation to the visiting director in this regard.

# ACD reviews implementation of MGNREGA, other RDD scheme in Batote Block



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, MAY 23

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Ramban Srinath Suman today visited Batote and chaired a meeting to review the status of development works taken up under the RDD schemes within the block.

Notably, the Rural Development Department, on the direction of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, has notified a schedule for holding special review meetings in each block to assess the progress of developmental works and resolve issues, if any. The ACD, while taking scheme wise review, laid stress on completion of works within the stipulated time, especially MGNREGA works and PMAY houses. He exhorted the RDD official to achieve the full target of generating man-days given to each Panchayat, besides creation of assets which

would benefit the maximum number of people.

"The main motive of such block wise review meetings is to resolve the issues hampering the work execution on spot. Emphasis should be on creation of infrastructure to enhance the living standard of the general masses in each Panchayat," he added. The meeting among others was attended by BDO, JE, TA, Pyt Secy's/GRSs and others.