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All looters during Congress and BJD rules in Odisha will be sent to jail: Modi

AGENCIES
BARIPADA/REMUNA/
KENDRAPARA (ODISHA), MAY 29



Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that all corruption cases during the Congress and BJD regimes in Odisha will be probed, and those who looted the state will be sent to jail, this is "Modi's guarantee."

Addressing election meetings during his fourth leg of electioneering in Odisha, Modi accused both Congress and BJD governments of being responsible for poverty in the state.

Modi stated that the Congress had ruled Odisha for 50 years, while the BJD has governed the state for the last 25 years.

He accused both parties of betraying the people of Odisha in the name of development.

Despite Odisha being rich in mineral and other resources, Modi said the state had not witnessed the desired economic growth, and people are

still languishing in poverty. He vowed that those involved in corruption and who looted the state, shattering the aspirations of the people of Odisha, would not be spared and would be sent to jail.

Modi pointed out that BJD leaders who previ-

ously did not even own a bicycle now own luxury vehicles and have amassed huge amounts of money from corruption.

He promised that the looted money would be recovered from them.

The Prime Minister appealed to the people to vote for BJP candidates in both Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, advocating for a "double engine" government in the state.

He assured that this would make Odisha the number one state in the country.

Modi highlighted that ten years ago, people thought it would be difficult to check corruption and counter terrorism, but in the last ten years,

the country has been freed from these issues.

He noted that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are now celebrating democracy with record voting turnout. Before 2014, India was ranked eleventh in the world economy, and today it has moved to fifth position.

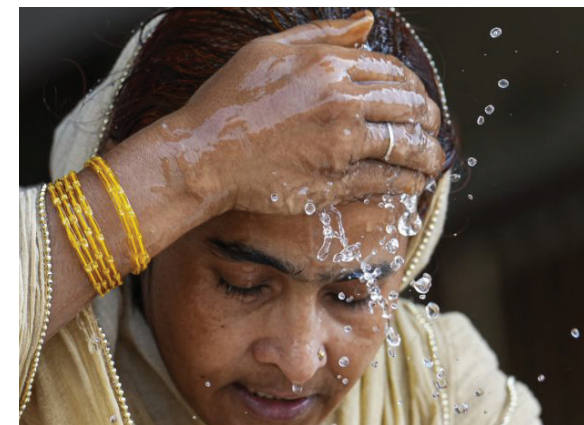
Modi predicted that in the next five years, development would be expedited, and India would emerge as the third economic power in the world.

He also stated that within the next six months after June 4, India would see significant changes in its political landscape, with the disintegration of political parties based on dynasty politics.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Jammu sizzles at 44.8°C; Kashmir heaves sigh of relief as temp drops

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 29



The people across Kashmir heaved a sigh of relief on Wednesday as the maximum temperature plummeted and settled around the normal temperature after the days of intense heat wave. However, Jammu division continued to record the scorching heat even as the weatherman here predicted four-day light wet spell in Kashmir from tomorrow (Thursday).

According to the news agency, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir, recorded a maximum temperature of 27.5 degree Celsius, which was just 1.4 degree Celsius above the normal. The station simmered at 32.6 degree Celsius yesterday.

Qazigund, a gate way of Kashmir, was the hottest in Kashmir at 28.6 degree Celsius which was followed by Kokernag where the day temperature settled at 28.3 degree Celsius.

Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded a maximum temperature of 25.6 degree Celsius while Kupwara in

north Kashmir recorded 27.9 degree Celsius. Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a maximum temperature of 19.0 degree Celsius.

Unlike Kashmir, Jammu areas continued to record the intense heat wave while Jammu recorded the hottest day of

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Preparations underway for Vote Counting in Jammu and Kashmir

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

With the conclusion of voting in all five parliamentary seats of Jammu and Kashmir, preparations for the counting of votes have intensified. The vote counting process is set to begin on June 4 at 8 AM in the respective parliamentary constituencies, with a trial run scheduled for May 31.

As per the news agency, the trial for the Srinagar Parliamentary constituency will take place and counting will be held

at SKICC Srinagar. For Baramulla Seat, counting will be held in Degree College Baramulla. On the other hand, counting of votes for Anantnag-Rajouri seat will be held in Degree college Anantnag.

Jammu parliamentary seat will take place at MAM College Jammu and Polytechnic Vikram Chowk. Approximately 400 personnel will be involved in the trial run. Overall, a total of 2200 employees have been trained for the vote counting process, with 1500 designated for duty on counting day and

the remaining kept on standby.

In Jammu, vote counting will cover seven assembly constituencies at MAM College and eleven at Polytechnic. To ensure accuracy and prevent errors, employees will adhere to a specific dress code for each assembly constituency at both locations. An election official disclosed that 265 tables will be installed at MAM College and Polytechnic, with an additional 35 tables designated for service voting. Each table will be

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

30-year-old dead man brings 2 blind persons out of darkness at GMC Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

A 30-year-old man from Jammu, who lost his life in a road accident, has brought two persons out of the darkness by donating his eyes and giving a new lease of life to two blind persons including a 55-year-old and 60-year-old.

A 30-year-old man admitted in Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) Jammu with a road traffic accident was declared dead and his family consented to donate his eyes.

This was the first such case in SSH, officials told the news agency.

In house attempt was made by SSH authorities for the first time with support from SOTTO J&K for eye donation, they said.

Dr Rehana Khurshid, Medical Superintendent and Dr Sanjogita Soodan Dy MS paid gratitude to the family of the deceased for agreeing to donate corneas on Wednesday morning at SSH Jammu.

Irfan Ahmad Lone, Transplant Coordinator of SOTTO took the initiative to motivate the family for

corneal donation, which gave a new lease of life to two blind patients aged 55 and 60 at GMC Jammu, who received transplants.

It is pertinent to mention here that this is the second corneal donation in this month in GMC. Transplant team was led by Dr Sanjay Kai Professor & Head of 2nd Unit, Ophthalmology Department.

Enucleation was accomplished by Dr Malvika (Registrar), Dr Manpreet (Registrar), Rifat Hamid (Sister Incharge Eye Bank) and Anjuman MTS. KNO

Police affixes GPS tracking device on bailed out LeT aide in Bla

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 29

In compliance to an order received from court, Jammu and Kashmir police in Baramulla on Wednesday affixed a GPS tracking device on a under trial terror associate who was enlarged on bail in a UA(P) case of Police Station Uri.

A police spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency said that the accused was arrested in case FIR No 104/2023 under section 13, 18, 18B, 20, 23, 40 UA(P) Act, 120 B IPC, 7/25 Arms Act of Police Station Uri and has been enlarged bail by the Court.

The GPS anklet will be used to monitor the movement of the said terror associate and ensure that he doesn't violate the bail conditions, he said.

Power curtailment schedule withdrawn with immediate effect: MD KPDCCL '24x7 power supply in smart metered areas'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

Managing Director JPDCCL Vikas Kundal Wednesday issued a public notice in which the curtailment schedule has been withdrawn with immediate effect. The Public Notice issued by the MD JPDCCL read that:

"In view of the improvement in power infrastructure by way of Capacity addition and repair of 2x50MVA, 132/66KV Power Transformer at Grid Station Samba and 10MVA, 33/11kV Power Transformer at Miran Sahib, the curtailment schedule for



Summer 2024, issued by Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCCL vide no: CEJ/TS-II/906-20 dated: 27-05-2024, stands withdrawn. JPDCCL will provide 24x7

power supply in smart metered areas and up to 20 Hours power supply in other areas. However, JPDCCL will have to resort to distressed curtailments

in order to safeguard the critical power infrastructure as and when required.

The general public is requested to exercise prudence in electricity usage due to the soaring demand of electricity driven by the unprecedented rise in temperatures and the severe heat wave.

The public is further advised to pay their electricity dues in time through online/offline mode.

The Managing Director JPDCCL also visited the State Load Dispatch Corporation office and reviewed the availability of power for Jammu region

and said that with the purchase of additional 200 MW of power, JPDCCL shall be able to supply smooth and uninterrupted power to the smart metered areas and also provide relief to the rural areas by reducing the curtailment hours. He was accompanied by Chief Engineer Distribution Manhar Gupta, Chief Engineer System and Operations Rajan Gupta, Executive Engineer IT&C Anil Verma and Executive Engineer, ED-II Sh. Ashok Chibber among others.

MD JPDCCL issued on spot orders that Maintenance and repair

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Kashmir's Lok Sabha Polls: Former Militants, Militant Families, banned Jamaat-e-Islami turn the tables

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

The 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir proved unique in more ways than one. This election cycle witnessed an unprecedented voter turnout, including participation from families of militants, separatists, and members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami, who traditionally abstain from the electoral process. The elections were conducted peacefully, with no instances of zero voting reported.

As per news agency, the most notable transformations were observed in the Anantnag-Rajouri seat, where members of the Jamaat-e-Islami, for the first time in three decades, engaged in the democratic process. Ahmed Reshi, assistant director of the Jamaat-affiliated Falah-e-Aam Trust in Kulgam, cast his vote, alongside separatist Mukhtar Waza and Mushtaq Ahmed Reshi, the father of militant Junaid Reshi. This trend of rejoining the mainstream was also evident in

ally a stronghold of separatist sentiment. Nazir Khan, brother of separatist Naeem Khan, ran for office in Baramulla, while Rauf Ahmed, brother of active Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Umar, and the family of TRF commander Bilal voted in the Baramulla constituency. Umar's brother even urged him to renounce militancy and reintegrate into society.

Ghulam Qadir, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, voted in Pulwama district, part of the Srinagar seat, asserting that most

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

DGP J&K makes surprise visit to SIA Jammu Reviews its working, interacts with officials

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

Director General of Police (DGP) R.R Swain during a surprise visit to State Investigation Agency (SIA) Jammu reviewed its working and interacted with the officials posted there.

Deepika SP and head of Jammu unit of SIA explained how the working space and environment had been improved for SIA investigation officers, chargesheets of important terror financing and narco-terrorism cases have been filed, a police



spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

She also explained the

anklet programme pioneered by the CID wing. J&K police is the first in the country in the entire coun-

try which introduced this technology based stringent bail condition that remotely monitors the movement of UAPA, NDPS and other offenders facing criminal proceedings for committing heinous and repeat crimes.

DGP impressed upon how SIA is making a mark in investigating terror cases and creating a fear of law in the minds of terrorists and their associates in the terror ecosystem.

SIA is focussing on property attachments, freezing of bank accounts,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Rescue operation continues for 24 hours, construction agency unmoved

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 29

The rescue operation continued for nearly 24 hours after a driver fell into Chenab river and went missing at the Rattle hydroelectric power project site near Drabshala in Kishtwar district.

Ironically, the authorities of this project seem to be unmoved by the death of a person at their construction site and neither NHPC higher ups nor anyone from Megha Engineering Limited (the



construction agency) have reached there to help in the rescue operation.

According to the news agency, Faizan Ahmed Rather, a resident of Chila-

tran area of Doda district, fell into the river Chenab last evening when he was unloading a dumper at the construction site.

The dumper was

retrieved from the river whereas his body is still missing.

The district administration Kishtwar with the help of local non-government organizations, SDRF and Red Cross have launched the rescue operation since the accident took place but NHPC and the construction agency officials have not even turned up from the venue.

The relatives of the missing driver and general public have been demanding fast action to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

FSD Anantnag conducts Special Drive at Pahalgam

JNEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MAY 29

The Food Safety Department (FSD) of District Anantnag, conducted a significant drive to evaluate compliance with Schedule-IV and other provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006, along with its associated regulations.

The inspection targeted several renowned hotels and restaurants in the Pahalgam area, including Hotel Pine and Peak, Hotel Radisson, Hotel Heaven, Hotel Grand Heritage, Hotel Abshar, and Hotel Outlook.

During the inspection, it was discovered that some establishments were not adhering to good manufacturing and hygienic practices. Issues such as inadequate hygiene sanitation, lack of protective gear for food handlers, improper waste disposal systems, and the use of non-food grade materials



were identified.

Consequently, notices have been issued to seven hotels/restaurants found to be operating in contravention of FSSA 2006. They are required to provide explanations as to

why their licenses should not be suspended due to observed non-compliance.

Furthermore, as part of the drive, fifteen food business operators in the area have been registered for the Repurpose Used Cook-

ing Oil (RUCO) initiative. This initiative, supported by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), involves the collection of used cooking oil from food business operators by authorized aggregators for the production of biodiesel through the Ministry of Petroleum of India.

Additionally, efforts were made to raise awareness among the general public about the detrimental effects of repeated use of cooking mediums during the drive.

This initiative underscores the commitment of the Food Safety Department to uphold the highest standards of food safety and hygiene in the region.

GCE Srinagar organises 'Alumni Meet 2024'

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 29

The Govt. College of Education (GCE) Srinagar today organized 'Alumni Meet 2024' today in the college auditorium in order to reconnect alumni with the alma mater and their old classmates and teachers.

All the alumni were received with open arms by the organising committee and Alumni Association 'QANDEEL' headed by Dr. Shaheena Rasool.

The program witnessed unprecedented response from the alumni and dignitaries invited to grace the occasion. Their presence really made the program meaningful and colourful. Notable among them were Prof. Zamaan Azurda, Prof. (Dr) Khursheed Ah Khan, Dr Uheeda Shah, Prof. Munawara Syed Alumna, Prof. (Dr) Allaie, Prof. Gurmeet Kour.

Welcoming the alumni of the College, Principal



basic institution.

Prof Khushheed one of the alumni also expressed his nostalgic memories with the college, adding that it is really a hub of learning

Dr. Uheeda Shah, while narrating her memories narrated how this institution has sown seeds of success for her career advancement.

More than 120 alumni participated in this event. The Alumni Meet 2024 proved a grand success as it offered an opportunity for the alumni to network and to contribute for the development of institution in various ways.

Necessary arrangements for the success of this grand event were made by the College Alumni Association 'QANDEEL', College Cultural Committee, College Protocol Committee, Auditorium Committee, College N.S.S Units.

GEC, Prof. Seema Naz lauded the efforts of all the alumni and other invited dignitaries for gracing the occasion in spite of their busy schedule.

During the programme a beautiful cultural program was staged by the students of GCE. The programme included variety of cultural items like Group Song, Ladakhi Dance, Solo Song, Kashmiri Rouf, Duet, Gazal singing etc.

Prof. Gurmeet Kaur also sung a gazal on the stage which enthralled and mesmerized the audiences.

Prof. Zamaan Azurda, Prof. (Dr) Khursheed Ah Khan, Dr. Uheeda Shah shared their nostalgic memories of their college days and encouraged the students to study well for their better future.

Prof Zaman Azurda deliberated upon the "Qandeel" alumni meet and expressed his remarkable memories of the college. He also highlighted the importance of the event. He said that we have got fully illuminated by this institution as we give first priority to attend the functions of our own

Inter-School Zonal Level Tournament begins at Bhaderwah with Grand Inauguration

JNEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, MAY 29

The Inter-School Zonal Level Tournament for U17 and U14 boys was inaugurated at LHS Nichla Thara, Bhaderwah at a grand opening ceremony.

Organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports Bhaderwah, the tournament features competitions in Kabaddi, Football, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Badminton, Carrom, Chess, Tug of War, Yoga, and Cricket. The event was formally inaugurated by ASP Vinod Kumar, in the presence of Headmistress Vipna Devi, Physical Education Masters, Teachers, and sports enthusiasts.

Around 35 government and private schools are participating in the tournament, with matches to determine eligibility for the Inter-Zonal District level competition.

The competitions are



being held under the patronage of Director of Youth Services and Sports, J&K Shubash Chander Chibber and the guidance of District Youth Services & Sports Officer

. Sunil Kumar and overall supervision by ZPEO Bhaderwah Vijay Kumar. After the inauguration, Zonal Education Officer

Vijay Kumar welcomed ASP Vinod Kumar with a bouquet of flowers.

The matches are being officiated by technical committees consisting of Physical Education Masters, Teachers, and REK Teachers, ensuring fair play and a competitive spirit throughout the tournament.

DC Kulgam chairs meeting of BSNL authorities



JNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MAY 29

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a meeting of Officers of BSNL to discuss Mobile network issues in various areas of district and status of completion of BSNL towers at various locations.

The Divisional Engineer BSNL, Bilal Ahmad briefed the chair about the status of new tower installation in the district at various locations.

The DC instructed the BSNL officials to expedite the process of tower installation at various locations in the district and to complete it by the end of June.

He also directed concerned telecom operators to facilitate the people of unconnected areas with network facilities of BSNL within the shortest possible time.

The meeting was attended by ACR, Divisional Engineer, BSNL, DFO Kulgam, Tehsildars and other officers.

JKSTD initiates special drive against fake claims of ITC

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

Jammu and Kashmir State Taxes Department (JKSTD) today initiated a special drive against the practice of claiming fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) to plug the leakage in Government revenue.

As per officials, the drive was carried at various business units across Jammu simultaneously by jurisdictional officers under supervision of Additional Commissioner (Administration and Enforcement) Namrita Dogra and overall directions of Commissioner

State Taxes, J&K P. K. Bhat.

The official spokesperson said that suspected dealers have been identified after a thorough scrutiny of transactional history with the help of advanced technical tools for data analytics besides using its intelligence network across the country to collect such information.

The teams collected vital documents from the premises of inspected units for verification. An officer of JKSTD said that the drive was initiated against the dealers to tackle the menace of GST evasion, particularly the

fake ITC claims and circular trading leading to tax evasion.

He said department develops specific intelligence, after which these units were inspected.

Sharing further details, the officer said that visiting teams collected vital information and further assessment of documents is going on.

Warning the tax evaders, the officer further added that to curb fraud in Goods and Services Tax (GST) and increase compliance, such inspections will intensify in coming days across Jammu and Kashmir.

Health Secretary vows support for IFS efforts on infertility awareness, academic research



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 29

In recognition of Dr Syed Sajjad's achievement as the first doctor from Jammu & Kashmir elected to the Governing Council of National Indian Fertility Society (IFS) as its Additional Joint Secretary, Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, today felicitated the leading IVF expert.

The felicitation ceremony, organized by the Indian Fertility Society, witnessed participation of over 90 gynaecologists from various medical institutions of the valley including LD Hospital, SKIMS Trust Hospital, SKIMS MCH, JLNH Hospital and other district hospitals of Health Services Kashmir. The ceremony also marked installation of new IFS Kashmir Chap-

ter team with Dr Samiya Mufti, a reputed gynaecologist and Head of Unit at LD Hospital, assuming the role of Chapter Secretary.

The highlight of the evening was a captivating performance by a group of girls from the J&K Cultural Academy, adding a cultural flair to the proceedings.

In his address, IFS President, Professor Pankaj Talwar, who was the guest of honour at the event, lauded Dr Syed Sajjad as the "backbone of the Indian Fertility Society", underscoring his vital contributions to the field.

Founder Secretary, IFS Kashmir, Dr Syed Sajjad in his vote of thanks was overwhelmed with the gracious presence and assurances of the Secretary Health and Medical Education in spite of his very busy schedule. He emphasized the strengthening of fertility care on

grassroots level where the Indian Fertility Society will be on forefront with the health and medical education department of JK UT. In a bid to address the pressing issue of infertility in Kashmir, Dr Syed also assured and showed his readiness in starting weekly one day free IFS infertility camps at LD Hospital Srinagar in addition to other district hospitals of Kashmir.

The Health Secretary pledged ongoing coordination and logistical support for the IFS to sustain their academic activities and infertility awareness camps across J&K.

Furthermore, plans were unveiled for an International Conference on ART & Reproductive Medicine to be held in Srinagar, with international delegates from USA, Europe and Canada participating in the event.

DC Samba reviews progress under CAPEX Budget 2023-24



JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAY 29

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the physical and financial status of projects taken under the District Capex Plan 2023-24.

The meeting was held in meeting Hall of the DC Office, included Sectoral and District Officers to provide insights into various sectors such as RDD, PMGSY, R&B, Jal Shakti, Education, Health, and Youth Sports.

The DC scrutinized the funds released and expenditures incurred across different sectors, emphasizing the critical need for timely project completion and efficient fund utilization. He directed officers to expedite ongoing projects while strictly adherence to timelines and quality standards.

It was revealed during the meeting that out of the total 2221 works initiated

under the District Capex, 2113 have been successfully completed, with the remaining projects currently in progress.

The DC underscored the significance of close monitoring and coordination among departments to overcome any bottlenecks and ensure seamless project progress. He directed DSEO for spot verification of a few projects in Vijaypur Sub division.

He urged officers to provide regular updates and promptly address any issues to prevent delays, emphasizing the importance of efficient implementation for the benefit of the district's residents.

The meeting witnessed the presence of key officials including the ADDC Samba, Champa Devi, Chief Planning Officer, Kasturi Lal, ACD, Mehmood Riaz, DSEO, Executive Engineers of KPDC and Jal Shakti, CMO, CEO, Executive Engineer PMGSY, DIO, Ashiq Rafiq, AEE R&B, and other stakeholders.

World Environment Day

DEERS organizes Model Making Competition at GHSS Rainawari

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 29

In a significant move towards promoting Environmental Sustainability and as a prelude to World Environment Day 2024, the Department of Ecology Environment & Remote Sensing (DEE&RS) EIACP Hub Jammu & Kashmir today organized a Model Making Competition on the theme 'Waste to Wealth at Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School (GHSS) Rainawari, Srinagar.

The event aimed to raise awareness about the effects of desertification.

Participants show-

cased their creativity and deep understanding of environmental issues through meticulously crafted models. Each model vividly depicted the adverse effects of desertification, emphasizing the urgent need for sustainable practices to combat this growing problem. The competition witnessed participation of 20 students, divided into 4 groups, who brought their innovative ideas to life with passion and precision.

Participants showcased their creativity and deep understanding of environmental issues through meticulously crafted models.

The top three winners of the competition will be felicitated on World Environment Day, June 5th, recognizing their outstanding efforts and contributions to environmental awareness.

This initiative not only highlighted the importance of addressing desertification but also encouraged young minds to think critically about sustainable solutions. By engaging the youth in such meaningful activities, DEERS-EIACP Hub Jammu & Kashmir aims to foster a deeper understanding of ecological issues and inspire collective action towards a sustainable future.

Environment Day -2024

DEERS organises Model making competition at GHSS Qasaban

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

In anticipation of World Environment Day -2024, the Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing DEERS-EIACP Hub Jammu organized a Model making competition at Govt. Higher Secondary School, Qasaban, Jammu.

The initiative aimed to promote a sense of reducing waste and generating wealth from waste for environmental

conservation. The event saw enthusiastic participation from school students showcasing their expertise in utilizing waste in generating products of household use. By organizing such activities, the department aims to inspire citizens to take active roles in preserving their local environment, ultimately contributing to a healthier planet.

The chief Guest of the occasion Sajjad Ahmed Khan, ESC, DEERS motivated the students about

not using single use plastic and keeping our society clean. He also suggested a plantation drive in the school campus during the upcoming Van Mahotsav.

The PO- EIACP J&K Hub gave an overview of the theme of the World Environment day i.e. Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience. The students presented a thematic skit on save earth and showcased their skills in group dance and solo song too.

Thousands of houses submerged by flood in Manipur

AGENCIES
IMPHAL, MAY 29

Thousands of houses all over the state were inundated by flood as Cyclone Remal hit Manipur since Monday.

The historic Kangla fort was also flooded as police, volunteers took out the aged and children from the affected houses towards safe place.

Over a lakh people were taking shelters at relief centres according to a volunteer, who was taking out infants to safer places.

Cyclone Remal has left a trail of disaster, fallen trees, uprooted houses, landslides. All the rivers flowing in the state specially Nambul, Iri, Imphal were all flowing at the danger levels.

Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey said incessant rainfall due to cyclone Remal over the past 48 hours has severely disturbed the lives of people of Manipur.



The low-lying areas of Valley and Hill Districts have been heavily submerged. Additionally, landslides on state and National Highways 37 and 2 have disrupted the main routes for transporting essential commodities, severely affecting their supply across the state.

She said, "deeply concerned and saddened by the damage to homes and properties in both the Valley and Hills Districts.

In light of these events, I urge all citizens to remain calm and refrain from

panicking. The State Government is committed to taking all necessary measures to prevent the situation from worsening and to extend all possible assistance to those affected. All citizens are requested to stay informed through official channels for updates and follow the guidance provided by local authorities. Together, we will overcome these challenges."

A high alert has been sounded and all working in essential services were asked not to take leave to

meet any eventuality. To maintain water level a gate of the Ethai Barrage was opened.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh said in a social media platform. "We are closely monitoring the situation, and any further openings will be done in consultation with the Water Resources Department (WRD) and the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC). Our official teams are working tirelessly around the clock to manage this situation effectively and ensure the

safety of the people."

As the water levels of the rivers were increasing gradually, thousands of people living beside Imphal, Nambul, Iri rivers were evacuated to safer places. Local clubs and youth bodies arranged sandbags to protect the river walls from breaking.

Both national highways were completely cut off. The Imphal Mao was earlier cut off since May 2023 by various Kuki organizations while the other highway Imphal Jiribam was cut off on Tuesday due to landslide and a truck fell into a gorge as the highway was washed off at Sinam village. The driver had managed to jump down.

State highways connecting Imphal to the districts were also affected as landslides were reported in most parts of the state highways.

The government has ordered closure of all educational institutes from May 29 to 31.

LG orders paid break for construction workers amid Delhi heatwave

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

As temperatures at various national capital locations breached 50 degrees Celsius amid a severe heatwave, Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Wednesday issued order mandating three-hour paid break for labourers at construction sites.

The directive issued by LG office said, "LG has given instructions to Delhi Development Authority... for making adequate arrangements for water, coconut and etc for labourers who have been deployed at various construction sites so that they can stay hydrated."

"Directions were also given that appropriate arrangements for shade/coolers be made to protect the poor labourers from heat stroke. DDA has been given orders that the supervisors and labourers



be given a break during peak heat hours - between 12 noon and 3 pm," an official statement said.

The LG has directed that these arrangements should continue across all sites, till temperatures drop below 40 degrees Celsius.

He further directed Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to convene an immediate meeting of all Public Works Departments including DJB, MCD, NDMC, Power Department

etc and issue directives for protecting the labourers and supervisory staff from extreme heatwave conditions.

Saxena further directed to arrange earthen pots with drinking water at bus queue shelters to provide relief to bus passengers and passersby.

Water sprinklers tankers should be deployed to cool down the ambient temperature on the roads, he added.

DRDO successfully flight-tests RudraM-II missile from Su-30 MK-I off Odisha coast

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) on Wednesday successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II Air-to-Surface missile from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the coast of Odisha at around 1130 hours. The flight-test met all the trial objectives, validating the propulsion system and control and guidance algorithm, a Defence Ministry statement said.

The performance of the missile has been validated from the flight data captured by range tracking instruments like electro-optical systems, radar and telemetry stations deployed by Integrated Test Range, Chandipur at various locations, including the on-board ship.

RudraM-II is an indigen-



ously-developed solid-propelled air-launched missile system meant for air-to-surface role to neutralise many types of enemy assets.

A number of state-of-the-art indigenous technologies developed by various DRDO laboratories have been incorporated in the missile system.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, IAF and industry on the

successful test-flight of RudraM-II.

The successful test has consolidated the role of the RudraM-II system as a force multiplier to the Armed Forces, he said.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Samir V Kamat also complimented the DRDO team for their untiring efforts and contributions culminating into the successful flight test.

AGENCIES
PATNA, MAY 29

Senior RJD leader Tejaswi Prasad Yadav on Wednesday alleged neither was there democracy nor government in Bihar and only bureaucrats were calling the shots.

Yadav while responding to queries of media persons regarding school timing during the summer, when state was reeling under heatwave, said neither was their democracy nor government in Bihar. When state was reeling under scorching heat, school timing should have been rescheduled to provide relief to children specially of lower classes, he added.

RJD leader said that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had issued instructions to change the school timing but it was ignored by the officials. There was

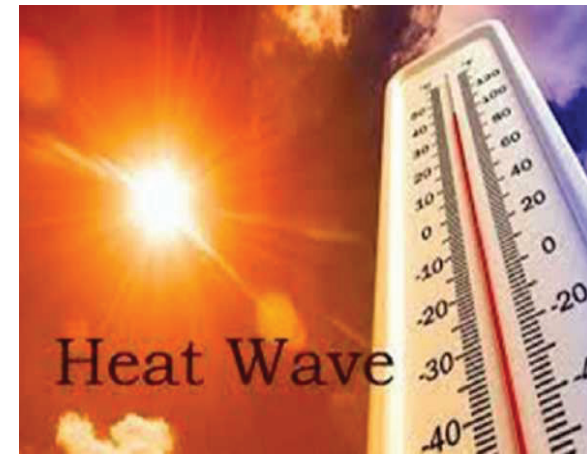


no government and only bureaucrats were calling the shots, he remarked.

Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar had requested state government few days ago to declare holiday in schools due to scorching heat but it went unheeded. School timing has been fixed from 6 AM to 12 PM in Bihar which is causing lots of difficulties for students particularly of lower classes.

A large number of school students fell unconscious due to scorching heat and some of them were admitted to local hospitals for treatment. Most of those admitted were discharged after treatment shortly. Districts where students complained of uneasiness and other complications are -- Begusarai, Siwan, Munger, Jamui, Sheikhpura and others.

Heatwave over Northwest & Central India to reduce gradually: IMD



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions prevailing over Northwest and Central India are expected to reduce gradually from Thursday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

According to IMD, heatwave to severe heatwave conditions is very likely in most parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh today and gradual reduction thereafter. Heatwave conditions is likely to continue in isolated pockets of these areas till June 1st.

Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Jammu division and Himachal Pradesh will also witness heatwave to severe heatwave conditions till tomorrow, the IMD said.

A fresh disturbance is likely to affect Northwest region, under its influence isolated to scattered light rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning is very likely over Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit, Baltistan and Muzaffarabad till June 2, it added.

The weather department has also forecast a gradual fall in maximum temperatures by 3-4°C over Northwest and Central India during the next 3-4 days.

Yesterday, the maximum temperatures were in the range of 46-50°C in many parts of Northwest India; 42-46°C in many parts of West, Central & East India. These were above normal by 3-6°C over many parts of Northwest India and in some parts of Central and West India, the IMD said.

On hot and humid weather, the IMD said these conditions are very likely to prevail over isolated pockets of Konkan and Goa for the next two days. The MeT department further said the conditions are continue to become favourable for Monsoon onset over Kerala during the next 24 hours and advance of monsoon over some parts of Northeastern States during the same period.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

All looters during...

Modi also predicted that there will be a "big explosion" in the BJD politics in Odisha in the next six months. The Prime Minister emphasized that those who have looted the state's resources will have to return the money, reiterating that this is "Modi's guarantee."

There will be no sympathy for those who have looted the people of the state, and these looters will be punished and sent to jail to spend the rest of their lives there, he said.

Jammu sizzles at...

the season at 44.8 degree Celsius today. Katra station also recorded the hottest day of the season at 40.3 degree Celsius.

As per the data, shared by the Meteorological department, Banihal has recorded a maximum temperature of 30.8 degree Celsius while Batote and Bhaderwah recorded 31.9 degree Celsius and 29.4 degree Celsius respectively.

Meanwhile, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy on May 30 and 31st while there is a possibility of light rain and thunder at isolated places as well.

On June 1 & 2, partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain and thunder at isolated places is expected, he said, adding that the weather conditions would improve from June 03 as the weather would remain generally dry on June 03 and 04.

However, he added that from June 5-June 7, generally cloudy with light rain and thunder is expected at scattered places.

Moreover, in its advisory, the MeT stated that there would be no respite in heat wave and Hot & dry weather conditions over plains of Jammu division during next 7 days.

"Slight relief from heat wave and Hot & dry weather conditions during 30-31May & 1-2nd June over most parts of Kashmir & few hilly areas of Jammu Division," it reads.

Another spell of heat wave is expected during 3-4 June over Kashmir division, it said, adding that avoid heat exposure during 12 noon to 3 PM & drink lot of fluid and water especially vulnerable people (Elderly people, infants and children). KNO

Preparations underway...

manned by a counting assistant, counting supervisor,

and micro supervisor, with AROs stationed at separate tables.

During the trial, electronic voting machines (EVMs) and other election materials will be transported from the strong room to the counting centers and then returned. The trial will commence at 8 AM, with employees expected to report by 6 AM. All trained personnel have been instructed to be present.

The Jammu parliamentary seat has 37,404 registered service voters. As counting day approaches, the anticipation and anxiety among politicians and their supporters are palpable. Many constituencies, particularly those centered in Kashmir, are witnessing fierce competition among prominent candidates.

Representatives will be present at the counting centers, and a large number of supporters are expected to gather outside. Meanwhile, with voting completed across all five seats in the state, many politicians and their supporters are seen in a relaxed state, some even visiting tourist destinations to unwind before the results are declared. KNO

'24x7 power...

works should be planned in such a manner that there should be no inconvenience to the General Public and there should be no long hour outages even in rural areas. He also issued instructions that no shut downs should be allowed in the peak summer season.

During the visit, it was informed that 160 MVA, 220/132 KV Auto Transformer at Gladni grid has also been brought into the circuit by JKPTCL today, the transformer is now running in parallel with 400 MVA Auto Transformer bank. This will help in reducing the infrastructure challenges for JPDCL and issues of forced curtailment due to temperature rise of transformer shall subside with this step.

The Managing Director Vikas Kundal exhorted the staff to come down heavily on the illegal hooking and conduct regular connection to provide relief to honest consumers. He reviewed the SCADA system installed at Gladni Grid and complimented the fact that such technological advancements are being used to monitor and control systems at the parent Grid which feeds power to maximum areas of Jammu region. KNO

Kashmir's Lok Sabha...

Jamaat members exercised their franchise, considering it their democratic right. The influence of separat-

ism and terrorist threats appeared diminished across all Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir. Even those who previously advocated for election boycotts participated in the voting process.

The participation of Pakistan-backed separatists further highlighted the shift in the political landscape. Voter enthusiasm was palpable in all phases of the election, with many constituencies breaking previous turnout records. The increased voting percentage in Srinagar, Baramulla, and Anantnag indicated a significant change in the valley's atmosphere. KNO

DGP J&K makes...

executing Non Bailable Warrants, opening Look Out Circulars etc to put social as well as financial pressure on terrorists.

DGP agreed to the proposition of SIA officials that full throttled efforts should be made to make those seeking and succeeding in getting bail connected with terrorism, secessionism, narcotics, land mafia and gangsterism to pay for the ankle. Why should public pay for the ankle and its service which costs around Rs 50,000 was their contention. KNO

Rescue operation...

retrieve the body and also book those who are responsible for the incident.

"We have been here since last night but no one from the construction company has come here to help us in fishing out the body. Their attitude is totally vindictive and careless and it seems the lives of common workers don't matter for them," said Shabir Ahmed, former Sarpanch of Kalihand Panchayat of Doda district, the native village of the missing driver.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishant Devansh Yadav visited the site to supervise the rescue operation and asked the officers to speed up the process and push machinery into the service to trace the body.

According to the eye witnesses, the accident occurred due to loose soil in the area where the construction agency is dumping the soil to construct the dam of Rattle power project. The vehicle was moving on the loose area and during unloading the vehicle fell into the river and driver also fell inside the river.

Despite repeated attempts, Rattle power project authorities were not available for the comments. KNO

28 killed, over 20 injured in Pakistan bus accident

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, MAY 29

At least 28 people were killed and over 20 others injured on Wednesday morning in a bus accident in Washuk district of Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, local police said. Local police told Xinhua that a bus carrying over 50 passengers fell into a ditch in Bismia area of the district, leaving 28 people dead, including women and children. Police and rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted the bodies and injured to a nearby hospital. Medics feared that the death toll might rise further, as several of the injured were in critical condition. Some passengers with minor injuries reported that a tire on the overspeeding bus burst while the bus was traveling from Turbat city to the southwest provincial capital city of Quetta, police added.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024:

RO Anantnag-Rajouri PC visits Rajouri to assess preparations for counting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 29

The Returning Officer for the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency (Deputy Commissioner Anantnag) Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, visited Rajouri district today to oversee the preparations for counting process scheduled on June 4.

Accompanied by the District Election Officer Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, the Returning Officer inspected the counting halls and strong rooms that have been set up at Government Degree College (GDC) Rajouri. A total of 7 counting halls and 7 strong rooms have been established at the location to facilitate the smooth and efficient counting of votes on June 4th, 2024.

During the visit, the Returning Officer thoroughly examined the facilities and infrastructure in place, ensuring that all necessary arrangements have been made for the counting process. He emphasized the impor-



ance of proper training and orientation of the staff who will be involved in the counting, in order to carry out their duties with utmost precision and integrity.

Later, the Returning Officer and the District Election Officer Rajouri, chaired a meeting with the concerned officers to review the overall preparedness for the counting day. Various aspects were discussed and fine-tuned to ensure a seamless and transparent counting process. The Lok Sabha

Elections 2024 counting in the Anantnag Rajouri constituency is scheduled to take place on June 4th, 2024 and all necessary steps have been taken to maintain the integrity of the electoral process and uphold the democratic ethos of the nation.

The meeting was attended by the ADC Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandan; ADC Koteranka, Adil Mir; Dy DEO, Shakeel Mir; ACR, Mohd Jhangir Khan; SDM Thanamandi, Abid Husain Shah and other concerned officers.

Inspection drive to check installation of CCTV cameras & CBS by medicine sale outlets held at Kulgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MAY 29

In a bid to achieve cent percent computerized billing system (CBS) of medicine sale outlets and with the aim to stop unscrupulous sale of scheduled formulations, inspections of the retail and wholesale establishments were conducted today in Kulgam district. During the drive, all the inspected firms were found to have installed high resolution CCTV Cameras and computer billing systems.

On the occasion, an awareness programme was conducted to inform wholesale firms of the district regarding benefits of installation of computer billing systems and prevention of misuse of scheduled formulations.

The inspection drive has been aggressively pursued to achieve a robust system for observing the conditions of licenses and



governing provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act.

Earlier in the day, one prosecution was launched

in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Kulgam regarding non-maintenance records of habit forming drugs.

ADDC inspects progress of work on key projects in Kishtwar district

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 29

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kishtwar, Ghulam Rasool today conducted an extensive inspection tour of Nagseni and Paddar Blocks to evaluate the progress of the mega projects coming up in the region. The visit aimed to ensure timely completion and efficient implementation of key infrastructure and development works, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life for the residents.

The inspection began with a detailed review of the Pullar road alignment at Nagseni. This crucial infrastructure project is expected to significantly improve connectivity and accessibility in the region. The ADC assessed the current status of the road alignment and discussed strategies to overcome any challenges that might impede progress. He emphasized the importance of adhering to the project timelines to ensure that the benefits of improved connectivity are realized by the community at the earliest.

Following this, the ADC visited the under-construction Primary Health Center (PHC) at Padyarna, Nagseni.

The PHC is a vital healthcare facility that will cater to the medical needs of the local population. During the visit the ADC inspected the construction work and



evaluated the quality of materials being used. The ADC directed the project authorities to expedite the construction process without compromising on quality. The next stop was at the Yatri Bhawan in Gulabgarh, Paddar, a significant project designed to provide accommodation and facilities for pilgrims. The ADC reviewed the ongoing work, ensuring that the construction was in line with the proposed plans. He instructed the concerned officials to accelerate the pace of work to meet the deadlines and ensure the Bhawan is operational before the upcoming pilgrimage season.

A spot review of the Panchayat Bhawan was also conducted. The Panchayat Bhawan serves as an important administrative hub for local governance and community activities. The ADC assessed the current status of the building. He highlighted

the role of the Panchayat Bhawan in fostering local governance and community engagement.

One of the critical aspects of the inspection was the review of power restoration efforts in the Bhawans and adjoining areas. The region had recently experienced a severe windstorm, causing significant damage to the power infrastructure. The ADC reviewed the restoration work.

SDM Paddar was directed to take PDD authorities on board to ensure the immediate restoration of power supply to minimize inconvenience to the residents and ensure the smooth functioning of essential services.

Accompanying the ADC on this comprehensive inspection tour were Tehsildar Nagseni, project authorities of the Kwar Project, Block Development Officer (BDO) Paddar, and Naib Tehsildar (NT) Atholi Paddar.

DC reviews status of Jal Jeevan Mission projects in Udhampur



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 29

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, spearheaded a comprehensive review meeting today to assess the status of ongoing schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across Udhampur district. The meeting, held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, convened officers and field functionaries involved with the Jal Jeevan Mission. The DC conducted a thorough scheme-wise review,

emphasizing the need to expedite work and ensure 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) and Har Ghar Jal Certification.

She also directed for the timely completion of all allotted works, setting June 15 as the deadline, and emphasized the importance of addressing any pending electrical work in schemes.

Necessary directives were issued to concerned authorities for the rationalization of staff for running stations and the

removal of bottlenecks in providing FHTC and Har Ghar Jal Certification. She stressed the importance of close coordination among different stakeholders to ensure unhindered progress. Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, along with other officers from line departments, as well as Junior Engineers (JEs) and Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) attended the meeting.

DC Udhampur reviews working of Revenue Department



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 29

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, led a comprehensive review meeting of Revenue officers in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex, here today. Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, SDM Ramnagar Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, SDM Chenani Gurdev Kumar, SDM Dudu Dr. Manmeet Kumar along with all Tehsildars, participated in the meeting. Detailed discussions were held on various aspects which include digitization of records, quality assurance

of updated Jamabandies and digitized Mussavies, restoration of damaged Mussavies, backlog mutations data entry, progress on revenue court cases, Public Service Guarantee Act implementation, complaint redressal, grievance resolution, and building permissions, as well as eviction of State Land were discussed in detail.

The DC issued directives to expedite pending tasks within defined timelines, emphasizing adherence to established rules and laws and the delivery of services within PSGA-prescribed timeframes.

SDMs and Tehsildars were tasked with prioritizing the resolution of all pending cases.

District Level Committee approves seven cases for change of Land Use in Udhampur



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 29

A meeting of the District Level Committee on Change of Land Use (CLU) was held today under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Saloni Rai at the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur.

During the meeting, the committee approved seven cases submitted online by the applicants. Out of the 21 cases presented, seven were approved, five were rejected due to non-compliance with regulations, and nine were reverted for rectification of document deficiencies.

DC Rajouri reviews implementation of HADP

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 29

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Om Prakash Bhagat today presided over a meeting to review implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

The meeting focused on evaluating the progress made in achieving the objectives of the program. Stress was laid on spreading awareness among farmers about the innovative interventions available under the program. As many as 2042 cases, including 2029 of Agriculture sector, 8 of Horticulture and 05 of Sheep Husbandry Department received through



online were scrutinized and approved.

The HADP is an ambitious initiative aimed at establishing a sustainable and profitable agricultural ecosystem. Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat emphasized the overarching goal of the program which is to empower local farmers by equipping them with knowledge and tools that can significantly enhance their productivity and

profitability. Simultaneously, the HADP seeks to contribute to the overall growth of the agricultural sector.

Among others, the meeting was attended by GM DIC, Fareed Kohli; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; CAO, Sohan Singh; CAHO, Dr Khalid Hussain; DSHO, PP Sagotra; CHO, Madan Lal; LDM, Sanjeev Bhasin; AD Fisheries, Bodh Raj and other concerned officers.

District Reasi starts yearlong celebration of birth of girl child



J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 29

District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan on Monday felicitated a new born girl child and her parents at District Hospital Reasi. This marked the initiation of year long celebrations of birth of every new born girl child in district Reasi as Beti Janamotsav under Beti Bachao Beti Padoos Scheme of Department of Social Welfare.

During the function, DDC emphasised the importance of close coordination among other departments to ensure the effective implementation of the schemes of Social Welfare Department. Terming the

move as one of its kind initiative, the DDC emphasised that the objective of this long year celebrations is to promote positive thinking for the girls and to participate in the celebration of the families on the birth of a girl child. He emphasised that the bright future of the girl child will ensure a better and healthy society.

District Social Welfare Officer Reasi, Sachin Sharma, apprised that like this and many other initiatives shall be organised at regular intervals which will help in empowering women. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ravinder Manhas, Medical Superintendent Dr. Gopal Dutt and other officers were also present.

SMVDU hosts training program on 'Procurement through GeM'



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, MAY 29

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University conducted a One Day Training Program on "Procurement through GeM" for Heads of all Schools, PIs, Members of Engineering wing, DRs, ARs & SOs, AAO, ASO and Staff from various wings like S&P, MAC, Sports, Central Library, & network Centre of the University.

The aim was to provide practical training to Faculty and Staff on how to use GeM effectively & to apprise them of the fea-

tures like, Bid Creation, Push Button Procurement, & Bunching, etc.

Neeraj Gupta, Finance Officer, SMVDU inaugurated the Training programme attended by 57 participants.

Ankit Jhavar Deputy Director-State & UTs, GeM gave an introductory lecture on GeM and Javed Ahmed Shaikh Business Facilitator (Jammu & Kashmir/Ladakh) at GeM and Trainer conducted the technical training.

The program was organized by the Stores and Procurement Wing of the University.

Kathua admin provides interim relief to family of accident victims

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 29

District Administration Kathua provided Interim relief to family of two accident victims, who died in an accident at Kot Punnu last week.

Termining the accident as highly unfortunate, the Deputy Commissioner said "An interim relief of Rs 1 Lakh has been sanctioned under Road Accident Victim fund to the bereaved family." The remaining amount of Rs. 1 Lakh shall be released soon.

Meanwhile, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ranjit Singh, RTO Kewal Krishan visited the bereaved family at Nagri and offered condolences.

EDITORIAL

Kashmir's wetland crisis!

The recent revelations by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) concerning the water quality of Kashmir Valley's nine wetlands are alarming. The report indicates that these crucial ecosystems fail to meet the criteria for Class B Designated Best Use, highlighting a pressing environmental crisis. The wetlands, integral for fishing, swimming, recreation, and as a healthy aquatic habitat, are now threatened by unchecked pollution and neglect. It is deeply concerning that neither the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) nor the CPCB can definitively state the number of Ramsar sites in Kashmir. This lack of basic information underscores a troubling disconnect between the authorities and the environmental realities on the ground. The NGT's surprise at this ignorance is well-founded; it is a glaring indictment of the administrative and bureaucratic apathy towards these vital natural resources. The NGT's investigation reveals a disturbing trend of unchecked sediment deposits, rising temperatures, increased Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), elevated pH levels, illegal encroachments, and waste discharge into the wetlands. These factors collectively degrade the water quality and threaten the ecological balance. The fact that only five out of the purported eleven wetlands are acknowledged as Ramsar sites, and even that number is disputed, further complicates efforts for their protection and rehabilitation. Specific findings from the CPCB's report paint a grim picture. For instance, Wular Lake in Bandipora and Anchar Lake in Srinagar have several monitoring locations that do not meet Class B water quality criteria. Similarly, Dal Lake, a jewel of Kashmir, fails entirely to meet these standards at any of its monitoring points. The degradation extends to Hokarsar, Shalbugh, Freshkooori, Kranchoo, Chatlam, and Manibug wetlands, indicating a widespread environmental catastrophe. The NGT's directive for the respondents to submit comprehensive reports and take corrective action within two months is a step in the right direction. However, this needs to be coupled with a more robust and sustained effort. The local bodies must respond swiftly to communications regarding the removal of encroachments, and the awaited microbiological reports should be expedited. The corrective measures proposed by the CPCB, including detailed data collection and implementation of remedial actions, must be pursued with urgency and transparency. Moreover, the discrepancies in the recognition of Ramsar sites must be resolved immediately. Accurate identification and documentation of these wetlands are critical for formulating effective conservation strategies. The involvement of local communities, environmentalists, and other stakeholders in the conservation efforts can foster a more inclusive approach, ensuring that the unique biodiversity and ecological functions of these wetlands are preserved. The condition of Kashmir's wetlands is a clarion call for immediate and decisive action. The CPCB and MoEF must not only acknowledge the severity of the situation but also demonstrate a commitment to resolving it. The NGT's proactive stance should be supported by comprehensive policy measures, stringent enforcement of environmental laws, and active participation of all stakeholders.

Relevant skill sets can combat unemployment

DINESH SOOD

The service sector has undeniably been the primary driver of India's growth since 2000. The exceptional performance of certain modern services has unequivocally contributed to the creation of more productive and decent employment. The reliance on services for economic growth unequivocally demands a fully developed job market, enabling a free flow of the workforce. The absence of such mechanisms will undoubtedly lead to rigidity in the services sector, curtailing growth against the backdrop of the increasingly important position of the services sector. The key focus areas include the pivotal role of technology in shaping the services sector and stimulating job growth in other sectors through multiplier effects.

The momentous transformation of the Indian economy is irrefutably being spearheaded by the service sector, which unequivocally contributes more than 50 per cent of the GDP. The sector's expansion is not happening in isolation but is deeply intertwined with global technological advancements. Technological progress has undeniably been a catalyst for efficiency, customer satisfaction, market expansion and data-driven decision-making within firms. It has

also undeniably given rise to new service categories, such as e-commerce and other tech-based services like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT), revolutionising the sector.

The relationship between the service sector's growth and technological innovation is undeniably mutually beneficial. As the service sector expands, it undeniably fuels further innovation in technology-based solutions. New ventures and their technological needs undeniably push for continuous technological advancements to gain the competitiveness needed to maintain their foothold in the dynamic industry. This competition and need for differentiation undeniably lead to increased investments in research and development (R&D) and open innovations, benefiting both the firms involved and the public.

The introduction of 5G and the ongoing development of 6G technologies have significantly enhanced connectivity, service delivery speed and overall efficiency in India. Efforts to improve digital literacy have further accelerated technology adoption, with 70 per cent of businesses identifying as "Digital Businesses" and the country exhibiting the highest fintech adoption rate at 87 per cent. The application of AI in business operations

has markedly improved operational efficiency, customer satisfaction and decision-making, positioning India as a global leader in AI adoption. However, the rapid digital transformation necessitates a balance between creating employment and providing the relevant skill sets for technology-demanding jobs for a new generation is a national need.

The service sector unequivocally offers both abundant opportunities and formidable challenges. Addressing challenges demands a resolute, comprehensive approach with astute policies and unwavering implementation. Public-private partnerships and policies aimed at bridging the skill gaps must be executed with unwavering effectiveness. Educational institutions must urgently revamp their curriculum to directly align with the market's skill demands.

Technological advancement, while propelling economic growth, undeniably necessitates relentless skill development. To fully exploit technological progress, educational institutions must steadfastly ensure their curriculum is consistently updated and in sync with the latest innovations.

Skill Gap: In India, the skill gap in the labour force is a significant challenge, with only 51 per cent of the youth deemed employable due to a lack of necessary

skills. This issue is exacerbated by the country's diverse socio-economic conditions, particularly affecting those in rural areas and from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, who lack access to quality education and training. This situation perpetuates cycles of poverty and aggravates wage inequality. Moreover, inadequate emphasis on developing non-technical skills such as communication, critical thinking and leadership, which are increasingly in demand, further compounds the problem. The absence of these skills from the curriculum of most educational institutes compels employers to choose candidates only from a handful of premier institutes. Additionally, there is a significant mismatch between the skills taught and those required by employers, leading to unemployment even among the formally educated.

Efforts to bridge this gap must include public-private partnerships (PPPs), such as the initiative to upgrade Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to train 150 million people by 2024. These initiatives are crucial steps toward aligning educational outcomes with market needs, emphasising the vital importance of both technical and non-technical skills development to enhance

employability.

Gender Inequality: Female employability in India has consistently exceeded male employability from 2020 to 2023, but there was a drop in 2024. Furthermore, it has been higher for seven out of eleven years of the Wheel India Skills Reports. However, there has been a persistent gap between female and male labour force participation, indicating a clear bias against employing women over men. This bias is diminishing as female labour force participation has risen over the years, but substantial improvement is still necessary.

The Indian Government has implemented various initiatives to foster gender-inclusive employment, aiming to bridge the gender gap in the workplace, making employing female labourers more lucrative while also ensuring it does not come at the cost of pay disparity.

One significant legislation is the Equal Remuneration Act of 1976, designed to eliminate the wage gap between genders by ensuring equal pay for equal work. However, the act faces challenges, such as the narrow interpretation of the same work or work of a similar nature and the onus on employees to prove discrimination, which is difficult due to workplace power dynamics and legal complexities. Additionally, the Gov-

ernment has launched schemes like Mission Shakti and the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), focusing on women's skill development and employability. These initiatives include exclusive training institutes for women, industry-oriented courses and partnerships with private sector bodies and NGOs. To encourage female participation in skill development, 30 per cent of seats in ITIs and ITCs are reserved for women.

These measures represent a comprehensive and assertive approach to promoting gender equality in employment, highlighting the crucial importance of legislative support, skill development and financial empowerment in achieving a more inclusive workforce. These unwavering steps will guarantee the complete realisation of the Indian economy's potential and the equitable distribution of the benefits of skills development.

(The writer is Co-Founder and MD, of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Network Member, of India International Skill Centres, an initiative of Govt. Views expressed are personal)

Indian elite's longing for the West's high table can only bring ridicule

MK BHADRAKUMAR

The government's decision to attend the G7 summit in Italy (June 13-15) and the conference on Ukraine in Switzerland (June 15-16) can only be seen as a cynical act. The explanation that this decision reflects New Delhi's commitment to advance the interests of the Global South won't fly.

A plausible explanation would be that the 'International Khan Market Gang' - to borrow the most recent coinage by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar - has put the government in a quandary. India's ruling elite are in an untenable position being branded as pariahs by mainstream US media.

Signs are multiplying that the US has fallen out of love with India's ruling elite. Within hours of India signing a contract with Iran for the operation

of a terminal in Chabahar port, the US state department spoke of sanctions. Again, Quad gets marginalised in favour of a new grouping called 'The Squad' with the Philippines taking India's place. Of course, this estrangement is attributable largely to India's refusal to identify with the Western moves to isolate Russia.

Meanwhile, the powerful Five Eyes are in turn taunting, harassing, and humiliating New Delhi in a sniper war to implicate it in alleged murder plots with hired assassins in North America, the indignant Indian denials notwithstanding.

The paradox is, while the Indian elite resorts to strident nationalistic rhetoric and jingoistic grandstanding in domestic politics, its psyche longs for a seat at the high table of Western democracies. The contradiction

is that the elite wants to cherry-pick while the US won't settle for anything less than India unequivocally toeing the Western agenda from A to Z.

However, the fact remains that the government's decision to pander to the West by participating in the two forthcoming events still makes no sense. The two events, masterminded by Washington, stem out of the panic gripping the US and its allies that Russia has gained the upper hand in the Ukraine war, which throws their alliance system into disarray, and may toll the death knell for the 'rules-based order'.

The two back-to-back events focus on charting out the trajectory of the Ukraine war and on a speedy supercharge of NATO's spluttering agenda to inflict a 'strategic defeat' on Russia. The

G7 nations are coalescing around a plan to secure an enormous loan by using Russian assets frozen in the West as collateral - a scandalous move that is clouded by legal uncertainty.

This is happening against the backdrop of a plan NATO is drawing up to secure a five-year military aid package of up to \$100 billion under the rubric 'Mission for Ukraine' in a bizarre attempt to shield the war from 'winds of political change' that could usher in a second Trump presidency! NATO secretary general has followed up with a call on allies supplying weapons to Ukraine to end their prohibition on using them to strike military targets inside Russia!

The government is misleading public opinion that the Swiss conclave is a free exchange of ideas. Far from it, the confer-

ence's sole purpose is to address President Zelensky's so-called peace formula, which involves Russia's eventual capitulation, payment of reparations, a war crime tribunal for the Russian leadership, etc.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov with characteristic plain-speaking stated, "Those who are now being courted and pressed into coming to Switzerland, creating a crowd, and posing for a 'family photo' in order to be able to then blaviate about broad-based support for Zelensky's peace formula, should be aware of the place they are being lured into. They are expected to support an ultimatum that will then be presented to Russia. This is ridiculous."

EU foreign policy chief Joseph Borrell underscored that all other peace proposals (by China, Afri-

can and Arab states, etc.) are off the table, and the deliberations are not about negotiation. The idea is to isolate Russia and cobble together a 'Collective West + Global South' ultimatum demanding its capitulation. Moscow won't accept it.

What has India got to do with all this skulduggery? Our decision-makers should carefully assess NATO's proxy attack on the Russian early-warning Voronezh M radar system in Orenburg, which provides data on space objects for outer space control to guard against a surprise thermonuclear attack. It is an unprecedented attack in the entire chronicle of the Cold War, and harbingers an extremely dangerous phase of NATO-Russia confrontation looming ahead on the horizon.

(MK Bhadrakumar is a former diplomat.)

Time to prioritise human life over commerce

SIDDHARTHA MISHRA

In a massive human tragedy, involving human negligence, 16 innocent lives were lost and almost 75 people were injured when a hoarding fell on a petrol pump in Ghatkopar, a suburb in Mumbai on May 13. It is guessed that the hoarding had a weak foundation and probably fell due to the heavy winds that were blowing that day and struck several people who were present at a nearby petrol pump. It is learnt that the hoarding was three times the size sanctioned by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and stood on the land owned by the Government Railway Polic (GRP). The advertising panel that held the hoarding in question was put by Ego Media whose owner Bhavesh Bhide was arrested in this connection on Thursday.

This incident would not have occurred if care had been taken by those who are entrusted with the responsi-

bility of ensuring observance of legal norms. Any damage or harm caused to persons, naturally, raises concerns of some kind of negligence or human carelessness. It is apparent that some negligence was involved and legal norms were violated. There was negligence on the part of the people who put up such a dangerous advertising panel as well as the local authorities.

The natural question here is why was the company allowed to put an advertising panel, that posed danger to human lives, in violation of the relevant norms and why some action to remove such a dangerous panel was not taken in time by the concerned authorities. There is clear negligence of the owners and workers of the company that put this panel on the public road as they could reasonably foresee that such a panel may cause harm or injury if care is not taken. But there is also apparent negligence of the local

authorities whose accountability is required to be fixed as their responsibility is to keep watch on city roads and, wherever necessary, take quick action to prevent accidents and damage. In this particular matter also, there is an obvious indifference towards the breach of duty and negligence as is apparent in the general attitude of apathy and lackadaisical approach in the Government functionaries as well as among the common people in India. This incident has posed many questions involving faulty urban governance in Indian cities as well as highlighting the general apathy towards human life in our country.

There is no doubt that the Ghatkopar incident was an accident and accidents do occur despite precautions and they happen even in the most developed nations. But incidents and accidents causing deaths, injuries and damages are rampant in India, perhaps, much more than in any other country.

The national newspapers are full of news of deaths, injuries and damages caused either due to road accidents, dog attacks, fire incidents, drowning in rivers, lakes and swimming pools or due to negligence in many other situations including while doing medical procedures. What is surprising is that such news does not invite or attract much public reaction and only some hue and cry is raised in bigger matters for some time which is gradually forgotten. The Government officials also do not seem much bothered by such incidents and they also respond momentarily to assuage the public outcry for the time being.

The thought that perplexes one here is how unfortunately so many innocent and precious lives were lost and what impact it would have had on their family members. Many of those who died must have been the sole breadwinners in the family on whose income the family may have

been dependent. The unexpected deaths of near ones and injuries to those who survived must have caused huge shock and left indelible marks on the psyches of relatives and injured that will remain a constant source of pain for them for the rest of their lives. The loss of relatives as well as the source of income will turn this tragedy into a double jeopardy for the shattered and grieving family members.

Anyone, with an awakened mind and a sensitive heart, who is witnessing rampant human tragedies regularly happening in India, naturally shudders to think about whether there is any guarantee of security or value of, human life in this country.

Ghatkopar tragedy among other such incidents again compels one to think that whether every individual, in this country, is so insecure and vulnerable that anything can happen to them anytime and anywhere and there is always a possibility of an

accident occurring with them due to negligence and callous apathy of others towards human life.

This dismal atmosphere makes the author recall a Statement from a friend's son who had long back gone to study in England. When asked about the difference in life between India and England, he sadly quipped that in England people do not let even their animals die and go to every extent to save their lives, but in India, we see people regularly dying like animals, without much compassion being felt by Government or people. Hope that the Ghatkopar incident will raise concerns and make the Government and people more careful and responsible and a general atmosphere of care and value for human life shall prevail to save precious human lives in our nation.

(The author is a Sr Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, the University of Delhi; views are personal)

Archery event hosted at Girls Hostel Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 29

The 2nd J&K (I) COY NCC Bhaderwah, in collaboration with District Administration Doda on Wednesday inaugurated an archery event here at Girls Hostel, Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Doda, marking a significant step towards promoting the sport among young students.

The event was graced by Brigadier PS Cheema, (VSM SM) accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, Colonel NCCJ&K M.K Sharma, and DYSSO Sunil Kumar.

The inauguration ceremony showcased the commitment to introducing archery as a vital sport



in the region.

Brigadier PS Cheema and Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh emphasized the magnificence of archery as a sport which enhances concentration, precision and physical fitness among

students. They highlighted how the sport can foster discipline, patience and a sense of achievement. The introduction of archery at the Girls Hostel aims to encourage more students to participate in sports, promoting a balanced and

healthy lifestyle. Following the inauguration, Brigadier Cheema and DC Doda interacted with the students, sharing words of encouragement and motivation. They discussed the benefits of engaging in sports and how it can positively impact their academic and personal lives.

As a gesture of community support, Brigadier PS Cheema and Deputy Commissioner gave away clothes to the students, reinforcing the importance of care and solidarity within the community.

ABVP JU Unit submits memo to University of Jammu Admn regarding BAMS Results

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad University of Jammu Unit submitted a memorandum to University Administration to expedite the release of the Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) last semester examination result.

ABVP University of Jammu Unit along with BAMS students delegation met to the Assistant Registrar and Submitted a memorandum regarding delay in the BAMS 4th Year result.

Sannak Shrivats ABVP State Joint Secretary along with delegation expressed the concern about the delay of the results and its impact on student's academic trajectories and future prospects. The authority has assured in the declaration of result within few days.

"The prolonged wait for results creates significant



uncertainty for BAMS students, as these results are crucial for planning their academic careers, including pursuing higher education or securing internship opportunities. If University administration will not solve this issue, we will protest against Jammu University administration," stated Shrivats.

The details of the Assistant Registrar's response and the meeting's outcome are forthcoming. However, this initiative underscores the ABVP

Jammu University unwavering commitment to student well-being and ensuring a seamless academic experience. Irrespective of any kind of circumstances, ABVP Jammu University karyakartas would always be there to support the students with all the matters of their interest.

The members were University Vice President Chaitanya Mangotra, Ashwariya Sharma, Druvh, Keshav Sharma, Ajvir and many others were also present in the delegation.

ARTO Office Ganderbal conducts Special drive on Sonmarg-Zero Point Route

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 29

On the directions from higher authorities, the ARTO Office Ganderbal conducted a special drive on the Sonmarg-Zero Point route to address issues of overcharging and the improper fitment of speed limiting devices in vehicles.

During this comprehensive operation, over 400 vehicles were checked. The drive produced significant findings and actions were initiated.

Driving licenses of 71 drivers who were found to be overcharging passengers have been confiscated and are subject to further action.

Similarly, permits of 53 vehicles with tampered speed limiting devices have been retained for further investigation and necessary action.

Meanwhile, 18 vehicles were found violating traffic rules and have been instantly blacklisted.

Lok Adalat on Traffic Challans & Electricity Bills on June 08 at Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 29

In compliance with the plan of Action formulated by J&K Legal Services Authority, U.T of J&K, Lok Adalat for amicable settlement of Pre and Post Litigation pending before the courts at District Court Complex Srinagar and also Adl. Spl. Mobile Magistrate (13th FC) Panthachowk Srinagar, is scheduled to be held on 08 May, 2024

The Lok Adalat is scheduled to be held under the Chairmanship of Chairman District Legal Services Authority (PDJ) Srinagar.

Meanwhile, all the concerned Judicial Officers have been requested to identify Traffic Challans and Electricity Bills to be taken up in the Lok Adalat and submit the list of the cases to DLSA Srinagar by or before 04-06-2024.

The litigants who are interested to settle their dispute in the proposed Lok Adalat are directed to approach the concerned courts immediately so that their cases shall be listed for amicable settlement in the Lok Adalat.

Nat'l Tele-Mental Health Programme reaches a significant milestone, receiving over 10 lakh calls on its Tele-MANAS toll-free number

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

The National Tele-Mental Health Programme in India has reached a significant milestone, receiving over 10 lakh calls on its Tele-MANAS toll-free number, averaging 3,500 calls per day. Launched by the Government of India in October 2022 to enhance mental health service delivery nationwide, the Programme operates 51 Tele-MANAS cells across all States and Union territories.

The Tele MANAS toll-free helpline numbers 14416 or 1-800-891-4416 offer multi-language support and have been pivotal in facilitating communication between callers and mental health professionals.

Reflecting increased awareness and utilization of mental health services in the country, the Tele-MANAS helpline has seen a steady increase in the number of callers, growing from around 12,000 in December 2022 to over 90,000 in May 2024. This increase in engagement also underscores the importance of continued investment and expansion of mental health initiatives to ensure that everyone has access to the support they need.

To ensure ongoing care and support for those accessing mental health services, the platform incorporates call-backs for follow-up. By linking existing mental health resources and establishing a comprehensive digital network,

Tele-MANAS has become an essential platform for addressing the nation's mental health needs.

The government's dedication to expanding mental health services, particularly targeting vulnerable populations, represents a significant milestone in India's ongoing efforts to combat the mental health crisis and ensure support for all individuals and households across the country.

Moving forward, integration with initiatives like e Sanjeevani will further enhance accessibility and effectiveness of the platform. By continuing to promote awareness and accessibility, Tele MANAS can further contribute to addressing the mental health challenges facing the nation.

Tony flays Govt for announcing scheduled power cuts amid extreme heatwave

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

Taranjit Singh Tony, General Secretary of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee and DDC Suchetgarh, has strongly condemned the government for enforcing scheduled power cuts amidst the severe heatwave sweeping across the Jammu region. As temperatures soar to unprecedented levels, the power cuts have exacerbated the suffering of the residents.

In a statement issued here today, Tony highlighted that the temperature has reached a scorching 47 degrees Celsius in Kathua and 44 degrees Celsius in the Jammu district yesterday. "Instead of providing relief to the people during this extreme heatwave, the government is rubbing salt on their wounds by imposing long scheduled power cuts," he stated.



Tony criticized the government's failure to deliver on its promise of regular and uninterrupted power supply after installing Smart Meters. "There is no iota of doubt that the government is charging hefty amounts from the people of Jammu. The installation of Smart Meters came with the assurance

of a stable and 24x7 power supply. However, now, at the peak of summer, the electricity department has announced extended scheduled power cuts, leaving residents to suffer in this extreme heat," he said.

The senior Congress leader warned the government to reconsider its approach, emphasizing the growing frustration among the people. "The government must amend its ways immediately. If this negligence continues, the people will have no option left but to take to the streets to voice their resentment," he cautioned.

Tony called for urgent action from the authorities to address this dire situation and provide relief to the people of Jammu, who are enduring extreme hardships due to the sweltering heat and lack of electricity.

DC Kishtwar treks 10 Kms to Remote Nagbhatna Village, Addresses Local Grievances

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 29

In a significant outreach initiative, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, accompanied by a team from the District Administration, on Wednesday visited the remote village of Nagbhatna in the Kuntwara area of Drabshalla block.

The entourage included District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Parvez Qazi, CEO RK Vashishta, EE PDD, EE PMGSY and other concerned.

Demonstrating a commitment to governance and accessibility, the Deputy Commissioner and his team trekked 10 kilometers to engage directly with the residents, listen to their grievances and assess the effectiveness of the government's functioning in this far-flung region.

During the visit, Dr. Devansh Yadav actively listened to the concerns of the locals, assuring them of prompt redressal. He directed the concerned district and sectoral officers to address these issues in consultation with the community and to submit an action taken report to his office. Several immediate concerns were



resolved on the spot.

A notable issue identified was the absence of veterinary staff, prompting the Deputy Commissioner to assure strict disciplinary action for dereliction of duties. Additionally, locals raised demands for the expediting of PMGSY road work, the establishment of an extension counter for ration depots, and the provision of a bank branch or KHIDMAT center to improve access to essential services.

Besides, responding to the community's demand for the upgradation of HS Nagbhatna to Higher Secondary Level, Dr. Yadav assured that the matter would be taken up with the concerned authorities

for swift action.

The visit was marked by a warm reception from the locals, who played drums and musical instruments to welcome the district administration team. The residents praised the efforts of the young and dynamic Deputy Commissioner, noting that this was the first time an administration team had visited this remote area in Drabshalla block.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar termed this visit as the administration's dedication and Commitment to inclusive governance and responsiveness to the needs of all residents, regardless of their geographical location viz a Viz at their doorstep.

Jammu group NCC conducts Ex sampark, a visionary conclave of ANOs, CTOs



JI NEWS SERVICE
NAGROTA, MAY 29

Jammu Group NCC conducted Ex Sampark, Review and Future Planning Conclave at NCC Training Academy, Nagrota, which brought together recently Course Qualified Associate NCC Officers and Care Taker Officers (CTOs) from the entire Jammu region covering all 10 districts. The event served as a melting pot of ideas, fostering discussions on training experiences, alignment with organisational objectives, and strategies for preparing a future-ready youth.

The conference witnessed active participation

from Associate NCC Officers (ANOs) who shared their transformative experiences from training at the Officers Training Academies in Kamptee. The ANOs shared their views on the routine of a regimental life, the syllabus and the immersive experience of enjoying enforced diversity and how it changed their whole perspective positively. The pride of wearing the uniform was a common emotion which was echoed by all participants. Col Jitendra Dahiya, Training Officer of Jammu Group NCC motivated and emphasised that all ANOs/CTOs earmarked to undergo

the next training course at OTA Kamptee must prepare themselves mentally and physically in order to excel in the training. He reminded them that outstanding performances on the course does uplift the self-image of the NCC cadets, their own institutions and Battalions which overall benefits the organisation in the long run.

Such Review and Future Planning Conclaves serve as a platform for collaborative brainstorming formulating a shared vision, paving the way for enhanced and contemporary training methodologies and a more engaged NCC community.

Process of granting citizenship certificates under Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 commences in West Bengal

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

The process of granting citizenship certificates under the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 has now commenced in the State of West Bengal, where the first set of applications from the State were today granted citizenship by the Empowered Committee, West Bengal.

Similarly, the Empowered Committees of the States of Haryana and Uttarakhand have also granted citizenship today to the first set of applicants in their respective States, under the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024. The first set of Citizenship Certificates after notification of Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024, granted by the Empowered Committee, Delhi, were handed over to the applicants in New Delhi by the Union Home Secretary on 15th May, 2024.

The Government of India had notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 on 11th March 2024. The Rules envisage the manner of application form, procedure for processing applications by District Level Committee (DLC) and scrutiny and grant of citizenship by State Level Empowered Committee (EC). The processing of applications is done completely through the online portal. In pursuance of these rules, applications have been received from persons belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who have entered into India up to 31.12.2014 on account of persecution on grounds of religion or fear of such persecution.

CUKashmir's HoD Mathematics dept registers design patent

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 29

Dr. Haribhau R. Bhapkar, Head, Department of Mathematics, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) and his team have achieved a significant milestone by securing registration of "Design Patent for Innovative AI-Based Street-Cleaning Vehicle."

This innovative patent features a novel shape and configuration designed to optimize street cleaning services, which are essential for maintaining clean and orderly communities and preventing waste accumulation.

Street cleaning is traditionally labor-intensive, requiring large teams of workers. However, with technological advancements, a single AI-based vehicle could potentially replace eight to ten human cleaners. This innovation not only optimizes efficiency, but also has global applicability, given the universal nature of street cleaning tasks. With millions of individuals working in cleaning-related fields worldwide, the introduction of AI technology in this sector holds tremendous potential for societal impact.

Dr. Bhapkar, is known for his keen interest in the Design Thinking Approach and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), and has successfully filed 40 copyrights and 34 patents, with several already published or granted.

Decoding Samsung 'Solve for Tomorrow' for next generation of Innovators

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow' serves as a platform that enables the convergence of innovative concepts that help in finding solutions for some of the most pressing global issues. This initiative transcends theory, extending an invitation to young innovators to lead and collaborate in building a sustainable future. The 'Solve for Tomorrow' platform recognizes the importance of harnessing innovation for yielding advancements.

A World of Possibilities: Imagine a realm where every idea, big or small, holds the potential to shape a greener, more sustainable and an inclusive future empowering the communities. The two distinct tracks - School Track and Youth Track, each are dedicated to championing a specific theme and are targeted towards different age groups. Both the tracks will run simultaneously, ensuring equal opportu-

nity and a level playing field for all students.

Enter Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow'—a platform where innovation meets real-world challenges head-on.

Where Innovation Meets Action: 'Solve for Tomorrow' isn't just about dreaming; it's about turning those dreams into a reality. Young minds are encouraged to convert innovative concepts into practical solutions for a better tomorrow.

Empowering the Next Generation: From regulating body temperature with semiconductor devices to combating gender biases through AI, the sky is the limit for participants. This initiative empowers young innovators to lead the charge towards sustainability, and social causes like education, healthcare, diversity and inclusion.

The Journey Begins: It all starts with a simple registration at Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2024. Whether in school or college, participants bring their passion and creati-

ty to the table to tackle pressing environmental issues. Phases of Progress: From ideation to implementation, the competition unfolds in phases designed to nurture ideas from conception to execution. Research, planning, and feasibility assessments pave the way for real-world impact.

Turning Ideas into Action: As ideas solidify, participants dive into the implementation phase, leveraging technology and resources to transform concepts into tangible solutions.

A National Stage: 100 teams pitch their ideas to a jury in regional rounds, with 20 semi-finalists advancing to an innovation walk at Samsung's R&D centers and regional headquarters where they attend workshops. At a National Pitch Event at IIT Delhi, they vie for a spot among 10 finalists who undergo one-on-one training. The Grand Finale crowns the 'Community Champion' and 'Environment Champion' of Solve for Tomorrow

2024, each receiving a grant of INR 25 lakh and 50 lakh respectively, plus Samsung Galaxy products for their school and college.

Continued Support: Winning isn't the end; it's just the beginning. With Samsung's ongoing support, winning ideas will evolve into sustainable projects with lasting benefits for consumers.

Beyond Competition: 'Solve for Tomorrow' isn't just a competition; it's a movement. It empowers individuals and communities to effect positive change through innovation and collaboration. Another key element/benefit of the programme is that the intellectual property/patent of the idea remains with the team that develops the solution.

Your Opportunity Awaits: If you have a passion for innovation and solving pressing environmental issues, take the next step. Your chance to contribute to environmental preservation is just a few clicks away.

Passing out event for first Batch of MBBS, BSc paramedical students held at GMC Baramulla

JNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 29

A memorable passing out event was held today at Government Medical College, Baramulla, for the first batch of MBBS and BSc paramedical students, marking a significant milestone in their academic journey. Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, was chief guest on the occasion.

The Secretary commended the students for their hard work and dedi-

cation, emphasizing the crucial role they will play in the healthcare sector. He encouraged them to continue striving for excellence and serve the community with compassion and professionalism.

The event was enlivened by a variety of programs, showcasing the talent of students which added a festive and celebratory atmosphere to the farewell.

In his address, Dr Abid Rasheed highlighted the importance of continuous learning and adapta-

tion of latest technology in the medical field. He exhorted upon the students to stay updated with the new advancements and best practices in the world of healthcare. He also acknowledged the efforts of the faculty and staff in shaping the future of these young professionals. The passing out event celebrated the achievements of students and wished them success in their future endeavors. It also served as a reminder of the pivotal role that

healthcare professionals play in society, especially in challenging times.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Principal GMC, Baramulla, Dr Ruby Reshi, Principal GMC, Srinagar, Dr. Iffat Hassan, Principal GMC Anantnag, Dr. Rukhsana, Principal GMC Handwara, Dr. Khurshed, Medical Superintendent GMC Baramulla, Dr. Parvaiz Masoodi, HODs, faculty members, doctors and others were present in the event.

PM Modi only practices politics of hatred: alleges Rahul

AGENCIES
LUDHIANA, MAY 29

Just days left for the final phase of voting to the Lok Sabha election, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and alleged that he practices politics of hatred and making people fight among themselves.

Addressing a huge rally here, the former Congress president said, "During the last ten years, Modi has done nothing for the people except for making them fight among themselves on the basis of religion, language and region".

Gandhi also slammed the BJP for openly telling that it will scrap the Constitution when it again comes to power.

He said, "For the first time in 70 years, a party has dared to change the Constitution. Several of BJP leaders have openly said that when they will come to power, they will change the Constitution".

The Senior Congress leader said that the Constitution was framed by



Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Ambedkar and several great leaders and Congress will not allow any-

body to change it as the Constitution is not just a book but is the voice of crores of people of the country and has also given them their rights.

He therefore appealed to the people of Punjab to vote for the Congress so that the Constitution and the rights of the people are protected.

Rahul alleged that despite being the Prime Minister of the country, Modi only worked for 22 rich industrialists. "He had waived off loans worth Rs 16 lakh crores of his billionaire friends, while the poor farmers in debt were left alone to die".

He said that on June 4, NDA will be out and INDIA bloc will form the government. The first decision would be to "throw the Agniveer scheme into the dustbin".

Calling the Agniveer scheme as an 'insult to

the defence force', Gandhi said the country cannot have two types of schemes one for poor with no benefits and another for rich with all basic benefits.

Talking about his party's ambitious Mahalakshmi Scheme, the Wayanad MP said on July 5, the INDI alliance government will transfer Rs 8,500 directly into the account of poor women and this will go on every month.

He said all promises that had been mentioned in the manifesto would be fulfilled including filling up of 30 lakh government posts lying vacant, doubling the daily wage of MNREGA workers, Asha and Anganwadi workers.

He also showed grave concern over drug menace in Punjab and said that the issue would be dealt with strictly.

The former Congress President also urged the people to vote and make the Ludhiana candidate Amarinder Singh Warring victorious with huge margin.

Earlier, Rahul Gandhi paid tribute to famous singer and Congress leader Sidhu Moosewala.

SC Registry snubs Kejriwal's interim bail extension plea

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI MAY 29

The Supreme Court Registry Wednesday rejected Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea for a seven-day extension of his interim bail, paving way for his scheduled return to Tihar Jail on June 2. The Supreme Court registry refused to accept the application saying that since the Delhi chief minister was given the liberty to move the trial court for regular bail, the plea is not maintainable. Kejriwal had got interim bail from an apex court bench comprising Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta on May 10 and was asked to surrender to Tihar on June 2. The bench on May 17 reserved a verdict on Kejriwal's plea challenging the validity of his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering (PMLA) case linked to the liquor scam following the formulation of a new excise policy for the national capital city.

Uday Chib pays tribute to Sidhu Moose Wala on death anniversary



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

Uday Bhanu Chib, National General Secretary of Indian Youth Congress, today paid heartfelt tributes to the late Sidhu Moose Wala on his death anniversary. In honor of his legacy, Uday participated in a Chabeel organized by Youth Congress leaders Sunny Jatt Bhai and Tilka Choudhary Bhai in Mishriwala (Jammu North Assembly), where sweetened water was distributed among the people. Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee was also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Uday Bhanu Chib remarked, "Legends never die. Sidhu Moose Wala's legacy continues to inspire and resonate with millions. His contributions

to music and culture have left an indelible mark, and it is our duty to remember and honor him."

The Chabeel event saw a large turnout of locals who appreciated the gesture of distributing sweetened water, a traditional practice symbolizing the spirit of community service and compassion. The event underscored the commitment of the Indian Youth Congress to engage with and support the community, especially in remembering and celebrating the lives of those who have made significant cultural contributions.

Uday Bhanu Chib thanked the organizers, Sunny Jatt Bhai and Tilka Choudhary Bhai, for their efforts in making the event a success and for their dedication to the principles of service and solidarity.

'World Economic Forum': KU student to attend 'Global Shapers Annual Summit'

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 29

The University of Kashmir (KU) Tuesday announced that Syed Uzma Hamid, a postgraduate student from the Department of Social Work, has been selected to attend the prestigious 'Global Shapers Annual Summit'. The summit, organised by the World Economic Forum, will take place in Geneva-Cologny, Switzerland, from July 10th to July 12th, 2024. A member of the 'Global Shapers Community', an initiative by the World Economic Forum, Syed Uzma Hamid plays a key leadership role for the Srinagar Hub.

"Since December 2023, coinciding with the launch of the Srinagar Hub, she has been leading a significant project on menstrual education. Her dedication to this cause and her leadership skills have earned her the opportunity to represent her work among 500 hub members from over 150 countries, making her the first woman from Kashmir to present on such a global platform," an official spokesperson said in a statement issued here.

In her congratulatory message, KU Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan, said that the university community is immensely proud of Uzma's remarkable achievement.

"Her selection to the

'Global Shapers Annual Summit' validates her commitment to social justice and gender equality, and her journey itself reflects the values of the university and highlights the importance of empowering young leaders to drive positive change," Prof Khan said.

Syed Uzma Hamid's participation in the 'Global Shapers Annual Summit' underscores KU's commitment to encouraging change agents who advocate for critical causes like social justice.

"Her involvement not only showcases her personal success but also reflects the University of Kashmir's dedication to creating a better world," the statement read. Congratulating Syed Uzma Hamid, Head, Department of Social Work, Dr Shazia Manzoor said, the Department of Social Work is equally proud of her accomplishments.

"Her journey has been one of significant growth and empowerment. With the guidance and support of the faculty and staff, she has developed the skills and confidence needed to excel in her endeavours," Dr Shazia said.

All travel costs, including accommodation and airfare for Syed Uzma Hamid, will be covered by the World Economic Forum, the statement added.

Khatana expresses concern over increasing forest fire incidents

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has said that increasing forest fire incidents in Jammu and Kashmir is a matter of grave concern.

Khatana was interacting with a group of deputations of tribal people at his official residence wherein the deputation members raised the issues concerning their livelihood and made a special mention about the forest fires.

"Not only animals and plants survive due to forests but a good number of



people belonging to tribal communities also drive their livelihood by grazing their life stock and cattle in these forests," Khatana said. He said that there is a very old relation between the tribal Gujjars-Bakwerals and forests and both are interdependent on one

another for very many things.

"The concerned Forest and Wildlife Department should take serious steps to prevent forest fires as many important and rare species of animals and plants are lost in these forests," the BJP leader said.

Khatana said that the life stock and other cattle with tribal people graze dry grass and fallen leaves in forests which reduces chances of forest fires.

"Preventing these people from grazing their cattle in forests means playing a role in burning the forests," the Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) said. He also said that the

tribals also need to take special care of forests and update the forest guards on incidents of even minor forests to prevent the same from becoming massive blaze.

"The concerned Forest Department should also increase its vigil and press more forest guards into service to avoid forest fires," Khatana maintained adding: "The Fire and Emergency Service Department should also remain alert and in ready to act position to press its men into service immediately on getting information about such forest fires so that the green gold can be saved at all costs."

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 20 of 2024-25

Dated: 28.05.2024
Due : 08.06.2024

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	AAA/TS	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	REPAIR/SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE OF 33TR PACKAGED AIR CONDITIONING UNITS IN WARD No. 9 OF GOVT. SMGS HOSPITAL, JAMMU.	Principal GMC & Associated Hospital Jammu	1.605 LACS	ACCORDED	Rs 4000.00 in the Shape of CDR/FDR/TDR valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer MH Division Jammu	Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal.	10 days	OEM/Authorized /Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" Similar nature of work

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE www.iktenders.gov.in.

DIP/J-800/24
Date: 29-5-24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospital Division
Jammu

Manjit seeks long term policy to deal with dry spell in Kandi Belt

JI NEWS SERVICE
PARMANDAL, MAY 29

Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today demanded regular clean drinking water supply in drought hit Kandi belt amid the severely heat wave affected areas in Parmandal in Samba District.

A meeting was organized by the Party leaders at Gurgani village in Parmandal to discuss the problems being faced by the people of Kandi belt.

The people informed the Former Minister that the concerned department of Jal Shakti has failed to ensure supply of clean drinking water in the above said village, and other areas falling in Kandi belt.

While speaking on the occasion, S. Manjit Singh assured them that he would highlight their concern before the Jal Shakti Department.

He, however, expressed deep concern over the inhuman attitude of the concerned authorities for their inability to supply drinking tap water to the people in Kandi belt, especially when the region is facing dry spell amid heat wave that has put normal life out of gear.



He said that the Kandi belt is suffering because of the irregular drinking water supply and the supply often takes over after over a week that leads to more problems.

Similarly, the people in Kandi belt are affected due to the unscheduled power cuts and it also affects the drinking water supply.

"The people have no source of water in Kandi, and therefore, the Govt should come out with a policy to frame a policy to ensure 24/7 drinking water to the people in Kandi villages," he said while urging for long term policy to deal with the issue.

Meanwhile, S. Manjit

Singh also visited the Madana village and met the family members of the victims who were wounded in the explosion of a mine-blast to know about the well-being of their injured kins.

He also visited the mine-blast victims in the hospital to query about their health. He spoke to the hospital administration to provide best treatment to the injured persons.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion includes Raman Thappa, Adv Lovely Mangol, Bachan Choudhary, Brij Mohan Dutta, Mohammed Shafi, Chano Ram, and others.

Radio-Sonde launched from ISRO Centre, CUJ

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

The Centre University of Jammu proudly announces the successful launch of its Radio-Sonde from its ISRO Centre. This Launch is a part of MOU between the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO and CU Jammu. This milestone event marks a significant achievement in the university's ongoing commitment to advancing space science research and technology.

The Radio-Sonde, a crucial tool for atmospheric data collection, was meticulously prepared and launched by a dedicated team of scientists and researchers from the university. This launch aims to enhance our understanding of atmospheric conditions and climate change, contributing valuable data to both national and global meteorological research.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice-Chancellor, Centre Uni-



versity of Jammu was the chief guest of the event and he remarked on the achievement: "Today's successful launch of the Radio-Sonde exemplifies our commitment to enhancing innovation and research in space sciences. This entire Radio-Sonde system is fully developed indigenously by ISRO under the Make in India vision of honourable Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi. This initiative not only strengthens our research capabilities but also positions our institution at the forefront of atmospheric studies. This

is only the third testing facility of such kind established by ISRO at CUJ."

Prof. Vinay Kumar, convener of the centre briefed that today is the first one in the series; this centre will launch balloons bimonthly from the ISRO Centre of CUJ. Prof. Kumar highlighted that the centre is launching this weather balloon in the afternoon and this will provide a unique set of data as the convection layer is fully developed by this time. Other centres and institutions are doing this practice only in the morning and evening

hours. The balloon will ascend upward at a rate of 5 meters per second up to the maximum height of 40 km.

The ISRO Centre in Centre University Jammu, a premier facility within the university, has been instrumental in providing state-of-the-art infrastructure and resources for such pioneering projects. The launch of the Radio-Sonde is expected to pave the way for future research endeavours and collaborations in the field of space and atmospheric sciences.

This event was attended by esteemed faculty members, students, and notable guests from the scientific community, all of whom witnessed the launch and celebrated this landmark achievement. The data collected from the Radio-Sonde will be analyzed and utilized for various research projects, ultimately contributing to the broader field of space sciences.

Tree plantation drive organized at Chas, Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 29

Commitment towards Environmental Stewardship and 'Strategic Perception Management' through. Tree plantation drive was organised at village Chas of Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir. This initiative underscores the Indian Army's multifaceted approach towards fostering 'Goodwill and Sustainability'. The drive not only aimed at enhancing the local ecosystem but also served as a proactive measure in shaping positive perception among the resident populace. By actively engaging in environmental conservation efforts, the Indian Army continues to strengthen bond with communities and reinforce its image as a responsible and caring organisation. A total of 35 residents and schools children actively participated during the plantation drive, symbolizing a collective effort towards environmental protection. This drive was highly appreciated by the Awam and civil authorities, which was evident from their overwhelming response.

Kavinder holds meetings with booth-level workers in Gurdaspur

Reiterates BJP's commitment to work towards devp, prosperity of people of Punjab

JI NEWS SERVICE
GURDASPUR (PB), MAY 29

Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, today held a crucial meeting with booth-level workers in the Gurdaspur Lok Sabha constituency. The meeting aimed to strategize and finalize preparations for the upcoming polling day on June 1, 2024 in Punjab.

Addressing a meeting of booth-level workers in Gurdaspur district of Punjab State, Kavinder emphasized the critical role they play in ensuring a smooth and successful election process. He outlined detailed instructions for the preparations on polling day, stressing the importance of discipline, coordination, and adherence to electoral protocols. "Booth-level workers are the backbone of our party's grassroots efforts. Your dedication and hard work are vital in ensuring that every eligible voter is able to exercise their democratic right efficiently and with-



out any hindrances," he added.

Kavinder asked the party cadre to strengthen the party base at booth level to ensure resounding victory in the progressing Lok Sabha polls. He asked them to strengthen the organization from the booth-level, and reach out to prospective voters from all segments and age-groups. He laid stress on strengthening organizational setup to the hilt so that the party's triumph at the progressing Lok Sabha polls.

The senior BJP leader asked the booth level workers to disseminate information about Modi government's flagship schemes among the common masses so that doubts if any can

be warded off timely leaving no scope for the opposition parties to take undue benefits by swaying people by misleading them. The former Deputy Chief Minister said that it is important to bring the voter to the polling booth and efforts should be made by the party workers to meet this challenge with utmost ease through strong resolve and conviction. He said that ground level workers are the real ambassadors of the party as their efforts can prove to be the game changer especially to get favourable results in elections. He also reiterated the BJP's commitment to working towards the development and prosperity of the people of Punjab state.

IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu formally takes over new campus building at Bantalab from CPWD

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

After a long wait of around 26 years ever since IGNOU operations started in J&K in the year 1998 on government invitation, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu is all set to start its operations from the new campus in Jammu at Rajinder Vihar Housing Colony, Phase-I, Bantalab, Jammu. The state of the art building has a built-up area of around 6800 sq.ft. built on a parcel of land measuring 14.5 kanals which was inaugurated by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship on 7th of February, 2024 virtually.

The new campus building has a high tech Electric, Electronic, CCTV, Solar, Intercom, EPABX, Fire Alarm, Fire fighting Downcomer systems with passenger lift, DG Set and Panels. The entire con-



struction work has been carried out by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD). The building was today formally handed over by the CPWD authorities to IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu. Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director, Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Assistant Regional Director, Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Assistant Regional Director, S. Tejinder Pal Singh, Deputy Registrar, Sh. Rajesh Mohan, Assistant Registrar, Sh. Lakhbir Singh and Sh. Naveen Dutta were present from the IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu and Shri

J.L. Meena, AE(Civil), Sh. Vikash, JE(Civil), Sh. Palash Choudhary, JE(Electrical) from the CPWD, Satwari Jammu were also present on the occasion. The building, along with all the inventories, was taken over by the Regional Centre Jammu. Regional Director IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu, Dr. Jai Prakash Verma expressed his happiness on the formal takeover of the new campus and informed that Regional Centre Jammu will soon start its operations from the new campus once the shifting process is over.

BJP led govt gaining popularity across globe: Rekha Mahajan

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan said that it is under his leadership that the foreign policy of India has given fame to the nation, which has resulted in the BJP-led government gaining popularity across the globe. While interacting with the senior citizen rejuvenation center in Trikut Nagar, Jammu. Rekha Mahajan, along with other dignitaries on the occasion, also celebrated the 91st birthday of Pran Nath Jalla ji in the esteemful presence of Ashok Gupta, chief patron, Krishen Lal Gupta patron, Narinder Gupta, Baldev Raj Gupta president, Chandher Verma, ex-councillor, TC Taggar, and Vinod Gupta, who organized the program in the Senior Citizens rejuvenation center.

During the event, Rekha Mahajan said, "Under the leadership of PM Modi, the foreign policy of India has



given fame to our country, and India is going to play the role of Vishvaguru in the near future. She elaborated that PM Modi has done an excellent job in the last ten successful years of good governance, and she expressed that in foreign diplomacy, Modi Sarkar has done a splendid job. Rekha Mahajan highlights that the Modi government has increased the budget for infrastructural development on the China border manifold, enhancing it from Rs 3000 crore to Rs 15000 crore.

The Modi-led government, with strong willpow-

er, has done this across all districts across all of China's bordering states, building wide and all-weather roads and tunnels to reach the borders. Rekha asserted that this is the India of today, one that will not submit, will cooperate with allies, and is willing to go to any lengths to ensure the security of anything. The BJP leader also cited the PM Narendra Modi-led government's successful governance, including its initiatives on economic development, national security, and social welfare, as key factors that would propel it to a sweeping win in 2024.

Water crisis at Katra, DC assured early redressal of matter

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, MAY 29, 24

Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra President Rakesh Wazir discussed in detail the matter of water crisis at Katra with Deputy Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan and apprised him that Katra is passing through a deep water crisis at the moment and elaborated him that the situation is this that leaving aside the water through department even the hoteliers are finding it difficult to get water through Tankers even and because of out flow of most of the water resources around Katra has reduced drastically or dried up and as a result the people are forced to bring water from from far away places and if the situation is not tackled it would effect Yatra vigorously. Wazir apprised Mr. Mahajan that though a concrete solution of the matter is the need of the

hour but for immediate time being redressal of the matter some Tanker filling points be made at Pamote Nallah enroute Katra -Narayana and Jhajjar river by installation of pumps over there by the administration and the water be extracted by from there because the water is available at higher water level at Pamote Nallah and likewise at Jhajjar river the water can easily be lifted which even otherwise is getting wasted.

Mahajan listened the things patiently and assured that besides long term solution of the matter, an immediate redressal of the situation would remain his priority and as suggested ,within days the possibility of Pamote Nallah /Jhajjar river Water Tankers filling points would be explored and if everything went well with the combined efforts ,the people will find some relief as for as water crisis is concerned.

Sahil Gupta visits temple, took blessings



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 29

Bharatiya Janata Party Leader and Corporator Sahil Gupta from MC Bishnah today along with ASI Naresh Digra Visited

in Temple at Village Kukar and bowed his head and took blessings.

Sahil Gupta took blessings of all the elderly people there and held discussions while sitting in the temple.

Manga Ram, Krishna Lal, Naresh Bittu, Yashpal Dablehar, Bittu Baba, Dr. JP Kundal, Sikandar Lal, ASI Naresh Digra, Rohit Kumar, Tushar Digra and many dignitaries were present in the program.

Implement intensive measures to curb malpractices & facilitations of tourists: Div Com to officers

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 29

In an intensive effort to further leverage the blooming Tourism Industry of Kashmir and eliminate malpractice of overcharging tourists, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting of Officers to address the issue through proactive enforcement and regulations.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of Srinagar, Ganderbal, Baramulla; Director Tourism; SSP, Tourism Enforcement; RTO Kashmir; ADC Anantnag; SP Traffic Srinagar; CEOs of Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonmarg Development Authorities. Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed officers and enforcement agencies to put more efforts in action to curb the overcharging of tourists, and enforce the rates fixed by Tourism and Transport departments.



He directed concerned to keep strong vigil on the service providers particularly on Maxi-cab transporters, Houseboaters, Shikara wallas and Poniwallas to curb malpractice of overcharging. Div Com also directed concerned Officers to display fixed rates on hoardings at tourist places and at shikara ghats. He further directed

for creation of dedicated Whatsapp number for registration of complaints round the clock. On the occasion, the SSP Tourism Enforcement informed the meeting that an amount of Rs 143480 was realized till date during the current year from erring transporters on account of cheating and overcharging while FIR has been lodged in

five cases. Besides, he informed that 170 complaints were received by the department of which 105 were disposed off.

Moreover, to give impetus to transport facility ferrying tourists to Shankar Achariya Temple and Pari Mahal, Div Com directed RTO Kashmir to start the shuttle service on both routes immediately to reduce the crowding at tourist places along boulevard road.

He also emphasized on initiating the prepaid counters and QR service for transporters and Poniwallas as a measure to curb exploitation of visitors.

The meeting also deliberated on an issue of oil-pilferage in Dal Lake from motorized Shikaras and decided that action should be taken in accordance with the law. It was given that Shikaras are not allowed to use motors.

Div Com also instructed CCTV installation at all tourist resorts to ensure security of tourists and service providers.

DLSA Kupwara holds Awareness programme on Solid Waste Management

JNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MAY 29

An awareness programme on Solid Waste Management (SWM) was today organized by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in collaboration with Municipal Council Kupwara, at Town Hall Kupwara.

The programme was held under the supervision of Chairperson, DLSA (Pr. District & Session Judge) Kupwara, Shazia Tabsum and under the guidance of Secretary DLSA/Sub-Judge, Kupwara, Manzoor Ahmad Khan.

The aim of the programme was to generate awareness about the protection and improvement of the environment, promoting sustainable development and for matters



connected therewith. Resource person, Tawseef Raja, (Assistant LADC) while addressing the gathering spoke on the importance of solid waste management and the associated health threats/ risk posed by it. Various components of solid waste management i.e., Generation, Storage, Collection, Transportation, Disposal, and various aspects of

waste management which is Reduce, Reuse & Recycle (RRR) was also highlighted by him.

During the course of the programme, he also threw light on various Environmental Laws and Legislations including, The Air (Prevention and Regulate of Pollution) Act, 1981, The Environment Protection Law, 1986, The National Green Tribunal

Act, 2010 etc and further stated that the laws need to be followed to maintain a balance in the environment and take India to prosperity.

The resource person also highlighted the success of Jalige Gram Panchayat SWM Unit and stressed upon Self Help Groups (SHGs) to cooperate with ground level workers of Municipal Council Kupwara.

Para legal Volunteers, Irfan Ahmad Shah and Malik Ifshana also spoke on the occasion and assisted in the smooth functioning of the programme.

The programme was attended by Officials of Municipal Council, Kupwara, officials of DLSA Kupwara, local populace of the town and Para Legal Volunteers.

GDC Ganderbal organizes annual road race for Boys & Girls

JNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 29

The Government Degree College Ganderbal on Wednesday organised Annual College Road Race-2024 to promote fitness, sportsmanship, and community engagement among the participants.

The event was flagged-off by the college principal, Prof Fouzia Fatima covering a scenic route showcasing the natural beauty. The annual College Road Race for boys and girls, 2024 was organised by the department of physical education and sports of the college, and witnessed fierce competition, with several participants displaying their athleticism and determination throughout the course.

About 91 students participated in the road race. The race for boys commenced from Power Grid Station Badampora, Ganderbal and for girls at Baroosa Crossing, Ganderbal and culminated at Manasbal Park.

Jameel Ahmad of 6th semester student took the lead by sprinting ahead of the rest of competitors and finished first position with a comfortable lead followed by Shakir Ahmad Dar of 4th semester who finished at 2nd position while Abid Mushtaq Rather of 4th semester finished at third position. In Girls category Khushboo Mushtaq of 4th semester secured first position followed by Afnan of 2nd semester who secured second position while Naysun of 4th semester got third position. Addressing the attendees during the felicitation ceremony, the principal expressed gratitude to the collaborating agencies for their support in organizing the event. She commended the dedication of the college staff who worked tirelessly in the early hours and encouraged students to actively participate in

co-curricular activities. The principal also extended her appreciation to the students for their efforts and achievements.

Valedictory cum prize distribution ceremony was held at Manasbal Park in which the Principal of the college felicitated the position holders of Annual College Road Race for Boys & Girls- 2024 by giving them trophies, medals and certificates.

The ceremony was attended by convener sports committee, Prof Fayaz Ahmad Ahanger, members of Sports Committee and senior faculty members, A.P.T.I Deedar Singh.

DDC Kupwara inspects ISC Galizoo, other sports infrastructure

JNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MAY 29

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today visited Galizoo Stadium here to inspect the final stage of work on Indoor Sports Complex (ISC) at Galizoo Kupwara.

The DDC directed the concerned executing agency (R&B) to ramp up the pace of the work and complete it before 10th June, 2024, so that it is handed over to the YS&S Department.

She instructed the DYS&SO Kupwara to make the Indoor Sports stadium fully functional immediately after it is handed over by the executing agency, so that a vibrant indoor sports culture is fostered here and sports talents of the youth are nurtured in the best possible manner.

While meticulously scrutinizing the status of other sports infrastructure at the venue, DDC



directed the concerned officers to ensure repair of washrooms, electrification and renovation of nearby dug wells.

DYS&SO was instructed to maintain the outdoor sports stadium Galizoo by way of its cleanliness, beautification and landscaping.

On the occasion, DDC

interacted with local youth, officials of the Department of YS&S, to gain insights into the execution of projects and initiatives of the youth engagement.

The DDC took the appraisal regarding the completion of the Lolab Bye-Pass road and directed the Ex. Engineer, R&B

to speed up the work of this important road project so that commuters do not face inconvenience.

The DDC was accompanied by CPO Kupwara, Parvaiz Ahmad Lone, Ex. Engineer R&B, Farooq Ahmad and District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kupwara, Zahoor Ahmed Wani.

GDC Ganderbal conducts Cleanliness Drive

JNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 29

To foster community engagement and promote the values of cleanliness and hygiene, the National Service Scheme (NSS) and NCC units of Govt. Degree College Ganderbal organized cleanliness drive in college campus.

The initiative witnessed active participation of volunteers, students and faculty members as well. The event comprised various activities viz. cleanliness and sanitation awareness

sessions, waste collection and disposal and beautification of public spaces.

On the occasion, volunteers gathered at GDC Ganderbal to take part in an informative session on the significance of cleanliness and its impact on overall well-being. This was followed by a collective effort to clean and sanitize the college's premises by all the participants.

The drive witnessed an energetic group assembling in the college to extend the scope of the

cleanliness drive. The participants collaborated to clean up the vicinity, removing debris, and focusing on waste segregation to ensure effective disposal.

Prof Fouzia Fatima, principal of the college while inspecting the activity, interacted with the students and faculty members and expressed her gratitude towards the enthusiastic participation of all the volunteers and participants.

The event concluded on a high note, with participants pledging to continue maintaining the cleanliness of their surroundings and spreading awareness about hygiene practices.

Prof Mansoor Ahmad Lone, coordinator of NCC and Dr Fayaz Ahmad Ahanger, programme Officer of NSS played a valuable role in making the drive successful.

The event concluded on a high note, with participants pledging to continue maintaining the cleanliness of their surroundings and spreading awareness about hygiene practices.

DC Bandipora reviews functioning of DIC, EDI & KVIB

JNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MAY 29

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive review of several departments including Industries, EDI and KVIB in a meeting held at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

District Heads of concerned departments apprised the DC regarding various initiatives of their departments implemented in the district.

Emphasizing proper implementation of various Government programmes, the DC directed the concerned to reduce the pendency of cases and organise more awareness camps for the larger benefit of the public. Sha-



keel ul Rehman also emphasized the swift delivery of public services, maintaining quality of services, and working on reducing pendency of cases. The DC, on the occasion, urged the Nodal Officer, EDI to identify locations for establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs and directed the concerned to work in coordination with Education department for the realisation of these initiatives. Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC, Umar Shafi Pandit, CPO, Mohammad Maqbool, GM DIC, officials from DIC, EDI KVIB and other concerned.

GDC Ajas organises Anti-Drug Rally

JNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MAY 29

Government Degree College Ajas in collaboration with Government AYUSH Dispensary Ajas Bandipora today organized an impactful anti-drug rally in Ajas. The rally aimed to spread awareness about the detrimental effects of drug abuse and advocate for a drug-free community. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from both students and faculty members of GDC Ajas, as well as members of Government AYUSH Dispensary Ajas Bandipora. During the rally, participants carried anti-drug placards and banners, boldly displaying messages condemning drug abuse. They marched through the streets of Ajas, engaging with local residents



and passer-by, spreading awareness about the physical, psychological, and social consequences of drug addiction.

The rally had a profound impact on the local

community, drawing attention to the pressing issue of drug abuse and its far-reaching consequences. Through interactive discussions and distribution of informational pam-

phlets, participants effectively conveyed the message of leading a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

The anti-drug rally served as a powerful platform to advocate for a drug-free society. By uniting students, faculty, and community members, the event demonstrated collective determination in combating the menace of drug addiction.

On the occasion, Principal GDC Ajas said that such initiatives play a vital role in fostering awareness and a culture of responsibility towards one's health and well-being, and informed that GDC Ajas will continue to organize more awareness campaigns and educational seminars to continue the fight against drug abuse and promote healthier lifestyle choices within the community.