



# Govt has firm resolve to address public complaints in time-bound manner: LG



**JAMMU, APR 07:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha interacted with the citizens, who had submitted their grievances on JKIGRAMS portal during "LG's Mulaqat" today. The Lt Governor said that it is our firm resolve to address public complaints in time-bound manner and speedily bring about change for all round progress. **Turn.....Govt has firm.....Pg 02**

## Mercury stays below normal amid dry weather in Kashmir

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** The minimum and maximum temperature stays below normal in Kashmir valley amid Meteorological forecast of dry weather during the next 24 hours. The weather is likely to remain dry till April 10 and generally cloudy with light rain at isolated places towards late afternoon or evening on April 11 while it will be generally cloudy from April 12 to April 15, MeT office said. Bright sun appeared in Srinagar with mostly clear sky on Friday much to the delight of the people and tourists. Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 4.4 degree Celsius against 6.3 degree Celsius the previous night. It was, however, 2.5 degree Celsius below normal during this period of the season. The maximum temperature also stays below normal recorded at 17.3 degree Celsius which was 1.2 degree Celsius below normal. **Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national Turn.....Mercury stays.....Pg 02**

## No Need To Panic About Rise In J&K Covid Cases: CS

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday said that there is no need to panic about the rising cases of Covid-19. Speaking on the sidelines of celebrations of World Health Day in Srinagar today, Mehta said that "there is no need for anybody to panic about the rise in Covid-19 that is the loud and clear message I want to communicate through media". "There is no need to panic if there are any steps required to address the issue, it will be taken in time," he said.



Mehta said that the authorities in Jammu and Kashmir were very successful in managing the previous variants of covid periods. He said people should have complete confidence that as and when need arises all possible steps would be taken. But at the moment there is no need to worry, he added. **Turn.....No Need To Panic.....Pg 02**

### NEWS BRIEF

#### DAK seeks death penalty for drug traffickers

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** On world health day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday has sought death penalty for drug traffickers. "Drug trafficking is destroying our young generation and it deserves exemplary punishment," said **Turn.....DAK seeks death.....Pg 02**

#### Police arrest man with 12 liquor bottles

**BUDGAM, APR 07:** A man from North Kashmir's Bandipora was arrested by police in Central Kashmir Budgam for transporting liquor bottles illegally. A police party from Humhama **Turn.....Police arrest man.....Pg 02**

#### CRPF Trooper Among 3 Arrested in Huge-Heroin Recovery Haul Case

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** Police on Friday arrested a third accused in connection with recovery of a huge haul of heroin worth 70 crores in Srinagar district. Police have already arrested two persons including a CRPF trooper in **Turn.....CRPF Trooper Among.....Pg 02**

#### Cop Dies Of Bullet Injury in Kupwara

**KUPWARA, APR 07:** A policeman died due to bullet injury in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Friday, officials said. They told GNS that policeman, Bikram Sharma (SgCt), deployed as guard at the residence of a BJP leader, sustained firearm injury, resulting in his instant death. **Turn.....Cop Dies of Bullet.....Pg 02**

#### CS launches 03 online services of SC & Tech Dept

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today launched three online services in presence of Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology, Saurabh Bhagat. These include Sponsored Research & Extension Programme, Support for Innovation & Patent Filing scheme, and Science Talent Promotion Scholarship Scheme. All these schemes are offered by the J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKST&IC) and are primarily meant for inculcating the scientific culture among students/scientific community in particular and common masses in general. Chief Secretary stressed the need for scientific solutions to various issues of local importance such as waste management, biomass energy, plastic to fuel stressing need to run a waste to wealth campaign. He complimented the Science & Technology **Turn.....CS launches 03.....Pg 02**

#### India and China will account for half of global economic growth in 2023: IMF Chief

**NEW DELHI, APR 07:** The International Monetary Fund said that the world economy is expected to grow at less than 3 per cent this year, with India and China expected to account for half of global growth in 2023. International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Kristalina Georgieva warned that a sharp slowdown in the world economy last year **Turn.....India and China.....Pg 02**



#### Covid-19: Despite rise in cases, no surge in hospital admissions: Doctors

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** Despite the surge in Covid-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir, the situation in the UT so far is well under control as no surge has been reported in hospital admissions, officials said Friday. Officials while talking to news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the surge in Covid-19 cases was reported across J&K in the past two weeks but the situation in J&K is better as no surge has been reported in hospital admissions. They said that people in J&K have hybrid immunity because of a combination of widespread natural infection and vaccination. They said that people with hybrid **Turn.....Covid-19: Despite.....Pg 02**



#### Huge inequity in availability of healthcare huge expenditure: Dir SKIMS Prof Koul

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** Director Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) and Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) Prof Parvaiz A. Koul on Friday said there is huge inequity in availability of healthcare-huge expenditure. Speaking on the occasion of World health day celebration today at SKIMS on this year's theme of WHO "Health for all", Prof Koul said that there is huge inequity in availability of healthcare-huge expenditure, mental illness, pregnancy related mortality etc. are still prevalent. The event was organized by the Department of Hospital Administration SKIMS. **Turn.....Huge inequity in.....Pg 02**



#### SIT to probe illegal sale of temple properties in Kashmir

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been directed by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to investigate the unauthorized leasing and usage of temple properties in the Kashmir region. Aadil Fareed, Assistant Commissioner under the Divisional Commissioner, has written to all deputy commissioners in Kashmir, quoting a communication received from the LG's office. The letter requests the deputy commissioners **Turn.....SIT to probe illegal.....Pg 02**

#### Development of industrial estates, promotion of Ease of Doing Business, export hubs creation to get focus in 2023-24 budget

Policy framework to support private investment, Samadhaan 2.0 to be implemented

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** "Development, expansion of new industrial estates, promotion of ease of doing business and creation of export hubs will receive a significant push in the budget earmarked for 2023-24 fiscal". This year's budget elaborates that the Jammu and Kashmir government has identified 29 projects for development of new Industrial Estates during 2023-24. The investment proposals for setting up of Medicities in Jammu and Srinagar had been received for creation of health infrastructure in private sector. In this regard, Medicities at Sempora, Srinagar and Meeran Sahib, Jammu are being established to provide better healthcare facilities to the ailing. The main aim of "One District One Product" is to promote local product for export. In this regard, Jammu and Srinagar districts have been selected among the 75 districts across India for export of local products. Similarly, 1500 units under Jammu **Turn.....Development of.....Pg 02**



#### Home Dept orders transfers, postings of police officers in J&K

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** The Home department of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday ordered transfers and new postings of several police officers. "In the interest of administration, the following transfers and postings of the Police Officers are hereby ordered, with immediate effect," read an order, issued by the Home department. Paramjeet Singh, Addl. SP Railways, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Addl. SP Kathua vice Suresh Kumar. Suresh Kumar, Addl. SP, Kathua, is transferred and posted as Vice Principal, PTS, Kathua, against an available vacancy. Sandeep Bhat, Dy. Commandant, 1st Women Bn., is transferred and posted as Addl. SP Bandipora, against an available vacancy. Imtiaz Ahmed, Dy.SP PC Sangam, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP (Ops.), Kunzer vice Aumer Iqbal. Imtiaz Ahmed shall also hold the additional charge of the post of SDPO Tangmarg, till further orders. Aumer Iqbal, Dy.SP (Ops.), Kunzer, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP **Turn.....Home Dept orders.....Pg 02**



## CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

### Govt has.....

We have embarked on several major initiatives in developing efficient public service delivery mechanism & it has improved ease of living of common man, observed the Lt Governor.

Transparent & accountable governance is ensuring that benefit of growth reaches all sections, especially last man in queue, he said.

While interacting with the citizens, the Lt Governor took appraisal of their grievances and action taken by the concerned Deputy Commissioners.

The Lt Governor also sought details of the action taken on the directions passed in the previous meeting.

On the grievance of a person from Srinagar regarding environment protection and sanitation at the foothills of Shankaracharya top, the Lt Governor directed Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation to look into the issue on priority for appropriate action.

Responding to a complaint regarding wards and bathrooms of the District Maternity & Child care Hospital Sheerbagh, Anantnag, the Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag appraised the chair that the renovation and facelifing work of the bathrooms of the hospitals has already been done and the grievance was resolved.

Addressing the grievance of Sh Irfan Rasool from Baramulla regarding dumping of solid waste in Nignli Nallah and its harmful impact on environment, the Lt Governor asked the Deputy Commissioner to formulate a comprehensive strategy through the local PRLs for a robust waste management.

Sh Farooq Ahmad from Pulwama had submitted a complaint regarding illegal sand extraction in Hajibal, on which the Lt Governor directed the Deputy Commissioner to take strict and immediate action.

Responding to the grievance of non-availability of Gynaecologist specialist at CHC Bani, Administrative Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department appraised the chair that the specialist will be arranged immediately on rotation basis.

On the sidelines of the LG's Mulaqaat, discussion was also held on successful implementation of training programme for holistic development of agriculture and allied sector. The training programme is being executed by the Agriculture Production Department for farmers in all 20 districts. Sh Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department gave the detailed presentation of the training programme scheduled to be held between 24th April to 31st August, 2023.

Ms Rehana Batul Commissioner, Secretary, Public Grievances conducted the proceedings of the LG's Mulaqaat.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, Heads of the Departments, and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

### Mercury stays.....

highway had a low of 3.0 degree Celsius against 4.0 degree Celsius and it was 2.7 degree Celsius below normal for the gateway of Kashmir.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 1.8 degree Celsius against 2.4 degree Celsius the previous night. It was 4.0 degree Celsius below normal for the tourist hot spot.

Kokernag showed a slight improvement and recorded a low of 3.6 degree Celsius against 3.1 degree Celsius and however, it was still 1.8 degree Celsius below normal for the picnic spot of south Kashmir.

Gulmarg in north Kashmir settled at minus 1.6 degree Celsius for the second consecutive day on Friday and It was 2.1 degree Celsius below normal for the famous ski resort.

Kupwara plunged to a low of 1.7 degree Celsius against 3.6 degree Celsius the previous night and it was 3.8 degree Celsius below normal for the frontier Kashmir district, the MeT office said.

### No Need To.....

Pertinently Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing rise in Covid-19 cases for the past over one week and authorities have directed to increase the testing facilities in all health centres. Authorities in Kashmir valley on April 3 had directed all Chief Medical Officers of the Valley to increase the rate of Covid-19 testing and establish Flu clinics at all health institutions.

### India and.....

following the raging pandemic and Russia's military operation of Ukraine would continue this year.

In a statement, Georgieva said the period of slower economic activity will be prolonged, with the next five years witnessing less than 3 per cent growth.

However, she said some momentum comes from emerging economies - Asia especially is a bright spot. India and China are expected to account for half of the global

growth in 2023. But others face a steeper climb.

Georgieva said slower growth would be a severe blow, making it even harder for low-income nations to catch. She explained Poverty and hunger might further increase which is a dangerous trend that was started by the COVID crisis."

Her comments come ahead of next week's spring meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, where policy-makers will convene to discuss the global economy's most pressing issues.

Georgieva added that while the global banking system had "come a long way" since the 2008 financial crisis, "concerns remain about vulnerabilities that may be hidden, not just at banks but also non-banks. "Now is not the time for complacency."

Earlier, a working paper by IMF said that India's development of a "world-class digital public infrastructure" serves as a model for other nations undergoing digital transformation. The paper, titled 'Stacking up the Benefits: Lessons from India's Digital Journey', credited India's building block approach and focus on supporting innovation for the success of its digital public infrastructure (DPI). The paper emphasised the need for interoperability between different DPIs and competition-focused design to support a vibrant ecosystem. India's interoperability supported through open standards, allowing anyone to use India Stack's functionality.

### CS launches.....

Department for establishing Industrial Biotechnology Parks, Sub Regional Science Centre, and instructed for establishment of various Centre of Excellences across UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

He enjoined upon the Department to collaborate with other departments for innovative solutions to problems faced by people in their day to day life. He said that Science and Technology should contribute to ease of living. He made out that our focus should be on innovations for larger public interest so that the knowledge actually gets transferred from lab to land.

During the course, Chief Secretary also took the stock of various schemes of Science & Technology Department viz Jammu Smart City Mission, Jammu Solar city Mission, PM-KUSUM, Rooftop Solar Power Plant Mission and focused on the need to increase the demand of solar energy within the UT of J&K.

On the occasion it was given out that the Sponsored Research & Extension Programme envisages that the research proposals/scientific surveys should be invited through open advertisement from the Scientists/professors/ academicians/ scholars/research etc. get it evaluated by the Scientific Advisory Committee(SAC)/ Technical Committee (TC) constituted by the Government for furnishing of recommendations and then should be provided with the financial support for carrying out the research on the local specific issues. Later the outcome/recommendation of these research projects/surveys are forwarded to the line departments for implementation.

Regarding the Support for Innovation & Patent Filing scheme it was said that the JKST&IC provides financial support (seed money) to the innovator/ institution working on novel ideas for development of prototype. The scheme is aimed at the promotion of Innovations and encouragement of local youth for their pursuits in different fields of Science & Technology.

As far as Science Talent Promotion Scholarship Scheme is concerned it aims at encouraging the students to pursue Science subjects in their higher classes. The scholarships are provided to the meritorious students at 10+2 upto PG levels for a period of 02 , 03 and 02 years respectively at each level.

The three online schemes/services detailed above being implemented in the online mode now are also RAS integrated therefore open for public feedback. Post launch of these services, the Department of Science & Technology will be e-Governance Complaint as envisaged under the 'Digital J&K' mission of the UT.

Giving details about the performance of the Department it was said that a total of 2169 works have been completed under different schemes during 2022-23 out of 2400 works taken in hand. Moreover the ST&IC has registered an expenditure of nearly 99.8% of its funds released for the previous financial year.

Commissioner Secretary IT and other senior officers of IT department were also present during the inaugural function.

### Covid-19: Despite.....

immunity developed by both vaccination and previous infections have significant protection against future Covid infections.

Almost everyone has contracted the virus more than once during three Covid-19 waves besides that above 12 years of age the whole population is vaccinated, so there are very few chances that any variant can trigger a fresh wave as of now here, officials said.

An official from Shri Maharaja Hari Singh

(SMHS) Hospital, Srinagar said that though cases have been on rise but hospitalization rate hasn't increased as of now.

We are ready to tackle any situation and as of now six rooms have been already designated as Covid-19 wards and all guidelines are being followed at the hospital but people must cooperate as well.

Doctors from SKIMS Soura also said that the situation is under control but people shouldn't remain complacent and follow Covid Appropriate Behavior in letter and spirit.

A senior doctor from CD hospital Srinagar said that as cases have increased hospital admissions of Covid-19 patients have not increased that much.

Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) spokesperson Dr Mir Mushtaq told KNO that despite the rise in Covid-19 cases, no rise in hospital admissions have been reported yet.

He said that testing has already been increased with enough oxygen facilities and beds put in place.

Officials said that there is no need to panic but people must take precautions and the government is keeping vigil on new variants by conducting genome sequencing of some positive cases.

They said that J&K is ready to tackle any situation in future as well but people must take precautions.

Notably, mock drills in the hospitals are being conducted to ensure operational readiness for management of Covid with specific focus on oxygen plants, ventilators, logistics and human resources on Monday.

### Huge inequity.....

He said in India despite the improvement in health delivery, lack of accountability, unrelated drug policy, misuse of antibiotics are areas of main concern.

Prof. Koul stressed on uniform access to health systems and said the onus lies on health care professionals and underlined the importance of healthy ageing.

He said that SKIMS is excelling in digital health care delivery and received 90% positive feedback for its services from the general public.

He thanked the Department of Hospital Administration for organizing the event and expressed hope that the deliberations will be fruitful for participants attending the event.

Dean Medical Faculty SKIMS Dr. Bashir A. Laway in his address said that despite progress at many levels the non-communicable diseases still remain the main challenge.

The event was attended by all HoDs, Resident doctors and other supportive staff of SKIMS.

### SIT to probe.....

to "identify any cases of illegal leasing of temple properties in your district and take appropriate action under the rules, while keeping this office informed. Additionally, please provide an updated inventory of Religious Minority Properties (such as temples, Gurdwaras, and others) to this office within one week."

A Kashmiri Pandit organization had earlier alleged that defunct trust members and some government employees have illegally sold or leased out temple properties in Kashmir.

Against this backdrop, LG Manoj Sinha ordered SIT to probe into the illegal lease of temple properties and the nexus therein.

Satish Mahaldar, Chairman JK Peace Forum told news agency Kashmir News Trust that the successive governments in Jammu and Kashmir took no initiative to protect the religious properties of Pandits.

"Despite repeated court orders, temple properties have been illegally given on lease," he said accusing Revenue Department of failing to safeguard the temple properties.

Satish Mahaldar said that Government departments are among the offenders while nearly 25 kanals of temple land at Kohni-Khan Dalgate that was under the custody of the Deputy Commissioner's office had been sold illegally. Similarly, the shrine at Gundu Nowroze, Anantnag, has been illegally occupied by the Education Department. The Shiv Temple on the premises of the Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution office, Srinagar, has been encroached upon and a shop constructed near the gate," he claimed and added that Durga Nag land has been leased and rented out to over 170 tenants.

At Bishambar Dass Temple in Barbarashah, over 17 kanals of land have been sold illegally and a hotel is coming up on that land. He said that a small temple opposite Gurudwara has been converted into Dhaba.

### Home Dept.....

IR-10th Bn., against an available vacancy. Rashid Younis, Dy.SP H r s Kupwara, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-8th Bn., against an available vacancy.

Mohammad Usman, Dy.SP Hrs Samba, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-22nd B., against an available vacancy.

Hamid Ail Bandy, Dy.SP Anti Corruption Bureau, upon his repatriation from ACB, is posted as Dy.SP, PC, Surankote vice Tanveer

Jeelani.

Sourabh Prashar, Dy.SP (Prov.) Police Headquarters, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP (Hqs.) Samba vice Mohd. Usman.

Mohd. Amen Bhat, Dy.SP Pahalgam, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-3' Bn., against an available vacancy. Dy.SP Hars. Anantnag shall hold the additional charge of the post of Dy.SP Pahalgam, till further orders.

Pankaj Soodan, SDPO Border Kathua is transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-24th Bn., against available vacancy.

Faraz Hussain Shah, SDPO PC Handwara, is transferred and shall await orders of posting in Police Headquarters, J&K.

DherajSingh Katoch, Dy.SP CID CI Jammu, is transferred and posted as SDPO Border, Kathua vice Pankaj Soodan.

Nikhil Gogna, Dy.SP Anti-Hijacking, Jammu, is transferred and posted as SDPO R.S. Pura vice Surinder Singh.

Tanveer Jeelani, Dy.SP PC, Surankote, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-22" Bn., against an available vacancy.

Mudassar Hussain, Dy.SP Civil Secretariat, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP (Hqs.) Rajouri, vice Chanchal Singh.

Zohaib Hassan, DY.SP PC, Rafiabad is transferred and posted as SDPO Panthachowk, against an available vacancy.

Sunil Singh, SDPO Domana, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-1st Bn., against an available vacancy.

Surinder Singh, SDPO RS Pora, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR - 5 Bn., against an available vacancy.

Adil Mushtaq, attached with the Crime Branch, is posted as Dy.SP IR-17th Bn., against an available vacancy.

Javaid Ahmad, SDPO, Tangmarg, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-11th Bn., against an available vacancy.

Syed Sleet Shah, Dy.SP PC, Srinagar, is transferred and posted as SDPO PC Handwara vice Faraz Hussain Shah.

Mohd. Rafee RATHER, Dy.SP Traffic Srinagar, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP (Hrs.) Kupwara vice Rashid Younis.

Ms. Priyanka Kumari, SDPO, Vijaypur, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP 15 Women Bn., against an available vacancy.

Shammi Kumar, Dy.SP Hrs Kathua, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-24th B., against an available vacancy.

Akash Kohli, SDPO Basohli is transferred and posted as SDPO Nagrota vice Sultan Mirza.

Rohit Kumar, Dy.SP PC Srinagar, is transferred and shall await orders of posting ni Police Headquarters, J&K.

Manjit Singh, Dy.SP IR-14th B., is transferred and posted as Dy.SP (Hqs.) Kathua, vice Shammi Kumar.

Chanchal Singh, Dy.SP Hqs Rajouri, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-16' Bn., against an available vacancy.

Sultan Mirza, SDPO, Nagrota, is transferred and posted as Dy.SP IR-5th Bn., against an available vacancy. Vishal Shoor, Dy.SP, awaiting adjustment after promotion, is posted as SDPO Domana, vice Sunil Singh.

### Development of.....

and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) are being targeted to be established in 2023-24 involving a margin money of Rs 30 crore with employment to 9000 persons.

The Budget has a provision of conducting exhibitions for showcasing industrial potential of the region besides organizing workshops on capacity building and start-up promotion. The budget has also earmarked funds for providing of Turnover Incentives to boost industrial development for entailing increase in employment.

Introduction of quality certification with branding under Handloom and Handicraft sector will also be done in 2023-24 and steps will be taken for popularization of local products.

Significantly, Jammu and Kashmir government has already taken a slew of measures towards promotion of ease of doing business in the UT which has received tremendous response from various potential investors. Besides, further steps are being taken up for reducing compliances on "Ease of Living" and "Ease of Doing Business".

The Budget will also facilitate conduct of mock drills to be carried out across the Union Territory. Besides, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) development policy would also be notified.

Similarly, Samadhaan 2.0 would be implemented this year and the government would facilitate tie-up of MSME with e-commerce platforms to boost sales of products of local units. Jammu and Kashmir would also introduce Policy framework to support private investment besides implementation of unified logistic interface platform.

To facilitate export of local products to international markets, export hubs will be created under this year's budget. The government is also encouraging officers to give an active push to exports, marketing promotion programmes for handicrafts focusing global market, development of industrial estate connected to significant economic nodes to maintain the momentum of growth.

The Budget has also kept a provision for adoption of plug and play model for key development sectors including manufacturing sector.

Notably, handicraft and handloom sector of the Union Territory has recorded an unprecedented growth in the last three months and registered Rs 729 crore worth exports despite instability in the global market.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has set a new record in establishment of village industrial units. In the last financial year, 1.73 lakh new jobs were generated under PHEMEP (PM's Employment Generation Programme) alone.

### DAK seeks.....

DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan. Dr Hassan said unisur forces are involved in peddling and promoting drugs in Kashmir.

They are using their touts and agents who receive financial and material assistance for trafficking drugs.

Youth are particularly targeted and initially drugs are gifted to them till they become addicts.

"There is a strong network of drug peddlers who make these drugs available with fruit sellers to tea shops and gyms and they enjoy the patronage of certain forces behind the curtain," he said.

The DAK President said the menace of drug addiction has engulfed a vast majority of our population.

A recent report by the National Drug Dependence Treatment centre of AIIMS New Delhi has revealed that JK has 10 lac drug abusers.

According to a survey from Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences 90 percent of drug abusers in Kashmir are using heroin.

"Young people are dying because of heroin abuse in Kashmir," he said adding "more heroin addicts are dying now because they have moved from snorting (inhaling through the nose) to injectables making the drug even more lethal."

Dr Nisar said every day we see young persons coming to hospitals with heart attacks and strokes and drug abuse is a big factor.

"Drug abuse is responsible for the hepatitis epidemic in Kashmir. Drug addicts are at a higher risk of contracting hepatitis B, C and HIV and have the potential to spread these deadly infections to others," he said.

### Police arrest.....

recovered 12 liquor bottles from his possession when he was intercepted at a checkpoint.

The accused is a resident of Alooosa Bandipora.

Police have registered an FIR vide number 83/23 under relevant sections of law.

Notably, liquor consumption in Kashmir is legal. Recently after the new excise policy new wine shops came up in different parts of Valley, particularly in Srinagar city, sparking protest and resentment from people.

Even owners of shopping complexes at specific locations including airports can sell beer to customers and it is all legal.

### CRPF Trooper.....

connection with the recovery of over 11 kilograms of heroin and recovery of cash 11,82500 at Rajbagh area of Srinagar.

A senior police officer told GNS that the third arrest culminated in connection with the case today and he identified the accused person as Rashid Kohli son of Late Satar Mohd Kohli resident of Amdohi Karnah Kupwara.

Preliminary investigations, he said, suggest that paramilitary trooper Sajad Ahmad Badana hailing from Karnah & posted with 160 BN of CRPF in Chatha, Satwari Jammu, is the main keypin in the case. "Further investigations are underway and the entire nexus behind this will be unraveled."

Pertinently, ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar had said that it was part of cross-border smuggling. 'Drugs have come from Pakistan'.

### Cop Dies Of.....

Confirming the death, a police official told GNS that a police team is at the site to collect necessary details. "Whether the fire was due to accidental discharge of his service rifle or it was deliberate (read suicide) is being ascertained," the official added.





# Lt Governor Launches Two Major Initiatives Of Cooperative Department

HT News Network

**JAMMU, APR 07:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha launched two major initiatives of Cooperative department-Diploma in Cooperative Management and MoU between Cooperatives and Department of Tribal Affairs, at Raj Bhawan, today.

Congratulating the stakeholders, the Lt Governor said the initiatives will strengthen the cooperative spirit in the UT and transform the lives of the tribal community.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of 'Sahkar Se Samridhi' will guide the social and economic transformation and provide vital support for growth of agriculture sector. The new initiatives also aimed at improving cooperatives efficiency and to meet the requirements of rural economy," observed the Lt Governor.

Emphasizing on promoting cooperative education and training, the Lt Governor said the introduction of Diploma in Cooperative

Management will provide opportunities to Junior Officers, members of Cooperative Societies, FPOs and officials of other allied departments to acquire requisite skills to manage cooperative business and facilitate the process of human resource development in J&K.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the positive impact of convergence of schemes of Cooperative Department & Tribal Affairs Department to achieve the twin objectives of equitable and sustainable rural development.

"The Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Cooperatives and Department of Tribal Affairs will ensure that tribal cooperatives, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras avail benefits of different schemes and enable economic development and prosperity of tribal population," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor shared the Union Territory administration's efforts to strengthen the cooperative sector to accelerate the grassroot develop-



ment and capacity building.

"We have taken several steps to ensure effective on-ground implementation of rural development schemes and to empower the targeted sections. Resource availability for growth of cooperatives is another area where steps have been taken to ensure credit access to people and support services for

equitable distribution of benefits," observed the Lt Governor.

More than 1000 cooperatives have been established in various sectors. An amount of Rs 366 crore was allocated for the revival of Jammu, Baramulla and Anantnag Central Cooperative Banks, besides Apex Level Dairy Federation has been established in Jammu Kash-

mir after 27 years, he added.

The Lt Governor further stressed on expansion of the cooperative sector and connecting more farmers with Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society. Establishment of PACS in every panchayat should be our prime objective, the Lt Governor added. On the occasion, the Lt Governor also unveiled the logo of

the Cooperative Department.

Ms. Yasha Mudgul, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Cooperatives Department and Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department gave a detailed briefing on the new initiatives launched today and how the collaboration of Cooperative Department and Tribal Affairs Department will benefit the tribal community.

The Lt Governor appraised the action plans and the awareness programmes at various levels, besides measures initiated for computerization of PACS.

The Lt Governor also enquired about the training modules of the diploma course. It was informed that 50 candidates have been enrolled for the 40 weeks Diploma course in Cooperative Management through the Centre for Cooperative Management Jammu. Head of Departments and senior officers were present on the occasion.

## Pneumococcal vaccine shortage at govt health facilities hits job schedule

WILL RECEIVE FRESH STOCK BY MONDAY, SAYS OFFICIAL

HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** Several health centres in Jammu and Kashmir are facing shortage of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) leading to a disruption in vaccination schedules of dozens of children.

Parents from several districts told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that they have been taking their children for PCV vaccines to different health centres but they were told the vaccine is not available.

Qayoom Ahmad in Pulwama, a father of a six weeks old infant, said his nearby health centres did not have the vaccine.

He said that dozens of parents like him had to return home without vaccinating their children.

A health official on condition of anonymity confirmed to KNO that PCV vaccines aren't available now.

He said that a few doses are being made available for immunization day (Wednesday) and many had to return



without getting their children vaccinated.

Even at some centres, parents have been informed through Asha workers and other officials that PCV vaccines will be available at health centres after every 15 days now which used to be available on every Wednesday, he said.

Notably, as per the national immunisation schedule each child is given three shots of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (for protection against a type of bacterial pneumonia) by the time they turn nine months old; the first two shots are given at six and 14 weeks of age.

Meanwhile, a top health official denied shortage of PCV vaccine.

"The supply could have been exhausted in one centre owing to extra load but rationalisation is regularly being done at district level," he said.

A few months ago there was a shortage at manufacturing level across the country but we are getting it in limited quantities. By Monday, we will receive fresh stock," he added.

## Edu Deptt fixes limit on bag weight for school students

No bags to be carried by KG class students

HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** The School Education Department Friday said that there shall be no carrying of bag for the students of classes upto the preschool.

It also said that the weight of school bags for students of classes I and II shall not have more than 1.5 KGs.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Director of School Education

Kashmir (DSEK) has said, "The weight of the school bags as per the policy should be 1.5Kg for students of Classes I and II, 3Kg for Classes III and IV."

The circular issued by the DSEK reads that the weight of school bags for classes VI and VII shall be 4Kgs and 5Kgs for classes VIII and IX followed by 5.5 KGs for class X.

DSEK said, "In compliance to the directions passed in a Public Interest Litigation, School Education Department had made the

amendment to JK School Education Act 2002 by inserting Rule 8A, which mandates School Heads to regulate weight of school bags and mandated Government to cancel affiliation and recognition of the school violating provisions of Rule 8A.

It also said that the rules that shall be added as Rule 8A include, "No homework is assigned to students of classes up to 2nd standard."

The director also said that no formal books are prescribed at

Nursery, LKG and UKG levels.

"However, students of these classes may be provided a maximum of two notebooks or work books to be kept in the teacher's custody in the school itself," it reads.

The circular also states that students of pre-primary level are not asked to carry any bag except light carrier for Lunch box.

"No Schools should prescribe any other subjects except Language and Arithmetic for class 1st and 2nd, Language, Environ-

mental Science (EVS) and Arithmetic for class 3rd to 5th; and Language, Social Science, Mathematics and Science for class 6th and 7h, or as prescribed by the affiliating authority," it reads.

DSEK further said that the students shall not be asked to bring additional books and extra material to school.

The circular reads, "Government may cancel affiliation and recognition of the school violating the provisions of rule 8A."

## DSEK warns Pvt Schools for recommending, compelling parents to buy texts-books, uniform from a selected shop

HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 07:** School Education Department Friday warned recognized private schools for compelling and recommending parents to purchase text books, stationery items and school uniforms from a particular shop.

Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in a circular said that the directorate and its subordinate offices including Chief Education Office and Zonal Education Offices are receiving a number of complaints against the private schools regarding purchase of text books stationery items, school uniforms etc, from a particular shop which is a cause of concern among the parents and the society as general has raised eyebrows against this practice.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the director said that on the contrary, the books prescribed by these schools should have been available in the open market.

"There are some more complaints from parents wherein it is said that a large number of books are being prescribed by the private school authorities for primary classes, which unnecessary burdens the tender minds and mars the creativity and other 21st century skills among students as envisaged in NEP-2020," reads the circular.

It also said that some private schools are forcing parents to purchase extra books for classes 6th, 7th and 8th in addition to the books prescribed by JKBOSE which amounts to extra burden on the learning of students and goes against the recommendations of National Education Policy 2020 which advocates age appropriate burden free learning of students.

Stating the subjects, such as, Computer Studies, Moral Education, and General Knowledge need to be infused across subject areas and other activities in the school without additional textbooks in sync with the School Bag Policy-2020.

"The schools that prescribe additional books which are not prescribed by the Board to which the schools affiliated not only flout the recommendations envisaged in Rule 8A of JK School Education Rules, 2010 and revised guidelines of School Bag Policy, 2020 released by Department of School Education and Literacy Ministry of Education, Government of India, but also poses extra financial burden on parents," DSEK said.

Resorting to such illegal practices by a few private schools, the director said that it was against the ethics and norms or guidelines issued by the Government from time to time.

"Henceforth, all private schools shall notify through their websites the list of subjects and the books prescribed by the Board to which they are affiliated and no other subject or book shall be made mandatory," DSEK said.

It also said that under no circumstances, any school shall ask parents to buy books from a particular bookshop.

DSEK enjoined upon all the private recognized schools to desist from compelling the parents to purchase books, uniforms from any particular shops and change of books thereof. "Further, parents should be given wider choice to purchase books or uniforms from the open market."

"Any deviation from these instructions, if noticed shall be viewed seriously and action will be taken as per the provisions of law which inter-alia includes the recognition of schools and withdrawal of the Managing Body also," reads the circular.

"All Chief Education Officers shall constitute special monitoring teams involving cluster heads, Zonal Education Officers to verify the complaints received on account of sale of books and uniforms by the private schools/prescribing additional books or pressing parents for purchase from any particular shop. Action taken in this regard shall be submitted to this Directorate on a monthly basis," DSEK said.

## All Jk Students Society Launched A Special Helpline Numbers For The Students Of Jammu & Kashmir In Punjab

**ALL JAMMU KASHMIR STUDENTS SOCIETY**  
YOUTH BASED ORGANISATION WORKING FOR SAFETY, SECURITY & WELFARE OF JK STUDENTS

**ALL JK STUDENTS SOCIETY LAUNCHED A SPECIAL HELPLINE NUMBERS FOR THE STUDENTS OF JAMMU & KASHMIR IN PUNJAB**

**+917889528615**  
**+916005273237**  
**+919419876065**  
**+917006157637**

**Whatsapp 24x7**  
**+91-7889528615**

**Alljkstudentsociety**

All JK STUDENTS SOCIETY has launched dedicated helplines for students of Jammu Kashmir region to resolve the grievances of students.

Chairman AJKSS Musaib Rafiq said in a statement that students of Jammu and Kashmir facing problems with their university campus anywhere in Punjab can call the newly launched special numbers (7889528615, 6005273237, 9419876065, 7006157637) WhatsApp (7889528615) Chairman AJKSS said that this initiative

is another big step of AJKSS for the welfare Security and Safety of students of Jammu and Kashmir. Students can present their grievances including their campus or other issues so that feasible solution can be provided with respective state governments and universities.

Students can now register their problems or insecurity by reporting these numbers so that a workable solution can be provided to Punjab state governments and university/college authorities.

**Musaibrafiqdesk@gmail.com**



## Director H&H Kashmir holds meeting for setting up Pashmina Wool Bank under PWDS

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 07: The Director, Handicrafts and Handloom (H&H), Kashmir today held a meeting to deliberate upon the modalities of setting up of Pashmina Wool Bank under Pashmina Wool Development Scheme (PWDS) implemented by the Central Wool Development Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

The meeting was held to devise a viable framework for establishing the much needed Pashmina Wool Bank in the Kashmir region of UT of J&K. It was emphasized in the meeting that the proposed Pashmina Wool Bank shall ensure adequate availability of certified/graded Pashmina wool for the weavers and



artisan community in Kashmir and shall also help to restructure the Pashmina wool sector to make it more viable and competitive. It was also acknowledged that the intended Pashmina wool bank shall go a long way to improve the socio-economic conditions among the herding Changthang communities for sustainable long-term incomes by

procuring bulk raw Pashmina wool from them at suitable prices or MSP. The initiative aims to provide critical marketing support for stakeholders associated with the production and processing of Pashmina fibre by making it readily available at standard prices. There was an elaborate discussion about the possible value addition practices of

Pashmina Wool which includes de-hairing, carding and spinning and the importance of having a robust ecosystem in Pashmina industry consisting of well-established forward and backward linkages.

It was said that the aim of the project is to recognize the economic and cultural importance of Pashmina in providing livelihood opportunities to the lakhs of breeders, artisans and traders across Kashmir and Ladakh regions. Moreover, it was also given out that the Directorate is exploring possible areas under PPP model (Private Public Partnership) with major stakeholders like TAHAFUZ Society, Kashmir Pashmina Organization (KPO) and Kashmir Karigar Union in order to have synergized efforts for result oriented.

## DC Srinagar reviews progress of infrastructure development at Parimpora Bus Terminal and Fruit Mandi

HT News Network

SRINAGAR APRIL 07:- In order to review the progress of upgradation of facilities at Parimpora Bus Terminal, Transport Nagar and Fruit Mandi, a meeting of concerned Officers and Stakeholders was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex here on Friday. The meeting also discussed the action plan regarding shifting of automobile workshops from Batamaloo-Mominabaad axis to a place Parimpora Transport Yard. SSP Traffic, Muzafar Ahmad Shah, Vice Chairman Srinagar Development Authority, SDM West, General Manager SRTC, Deputy Director HP&M, Area Marketing



Manager HP&M, Tehsildar Shalteng, ARTO and other Officers, besides representatives of Automobile Workshop Association and Bazar Committee Batamaloo. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal about the measures taken for development and upgradation of facilities Parimpora Bus Stand, Transport Nagar and Fruit Mandi. The DC was informed that for Development of Transport Nagar Parimpora which is spread over 200

kanals of land comprising of Goods and Forwarding Agencies, the Srinagar Development Authority has forwarded a DPR to the tune of 34.4 crores for development of infrastructure like roads, drainage system, footpaths, central verge, greenspaces, electrification to the Administrative Department for approval. Similarly, for upgradation of the infrastructure for macadamization, drainage system, development of greenspaces, etc at Parim-

pora Bus Terminal which is presently operational over a land of 60 kanals with basic facilities, a project at cost of Rs. 9.00 crores is in progress. While different nature of works for infrastructure upgradation and face-lifting of Fruit Mandi Parimpora and SRTC Yard have already been taken up with completion of most of the works. On the occasion, the DC stressed on the Officers of all line Departments to work in close coordination and ensure that physical works on the projects are started at the earliest soon after approval is accorded. Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner held a detailed consultation with the members of Automobile Workshop Association and Bazar Committee Batamaloo regarding the shifting/relocating of automobile workshops.

## Meeting to cover beneficiaries under PMJJBY & PMSBY held at Anantnag

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, APRIL 07: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Dr S.M Ashraf today conveyed a meeting with the bank heads and line departments to discuss PMJJBY and PMSBY schemes.

The LDM Jammu and Kashmir Bank Anantnag apprised the chair that under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojna (PMJJBY) the insured is covered with two lakhs at a meagre premium amount of rupees 436 annually and has to pay a premium of rupees 20 under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna (PMSBY) and will be insured for two lakhs under Accidental insurance cover.

The eligibility for both schemes is



18-50 and 18-70 besides over 13 crore beneficiaries already stand enrolled under PMJJBY and over 29 crore beneficiaries are enrolled under PMSBY, he added.

In this scheme once the beneficiary is added after that Auto debit of premium from subscribers' starts, to avoid the lapsing of the insurance policies,

added the LDM. The BDOs and other line officers raised some queries regarding the formalities which were cleared by the bank heads.

ADC while speaking on the occasion said that the unorganised working classes of different sectors which are not able to pay the premium of the scheme of life insurance and are at high risk must get enrolled in the scheme to avail the benefits. He said that the government has launched these schemes keeping the layman's earnings in view and his dependents and directed the bank heads and line departments to enroll all the eligible beneficiaries under these schemes. The bank and BDOs were directed for cooperation and conducting of awareness camps at panchayat level and for enrollments.

## World Health Day: DLSA Bandipora organises Health awareness, sensitization programme

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APRIL 07: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora on Friday observed World Health Day by organising an awareness programme titled, "Health for All".

The programme was organised in collaboration with Health Department Bandipora under the Chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge Bandipora Amit Sharma who is also Chairman District Legal Services Authority.

Secretary DLSA Bandipora Nusrat Ali Hakak CMO Bandipora, Dr. Mohammad



Rafiq Salathi, Principal AMT School Bandipora Dr. Asif Khan, District Epidemiologist Dr. Nabeel Ishtiaq, staff members of DLSA Bandipora, FMPHW, Asha Workers, Students, PLVs and other officials of AMT school were also present on the occasion.

The programme was

aimed at creating awareness among the general public to raise awareness about people's general health and wellbeing around the world.

The introductory address was delivered by CMO Bandipora and in his discourse, he apprised that people should associate with many

health organisations to spread awareness and conduct massive campaigns disclosing the necessity of a healthy lifestyle.

On the occasion Dr. Nabeel Ishtiaq acted as resource person wherein he said that every year, World Health Day is observed to promote awareness about people's general health and wellbeing around the world.

He highlighted that the day is seen as an opportunity to drive worldwide attention to a subject of major importance for global health each year and sensitized young minds of the importance of their physical and mental health.

## Mega Gram Sabha held to formulate ABDP in village Manzgam of Kulgam

Farooq Rather



KULGAM, APRIL 07: On the directions of the District Development Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din-Bhat, Mega Gram Sabha was today conducted at Higher Secondary School Manzgam, here. The Sabha witnessed participation of a large number of people. Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather; DDC Member Manzgam, Jameela Chowdhary; ACD Kulgam, BDO Manzgam and PRIs and officers and officials from line departments also participated in this gram sabha. During the gram sabha people prioritize their developmental requirements in this Aspirational Block and formulate and prioritized work plans for year 2023-24 under Aspirational Block Development Programme. People generally prioritized Health, Education, RDD and Animal Husbandry sectors to augment infrastructure and facilities of these sectors. This is the second consecutive gram sabha held in Manzgam to formulate the Aspirational Block Development Plan with proactive participation of people and PRI members.

### Public Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to that She has lost her 8TH CLASS Marks Card have following Description.

Roll no... 01  
Class... 8th  
Year & Session... 2010  
Registration no... N11300470009

Name... SHAZIYA  
Parentage... Ghulam Mohammad sheikh Mothers Name... Aisha bano  
Residence... Eidgah wanganpora Srinagar  
Now The Candidate has Applied for issuance of duplicate/s Marks Card recessed under rules. If any person having any objection shall report to the PRINCIPAL GOVT. BOYS HIGH SCHOOL, CHANDI-HAR EIDGAH SRINAGAR within one week from the date of issuance of this notice the original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled

Name... shaziya  
Parentage... Ghulam Mohammad sheikh Mothers Name... Aisha bano  
Residence Eidgah wanganpora Srinagar

## Union Forest Secretary inspects Wullar conservation works

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APRIL 07: Union Secretary of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (EF&CC), Leena Nandan, on Friday visited Bandipora and inspected Wullar lake conservation works being taken up by Wullar Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA).

Union Secretary was accompanied by Principal Secretary Forests Department, Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Executive Director, WUCMA, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed, SSP Bandipora Lakshay Sharma, Coordinator WUCMA, DFO Bandipora, and other senior officers of the district.

Union Secretary inspected various conservation and ecotourism works being carried out by

Wullar Conservation and Management Authority.

Chief Executive Director (CED) WUCMA briefed the Union Secretary about the progress made in the conservation process including dredging operations being carried out in different sections of the lake besides informing about future plans for developing Wullar as a top tourism destination.

It was informed that the dredging work was carried out in critically silted portions of the lake under which an area of 3.10 square kilometers was de-silted under Wullar Action Plan thus enhancing the water holding capacity of the lake significantly.

The CED also briefed about the nature of catchment conservation works, biodiversity conservation works and eco-tourism development works that have been taken



up under the Wullar Action Plan including construction of non-motorable road (pathway) around

the lake. The officers said that Wullar Lake is valuable asset of not only

the district but for the whole UT and if the tourism potential here is exploited fully, it will entirely change the socio-economic condition of the local population of the district. They informed that there is a huge potential for Water Sports besides having huge fish stocks in the lake. The administration also intends to develop a golf club on one of the islands inside the Wullar, they added.

Union Secretary was appreciative of works taken up by the authority and said that the Union Government has prioritized conservation of this famous Lake with focus on tapping the vast ecotourism potential of the site.

She assured that the Union government will extend adequate funding for all requisite works needed to be executed in the lake for its development and beautification.

## 16 Route Permits of vehicles & 6 Driving Licenses suspended at Anantnag

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, APRIL 07: A team of Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), headed by ARTO, Anantnag Dr Mohammad Zubair, today laid special nakka at different locations to check violation of the various visible offences under Motor Vehicles Act, 2019 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989.

During the checking, nearly 40 school buses were checked and 15 school buses were booked/ chaled for various offences such as diversion of route permit, carrying students in private vehicles, carrying excess students in school buses, plying without fitness, without permit and without Speed Limiting Device.



Some school buses which were plying without registration numbers were seized by the department.

Various Mini Buses which were found plying against route permit and carrying students were also checked and their Route Permit were recommended for suspension.

The enforcement wing of

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag to strengthen the inspection of school vehicles.

Though GPS and Speed governor are mandatory for school buses many school vehicle drivers tamper with these safety instruments, said ARTO Anantnag. Many of the school buses are yet to install GPS and GPS is not functional in many buses, he added

The enforcement wing of the MVD has also introduced a checking schedule for other vehicles. The aim is to reduce road accidents in the district and safety of school going children with the strict implementation of laws. It was given that different types of offences will be checked during special drives on different days.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name in School Records has been wrongly entered as Ateeb S/O Parvez Ahmad Mir instead of actual New name: Mohammad Ateeb Mir S/o Parvez Ahmad Mir. Now I intend to make necessary correction accordingly in my School Records. If any person having objection to it may please fill his/ her objection before the Principal Shadab Higher secondary School Malbagh Srinagar within a period of seven days of publication of this notice falling which no any objection shall be entertained.

Name... Parvez Ahmad Mir  
F/o... Mohammad Ateeb Mir  
Mothers Name... Rukaya Parvez  
R/o... Shahi Mohalla Awanti Bhawan

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sumaira Manzoor Mir W/o Ghuzoor Ahmad Mir D/o Mohammad Ashraf Malik R/o Bunpora Trehgam, Kupwara, PIN-193224 and present address: 143, Link -5, Sector-1, Umerabad, Srinagar PIN-190012, bearing Aadhaar No. 5751-0012-7622 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under,  
That I have changed my name from (old name) Sumaira Ashraf Malik to (New Name) Sumaira Manzoor Mir in future I will be known as (New name) Sumaira Manzoor Mir if any body is having any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar with in 7 days after 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Sumaira Manzoor Mir  
W/o Ghuzoor Ahmad Mir  
D/o Mohammad Ashraf Malik  
R/o Bunpora Trehgam, Kupwara,



## Jal Jeevan Mission awareness program held in Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR APRIL 07: The Project Management Consultancy, Mission Directorate, Jal Jeevan Mission J&K, and District Administration, District Jal Jeevan Mission, Kishtwar organised a handholding cum awareness programme at Conference Hall DC Office Kishtwar.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav was chief guest of the occasion, and Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Kishtwar Zakir Hussain Wani was also present.

The event had nearly 600 participants including PRIs, Pani Samiti members, ASHA Workers, Anganwari workers, field staff of Jal Shakti



Department (PHE), District Project Management Unit JJM Kishtwar Staff, representatives of Implementation Support Agency, and GVK Kishtwar water testing lab staff. In his address, Deputy Commissioner highlighted the various aspects of Jal Jeevan Mission and steps being undertaken to provide clean and safe drinking water to every

household in the district. He apprised the stakeholders about the JJM scheme and the role being played by PRIs and Pani Samiti members in its implementation and execution of other JJM projects in various panchayats of the District Kishtwar. He directed to rationalise the Pani Samitis in the next few days as per the guidelines and empha-

sised on them to play a proactive role and support in executing and functioning of the schemes under JJM. Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Kishtwar, Sunil Sharma also apprised the stakeholders about the JJM Scheme and laid emphasis on them to assist the administration to make the "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal" mission successful. From Mission Directorate, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Sajal Srivastava, IEC, UT Team Leader, Project Management Consultancy conducted a detailed session highlighting the various aspects of water management and immediate measures to ensure clean tap water to every household. He explained the role and duties of various stakeholders and demonstrated.

## DC Rajouri reviews progress on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) projects

HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 07: Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal reviewed the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes in a meeting with concerned officers today in which Superintending Engineer Hydraulics informed that out of 293 approved schemes, work has been allotted for 259 schemes and 102 schemes are already in progress.

The DC was informed that laying of the piped network has been progressing well, with 979 km of piped network already laid against the target of 13,520 km.

Kundal urged the officers to ensure that work on all allotted schemes begins as soon as possible and stressed that the successful



implementation of JJM will provide access to safe drinking water to the rural population and positively impact their health, hygiene and overall socio-economic development. The meeting also discussed the status of ongoing projects in the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) sector. Kundal stressed the importance of proper maintenance and regular cleaning of irriga-

tion kulhs to prevent clogging and ensure uninterrupted water flow for irrigation. He also emphasised effective management of water resources for sustainable development.

Officers who attended the meeting included Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Khurshid; SE Hydraulics Bhrum Jyoti Sharma; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Rajouri Ashwini Khajuria; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Nowshera Vipin Kumar and Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mechanical Manmohan Singh. Officers who attended the meeting included Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Khurshid; SE Hydraulics Bhrum Jyoti Sharma; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Rajouri Ashwini Khajuria; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Nowshera Vipin Kumar.

## DC conducts surprise inspection of AH-GMC Doda

HT News Network

DODA, APRIL 07: To assess the health care facilities being provided to the patients, Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan along with ADC Doda Dr Ravi Kumar Bharti conducted a surprise inspection of the Associated Hospital Government Medical College (AH-GMC) Doda and took appraisal of working of the hospital and availability of doctors and supporting staff.

The DC directed the hospital administration to ensure the punctuality of doctors and supporting staff for providing timely and quality health care services to the patients. He reiterated that sanitation and hygiene must be the primary concern of the hospital administration for effective health care.

## GMC Doda celebrates World Health Day 2023

DODA, APRIL 07: The Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College Doda celebrated World Health Day 2023 with an interactive session and various events focusing on this year's theme "Health for All." Dr Walied K Balwan, Senior Resident, gave an introductory speech about current public health problems and their impact, followed by a lecture by Dr Suresh K Kotwal, Head of Department of Community Medicine, on the global scenario, achievements, and challenges in the public health sector. Various events, including seminars and poster presentations, were held, and MBBS students participated enthusiastically. The session ended with a vote of thanks by Dr Walied K Balwan.

## Kathua admin distributes kits among newly trained 'Aapda Mitra' volunteers

### 200 'Aapda Mitra' to play first responder role during disaster: DC

HT News Network

KATHUA, APRIL 07: Kathua administration today distributed 'Disaster Response Kits' among the newly trained 'Aapda Mitra' who will serve as first responder role in wake of any disaster in the district. As many as 200 'Aapda Mitra' have undergone 12 days training at Central Training Institute (HG, CD, SDRF) Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

The brief ceremony held at Conference hall of DC Office complex, wherein Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rahul Pandey gave away



disaster kits, certificate of participation, I-Card and a T-Shirts among the newly trained 'Aapda Mitra' volunteers. District Disaster Officer Suninderjit Kaur (Tehsil Dar HQ) was also present.

While interacting with the 'Aapda Mitra', the DC Kathua impressed upon them to utilize their acquired knowledge during disasters scenarios happened and can play quintessential role of first responder in mitigating the impact besides helping in rescue and relief efforts in disaster hit areas. He said district administration has deputed these Aapda Mitra volunteers for undergo-

ing special training under the Government of India's sponsored scheme "Upscaling of Aapda Mitra" wherein volunteers were sensitised about different aspects of disaster management.

Pertinently, 12 Days training of Aapda Mitra at Central Training Institute (HG, CD, SDRF) concluded at Kot Bhalwal, Jammu where these volunteers were given training on water rescue and mountaineering rescue besides imparting other skills like fire-fighting, flood rope crossing, rappelling, climbing and rescue from higher buildings.

## Poonch teachers rally for government school enrollment

HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 07: Teachers participated in a motorbike rally to boost government school enrollment in huge numbers in the district today. The rally, flagged off by Deputy Commissioner, Inder Jeet, aimed to raise awareness about education and facilities in government schools.

Teachers rode bikes with placards promoting the enrollment drive. The DC was accompanied by Joint Director School Education, Mohd Ashraf; CEO Poonch, Bishamber Dass; and DEPO Poonch, N M Suri.



Inder Jeet appreciated the participation of the teachers and emphasised the significance of education in the development of the district. He urged parents to prioritise education and enroll their children in government

schools. Mohd Asraf urged parents in Poonch district to admit their children in government schools and avail the benefits of various schemes. Government schools offer incentives including scholarships, special assistance for girls,

free books, uniforms and mid-day meals. These facilities provide a conducive learning environment and ensure quality education without financial constraints.

Chief Education Officer, Bishamber Dass emphasised that government schools are equipped with resources and opportunities to nurture students' academic growth.

Cluster Heads, ZEO Poonch, ZEO Kanuyian, ZEO Nangali and ZEPO Poonch were also present in the rally. The rally was coordinated by members of District Resource Group Poonch, Darshan Kumar and Harish Sharma.

## DLSA in collaboration with district administration organise one-day Legal Awareness Programme in Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 07: The District Legal Service Authority, in collaboration with the District Administration, organised a one-day Legal Awareness workshop aimed at improving the justice delivery system in the district and filling the gap in the judiciary and police/civil agencies for the speedy disposal of justice. The workshop aimed to make individuals aware of the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court regarding the detention of an individual, rights of detainees, procedure to be followed for remand and arrest. During the program, the Chief Guest Principal and District Session Judge Yashpal Kotwal, and Guest of Honour, Deputy Commissioner, Dr Devansh Yadav, with special guests SSP Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmed Poswal and Chief Judicial Magistrate Kishtwar, Mahmud Anwar Alnasir discussed various issues pertaining to the Motor Accident Tribunal claims and the different sections of Criminal Procedure Code which police authorities and executive magistrates need to take care and apply their mind.

The event was attended by a host of Judicial, Police & Civil officers, including Munsiff Kishtwar Kartar Singh, ASP Rajinder Singh, ACR Varunjeet Singh Charak, SDM Paddar Rishi Sharma, SDM Marwah Mohsin Raza, Executive Magistrates, Police Officers.

## Kishtwar Administration discusses Paddar Baisakhi Utsav

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 07: A meeting was convened by Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav to discuss the modalities for the Baisakhi Utsav organised by District Administration Kishtwar in collaboration with Indian Army at Paddar on 13th and 14th April 2024.

The meeting discussed arrangements and finalised activities including wrestling, river rafting, rappelling, tug of war, beach volleyball,



bike rally and day-night cricket matches. Stalls for local cuisine, sports and cultural programs were also discussed.

DC Kishtwar discussed awarding prizes and felicitating participants with organisers and coordinators. He urged army officers to develop selfie points and other facilities to ensure maximum participation. Nodal Officers were appointed for different activities and arrangements to ensure smooth functioning.

Officials were asked to ensure local cuisine stalls by involving women's

self help groups members. Arrangements for the opening ceremony of Machail Mata Temple on Baisakhi were also discussed and directions were passed to concerned officials.

DC Kishtwar said that the upcoming Baisakhi Utsav promises to be a grand celebration of culture and sports and all necessary arrangements are being made to ensure its success.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kishtwar, Inderjeet Singh Parihar; ACR Kishtwar, Varunjeet Singh Charak; SDM Paddar, Dr Rishi Kumar;

BDC chairman Paddar, Arpan Singh Rana; Captain Shekhar Singh of 17RR Dul; Dy SP HQ, Ashish Gupta; BDOs Paddar, Ravi Kumar and Nagsemi; DYSSO Kharati Lal Sharma; Ex En PMGSY Mohinder Kumar; AEE JPD-CL Sudhir Sharma; officials of NRLM and others. The meeting was attended by ADC Kishtwar, Inderjeet Singh Parihar; ACR Kishtwar, Varunjeet Singh Charak; SDM Paddar, Dr Rishi Kumar; BDC chairman Paddar, Arpan Singh Rana; Captain Shekhar Singh of 17RR Dul; Dy SP HQ, Ashish Gupta; BDOs Paddar.

## Awareness seminar on CUET held at GCW Udhampur

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 07: The Career Counselling, Guidance and Placement Cell of Government College for Women, Udhampur organised an awareness seminar on the Common University Entrance Test Examination (CUET) in collaboration with Bharatiya College of Education, Udhampur. Dr Monika Sharma, Principal of the college, was the chief guest on the occasion. While addressing the audience, Dr Monika encouraged students to prepare themselves better for CUET with the relevant information imparted. She affirmed that the college would continue to organise such events in future and that the Career Counselling, Guidance and Placement Cell would receive full support for organising events to keep students.

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JAMMU APRIL 07- Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today said the mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not only to steer the nation to highest pinnacles of progress and development but also to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes perco-

late down to last person in the society. "The Prime Minister's vision of Atma Nirbhar (self-reliant) Bharat is Sashaktikaran (empowerment) of all, irrespective of religion, region or caste, as per his cherished agenda of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas", Mr Rana said, adding that it is with this mantra that every BJP Karyakar-



ta is reaching out to the people, aware them about

the schemes tailored by the government for their welfare, listen to their problems and make every effort in getting these resolved by taking up the grievances or issues with appropriate forums in the administration. Mr Devender Rana along with Mr. Munish Sharma, Prabhari BJYM and Mr. Parneesh Mahajan, Incharge Training Depart-

ment were interacting with the people during the public grievances redressal camp—a mechanism held on weekly basis—at the BJP headquarters at Trikuta Nagar. About 30 deputations apart from individuals from across the state met the BJP leaders, who redressed their grievances by taking up the matter with the concerned authorities.



EDITORIAL

# Ramadan Kareem and The 'Fair' Pricing Issues...

Ongoing Ramadan, the holy month of fasting and worship, is a time of joy, devotion, and spiritual reflection for the Muslim community worldwide. In Kashmir, however, the spirit of Ramadan has been dampened by the high prices in the Ramadan market. It is a worrying trend that requires immediate attention from both the government and the business community.

The Ramadan market, also known as the 'Rozabal', is an important feature of the holy month in Kashmir. It is a place where people go to purchase items such as dates, fruits, sweets, and clothes for the Eid celebrations. However, in recent years, the prices of these items have skyrocketed, making it difficult for the average person to purchase them.

The high prices in the Ramadan market have a significant impact on the people of Kashmir. Many families struggle to make ends meet, and the high cost of goods during Ramadan only exacerbates their financial burdens. It is particularly difficult for those who live below the poverty line, as they cannot afford to purchase basic necessities, let alone luxuries such as dates and sweets.

The high prices in the Ramadan market are a result of several factors. Firstly, the lack of proper regulation of prices by the government allows unscrupulous vendors to charge exorbitant prices for basic goods. This is compounded by the fact that the market is dominated by a few traders who control the prices of goods. Secondly, the lack of competition in the market means that consumers have no choice but to buy goods at inflated prices. Thirdly, the cost of transportation and storage of goods adds to the final price, making it unaffordable for many.

It is essential that the government takes action to address the issue of high prices in the Ramadan market. The government can regulate prices by setting a maximum price for goods, which vendors cannot exceed. This would prevent vendors from charging exorbitant prices and ensure that the market remains affordable for everyone. Additionally, the government can encourage more competition in the market by granting licenses to more vendors. This would create a more competitive environment, which would lead to lower prices for consumers.

The business community also has a role to play in addressing the issue of high prices in the Ramadan market. They should be more socially responsible and ensure that the prices of goods remain affordable for everyone. This would not only benefit consumers but would also create a positive image of their businesses. Furthermore, the business community can work with the government to develop policies that would promote fair competition in the market.

The media can also play a role in addressing the issue of high prices in the Ramadan market. They can raise awareness about the issue and put pressure on the government and business community to take action. They can also highlight the stories of people who are affected by high prices, which would create public sympathy and support for the cause.

In conclusion, the issue of high prices in the Ramadan market in Kashmir is a worrying trend that requires immediate attention. The government, business community, and media all have a role to play in addressing this issue. The government must regulate prices and promote fair competition in the market, while the business community must be more socially responsible. The media can raise awareness and put pressure on the government and business community to take action. By working together, we can ensure that the spirit of Ramadan remains alive and well in Kashmir, and that everyone can celebrate the holy month without financial burden.

# "Seraphic Garland"

by Khursheed Wani - A Review



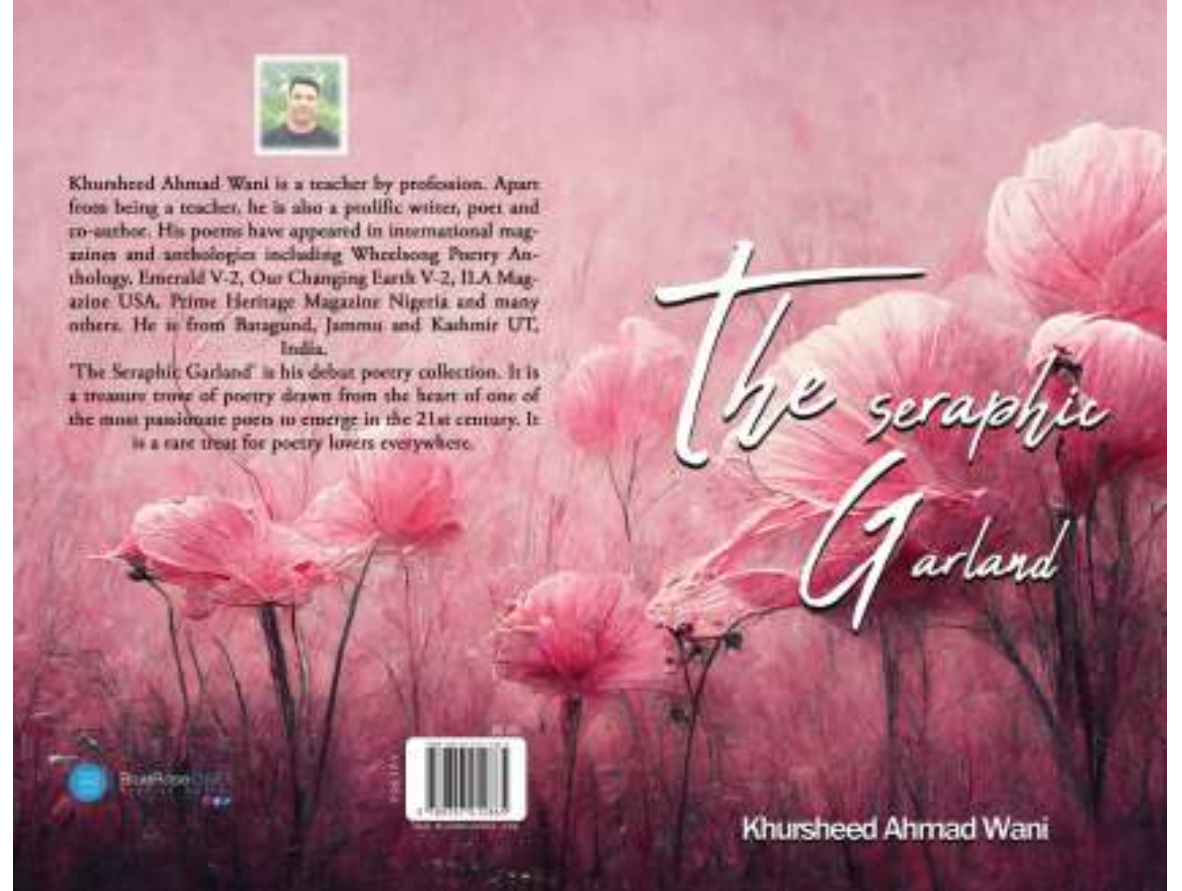
RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR



Khursheed Ahmad Wani, apart from being a teacher, is a prolific writer, poet and also an author. His poetry pieces are regularly published by leading and high impact magazines and journals of the globe. Hailing from a remote Batagund village of frontier Kupwara district, Mr Khursheed Wani is an excellent poet having strong grip over vocabulary and the skill of weaving extraordinary poems depicting love, passion, compassion, miseries, hope, loneliness, friendship, courage, time etc in his poems. "Seraphic Garland" is Khursheed's debut poetry collection published by Blue Rose One. It's cover page is eye catching and it comprises of 75 adorably composed poems of varied themes and central ideas. This 132 page poetry collection isn't less than a fine treat for English literature lovers. Author has dedicated this beautiful creation to his entire family especially to his mother, father and brother. Moreover he has inherited the skill of poetry through his grandfather Sahil Mawri. He has expressed his gratitude to a number of persons who encouraged him to move forward viz AG Peer, Bilal Ahsan, Shafkat Aziz etc. In it's foreword-1 written by Annette Nasser, the avid writer says " Though all of his poems have deep-rooted meaning, I thoroughly connected and found with deepest clarity, his motivation and positive aspects he reflects not only through his interactions with people, but through his earnest beliefs and direct art of veracity".

Jenayah Hela sr. English teacher from Tunisia too has written it's another foreword. She is of the view " Khursheed's poetry collection is a highly philosophical poetry collection introspective enough, as it appears like a meditative reflection of utter beauty as intricate, and intimate as a murmur". In it's 3rd foreword Dr Mohammad Haj Assistant professor of American poetry writes "Kashmir, the mother of natural beauty has left a considerable impact on Khursheed's works". The 4th foreword of Seraphic Garland is written by Sarfraz Ahmad poet from UK. He says "Each poem has been immaculately crafted together, words chosen carefully and weaved to create something beyond beautiful". The Proem of the book is written by Author himself and he says " I have tried to portray the beauty of motherland in my poems because there is no doubt that it is truly a Paradise on earth. It is a great blessing to dwell in its beauty". The opening piece/poem "the divine decree" of the book on page 01 is so nicely crafted that it depicts the true poetic style of author. Another poem about Kashmiri Kangir the winter companion of vallieties under the title "A short Paean" on page 05 shows author's love for his cultural assets and how two different craftsmen slave to make this fine creation which warms our chilling bodies during biting cold of winters. Another one on page 07 "An Unusual Trip" reflects his passion to go for jungle trips and his love and affinity for nature. Outing with chums on page 13 is so beautifully composed that it shows author's treasure of vocabulary and how nicely he plays with words and phrases to compose his poetry items. Another excellent poem "All laud to thee O Lord" on page 19 is adorably composed to show his skill of composing nicest items. This magnificent one reflects author's belief on almighty's unimaginable powers. Author goes like this "Oh, my Lord, Thou art merciful

To every caste and creed,  
On pastures and birds,



Verily, the showerer of blessings!  
About 40 days harsh winter period(Chillia-kalan) of Kashmir Khursheed has written a masterpiece under the title "Forty days in Kashmir" on page 26. Knowledge plays an important role in the personality building of a person and for the prosperity of nations. The same has been expressed by the author through a poem "Knowledge" on page 28. On 1st day of school reopening festive scenes are witnessed in the school campuses when blooming buds are received with full love and affection. School premises are decorated everywhere to welcome them. Same has been reflected in one of the poem "Back to school" in this book on page 36. Asia's largest Tulip garden of Srinagar under the foothills of Zabarwan is the major tourist attraction during spring season. Colourful tulips add joy and pleasure to our incoming guests who feel scents of paradise while entering the garden. This is what is written in one of poems of this book "Written among Tulips" on page 39. There is popular saying that the pen is mightier than the sword. It is because of the power of pen that a humane becomes a human and nations progress by leaps and bounds. This is what is depicted in "The Pen" on page 46. Poets, literatuers and philosophers of the whole globe have unequivocally tried their best to express their utmost love and praise for the holy Prophet who is the real model for whole humanity. Khursheed too has done the same while writing "Oh prophet of prophets" on page 48. The day of Eid-ul-Adha is a special day of our Islamic calendar. We celebrate it with religious fervour and perform the sunah of prophet Ibrahim by sacrificing the animals. Children, young and adults all feel blissful on that day. A state of bliss on page 55 reflects the same. Teachers are the builders of nation. They mould the minds of children thus helping them to become responsible future citizens. Author has portrayed the same in "A lifelong glim" on page 60. Talib a little kid who was mercilessly killed and then buried in unknown forests by some wild beasts is still sending the shivers down the spine of every human. His mother may still be waiting him to return and the light of her eyes too might have weakened due to this shock. This heartwrenching

poem "Talib" is found on 67. O Man, Wake up on page 71 is the appealing one trying to awaken people who are in deep slumber so that they realise the hardships and sufferings of youth who's joys are buried and future darkened. The year of pandemic was a challenge for all. Every one was restricted to the four walls of his house and children too lost a year due to no schooling. Online and offline teaching seldom helped them to cope with the changing situations. Khursheed has nicely depicted the same in "A year of agony" on page 76. Verinag the primary source of our Jhelum river is the major tourist attraction of south Kashmir. The famous pretty Mughal garden of verinag built by Mughal emperor Jahangir is still rejuvenating the lives of people living in the area. About the beauty and splendiferous nature of Verinag Khursheed has written a beautiful poem "The source of Jhelum" on page 93. The poet has anxiously craved for the peace in his homeland which it is lacking despite being the paradise on earth. It can be felt in it's "Listen to me" on page 101. A newspaper vendor during morning times heps us to get acquainted about the global happenings and enhances our information as newspapers are full of world news and treasure of knowledge. Alas it is recklessly put on shelves at the mercy of dust. Same is depicted by poet in " The Newspaper" on page 108. During childhood one enjoys the life to the fullest. It is laden with sweet memories. Infact it is everyone's best phase of life. Author has beautifully written "My salad days" describing the same during his own childhood. The comforts is the concluding and last poem of the book appearing on page 132. Khursheed Ahmad Wani has nicely composed every poem forming contents of this beautiful poetry collection. He has a treasure of words and phrases in his memory which is helping him to compose the nicest poetry items. Infact like every poem of this book but few are extraordinarily composed to attract the attention of every poetry lover. It is really a sweet treat for English poetry lovers. My best wishes are for author for his future endeavours and I take pride to write a review of the book written by the poet of this stature and calibre.

Writers is hailing from Qazigund Kashmir.

# Children becoming weak in language and mathematics



VIJAY GARG



Education has great importance in human life. In fact, proper education is required for making better individuals and for a bright career. Although many changes have been made in our education system since independence, but the data and information obtained from a recent survey shows that all the efforts made so far in the field of education have been insufficient for objective improvement. National Council of Educational Research and Training ie NCERT and a survey was conducted under the joint auspices of the Ministry of School Education, Government of India. According to the statistics, the children of class three across the country have proved to be weaker than the average, especially in Mathematics, English and Hindi, which is a matter of great concern for the future of the country. The report of the said survey, conducted under the title Foundation Literacy Survey (FLS), states that only 54 percent of children studying in class III in schools across

the country are proficient in English, but the sad thing is that the great mathematician Srinivaln this country of S. Ramanujan, only 52 percent of the country's children are proficient in interesting and important subjects like mathematics. On the other hand, in this survey, the most unfortunate and dark truth of the country's education world has come to the fore, that only 46 percent children were found proficient in our national language Hindi in the national average. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Education of the Central Government, the above survey named 'National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy' i.e. 'Nipun Bharat 2021' was conducted, which the objective was to find out the present status of the children on the basis of merit and ability in Mathematics and Language i.e. English and Hindi subjects. In fact, by 2026-27, the Modi government has set a target of making the children of class three across the country fundamentally strong in language and mathematics subjects. For which a total of 86 thousand children studying in Class III of 10 thousand schools were included in the said survey conducted by the Union Ministry of Education in all the states across the country during March, 2022, according to the above survey- And in Hindi subject only 45 percent children of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, while 50 percent of Delhi and 75 percent children of West

Bengal were found to be proficient in reading and speaking. On the other hand, maximum 77 percent children of Uttarakhand were found proficient in English language, while 74 percent of Bihar, 71 percent of West Bengal, 66 percent of Delhi children and 62 percent of Kerala children were proficient in this language. Significantly, the national average in English is 54 percent. According to the result obtained in the field of mathematics in the survey, West Bengal has the highest score of 70%. Apart from recognition of numbers, percent children were also found to be proficient in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, while in comparison to the national average of 52 percent, Bihar's 66 percent children in the second place, Uttar Pradesh's 62 in the third place, Uttar Pradesh's 62 in the fourth place But Uttarakhand's 59, Tamil Nadu's 56 percent children remained in fifth place. On the other hand, only 45 percent of the students of Kerala were found to be proficient in Mathematics at the sixth place in the country and only 45 percent of the students of Delhi at the seventh place in the country. Similarly, in solving the questions of Mathematics subject in Maharashtra Goa, 52 percent children proved their proficiency in English, 56 in Marathi, 57 in Marathi and only 37 percent in Hindi, while 53 percent children in Goa were found proficient in English, 40 percent in Marathi and 35 percent in Mathematics. Seeing this situation of children in the field of

language and mathematics, it is natural to worry about the future of the country. By the way, if seen carefully, carelessness, neglect, ignorance and lack of determination, etc., which have been done till now towards Hindi and other Indian languages and education, are the root causes of this problem. There have been reasons. In fact, due to lack of education and initiation of our children in their own mother tongue, our children continue to lag behind in many other subjects including mathematics, while we have been hearing about development and innovation in the field of education for decades. Similarly, in the name of upgrading the national language Hindi and other Indian languages and giving them the required place and respect, various programs are organized almost every year across the country. But we are not good teachers of Hindi and Maths for the schools. They were able to prepare, while countries with a population of only one hundred lakhs, Sweden and countries like Norway, Denmark and Finland etc., have arrangements for imparting all the education in their own languages. However, through major reforms in the field of education, the Modi government at the center is aiming to make children fundamentally strong in language and mathematics subjects, which is a commendable step

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab



# Ahmad Deedat: The Prominent Islamic Scholar and Defender of Islam

"Islam will win with or without you. But without Islam, you will get lost and you will lose." (Ahmad Deedat)



SAHIL SHARIFDIN BHAT

Ahmed Hussain Deedat is popularly known as Ahmad Deedat and he was a prominent South African Islamic scholar and activist who dedicated his life to promoting Islam and defending it against misconceptions and misconstrued interpretations. Born on July 1, 1918, in Surat, India, Deedat joined his father Hussain Kazem Deedat who was a tailor by profession in Durban, South Africa, at the age of nine. His mother, Fatima Deedat died only a few months after his departure to Durban. Growing in a foreign country without the affection of his loving mother was not easy for the little Deedat. Throughout his life, whenever he mentioned his mother anywhere, his eyes became moist. He faced challenges adjusting to the new culture and language in South Africa. He struggled with English, which was not his first language, and faced discrimination due to his religion and ethnicity. The financial circumstances in the family did not allow him to gain formal education beyond 6th standard. He left school at the age of sixteen to work at a shop as a salesman. Despite the challenges and poverty, Deedat's father left no stone unturned to instill in his son a strong sense of Islamic identity and a passion for learning. He attended an Islamic madrasah (religious school) in Durban, where he studied the Quran, Hadith (sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad), and Islamic jurisprudence. In 1936, while working as a furniture salesman, a group of nascent missionaries from a Christian seminary on the Natal South Coast regularly visited him and during their efforts to convert him and other people of Muslim faith, often accused the Islamic prophet Muhammad of having "used the sword" to bring people to Islam. Such accusations offended Deedat and created his interest in comparative religion. Once he found a book titled "Izhar ul-Haqq (Truth Revealed) written by Rahmatullah Kairanawi in his employer's basement, he studied it attentively and that changed the future course of his life. This early religious education laid the foundation for Deedat's deep understanding of Islam and Christianity and shaped his later role as a prominent scholar on Comparative religion and probably the greatest Islamic debater ever. He will always be known for his vast knowledge of Islamic teachings, his prolific writing, and his passionate public speaking. Deedat's debut lecture, entitled "Muhammad: Messenger of Peace", was delivered in 1942 to an audience of fifteen people at a Durban cinema named Avalon Cinema. A major vehicle of Deedat's early missionary

activity was the 'Guided Tours' of the Jumma Mosque in Durban. He himself was one of the guides, hosting tourists and giving introductions to Islam and its relationship with Christianity. Deedat was in favour of the creation of Pakistan and when that happened, he moved to Karachi in 1949 and lived there with his family for three years. He possibly did not find it the Islamic state he had expected, therefore, he emigrated to South Africa.

By the early 1980s Ahmed Deedat's work was beginning to be known outside his native South Africa. As a result, at age of 66, Deedat began a decade of international speaking tours around the world— Saudi Arabia, Egypt, USA, UK, Australia, Denmark, Sweden, Canada, UAE etc. As his fame and glory grew, the number of his enemies and critics also grew. Some ignorant Muslims harped that he was misrepresenting Islam and some non-Muslims accused him of misinterpreting their respective religions. To tell you the truth, none of his opponents dared to debate him publicly and a handful of people who ventured to debate him were miserably defeated.

One of Deedat's notable achievements was his role in founding the Islamic Propagation Centre International (IPCI) in Durban, South Africa, in 1957. The IPCI aimed to educate non-Muslims about Islam and promote interfaith dialogue. Deedat used his eloquence and deep understanding of Islam to engage in debates, lectures, and discussions with people of other faiths, particularly Christians and Jews. He became renowned for his ability to present Islam in a logical and convincing manner, using evidence from the Quran, Hadith (the sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad), and historical sources. He was awarded the King Faisal International Prize in 1986 for his fifty years of missionary work.

Deedat's expertise in comparative religion was evident in his numerous books and pamphlets, which were translated into several languages and distributed worldwide. His most well-known works include "The Choice: Between Islam and Christianity," "Is the Bible God's Word?," and "Crucifixion or Cruci-Fiction?" Through his writings and lectures, Deedat tackled misconceptions about Islam, refuted common objections, and clarified Islamic teachings, making them accessible to people of different backgrounds.

In addition to his intellectual endeavors, Deedat was also a passionate advocate for social justice and human rights. He spoke out against apartheid in South Africa and condemned injustice wherever it existed. He used his platform to raise awareness about the plight of Palestinians and spoke in support of their rights and freedom. Deedat's unwavering commitment to justice and equality earned him respect and admiration from Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Deedat's work, as hinted already, was not without controversy, as some critics accused him of being confrontational or provocative in his approach. How-



ever, his supporters saw him as a fearless defender of Islam who fearlessly challenged misconceptions and defended the faith. Deedat's contributions to Islamic scholarship and his efforts to promote interfaith dialogue continue to inspire Muslims around the world.

Tragically, Deedat suffered a stroke in 1996, which left him partially paralyzed and unable to speak. I personally believe that stroke was a blessing in disguise for him as that was Allah's way of telling him, "Mr Deedat, you have been speaking in my favour continuously for seven decades. Take it easy and have some rest, old man". He passed away in 2005 at the age of 87 after making lakhs of non-Muslims revert to Islam. He remained an inspiration to others, and his legacy continues to thrive through the works of the IPCI and his writings, which are still widely read and studied today. He was a nightmare for the Christian missionaries across the globe including the pope. However, the purpose of Deedat's debates was not necessarily to "win" in a competitive sense, but rather to present Islamic teachings, clarify misconceptions, and engage in interfaith dialogue. He engaged in debates with

several prominent Christian apologists and scholars during his career. Some of the famous Christians who debated Deedat include:

Dr. Floyd E. Clark: Deedat engaged in a series of debates with Dr. Floyd E. Clark, an American Christian evangelist and scholar, in 1957. The debates were held in Durban, South Africa, and focused on topics related to Christianity and Islam.

Pastor Stanley Sjoberg: Deedat also had debates with Pastor Stanley Sjoberg, an American Christian missionary and evangelist, in the 1980s. These debates centered on various topics, including the divinity of Jesus, the crucifixion, and the concept of the Trinity.

Jimmy Swaggart: Deedat engaged in a great debate with Jimmy Swaggart, a well-known American Pentecostal evangelist and televangelist, in the early 1990s. The debate revolved around the divinity of Jesus and the authenticity of the Bible.

Dr. Anis Shorosh: Deedat had a series of debates with Dr. Anis Shorosh, a Palestinian-American Christian apologist and author, in the 1980s and 1990s. The debates covered a wide range of topics, including the divinity of Jesus, the authenticity of the Bible, and the concept of salvation in Christianity and Islam.

Josh McDowell: Deedat had an amazing debate with Josh McDowell, a well-known American Christian apologist and author, in the 1980s. The debate focused on topics related to the historical reliability of the Bible and the claims of Christianity.

These debates between Deedat and various Christian scholars and apologists were often characterized by passionate discussions and exchanges of theological arguments. These debates helped lakhs of people to enter the holy fold of Islam. I have personally not seen a better debater than Ahmad Deedat anywhere in the modern world. Most of his debates and lectures are available on YouTube.

In conclusion, Ahmed Deedat was a prominent Islamic scholar and activist who dedicated his life to promoting Islam, defending it against misconceptions, and advocating for social justice. His scholarly works, lectures, and debates have made a significant impact in promoting interfaith understanding and clarifying Islamic teachings. Although he faced criticism and controversy, Deedat's contributions to Islamic scholarship and his unwavering commitment to justice continue to inspire Muslims worldwide. His legacy lives on, and his work remains relevant in today's world, where the need for interfaith understanding and dialogue is more important than ever.

People who don't understand Islam have painted it as a violent religion. But if you understand it, you'll see it teaches compassion, kindness and fairness.

**The author lives at Lethapora Pulwama. His name is Sahil Sharifdin Bhat. His books are available on Amazon, Flipkart etc. He can be reached at sahilsharifdinenglish@gmail.com**



M S NAZKI

Honestly speaking I had no matter at hand but just a picture and a one liner which my friend MSN sent it to me. I thought it over and decided that I will do it in the evening yesterday! But by the time I reached home, I was in no mood to give the appreciation and treatment which

what he did was a determined effort to save his comrades for whom he carried loads! He had a duty towards them and he did it!

Tsering Nurboo, 81 years old Defence Porter was supported by Leh Sub Area for repair of his house. He served for 31 years with the Indian Army and was involved in saving the lives of five soldiers in an avalanche in 1993!

He may have been a porter but at that time he was a God for those five men in olives as snow was all over them! Had I been in Leh, talking to the hero, I would have given this story a better treatment but trust me this would not be bad either! What would a young Norbu (obviously

know where to find you. I could be buried a hundred miles underground and I would know where you are!

Perhaps this was the grit and determination when Norbu went in for the rescue operation. Time tells us many stories and the pictures most of them, this is the one which tells what life is all about!

Obviously Norbu cannot be the same old young man once upon a time he was when he carried loads like a basket on his back! His spine has bent but the smile on the face is intact but the good thing is that he has a house! Could be one of the most loveable cottages amidst the mountains of Leh!

Again it is obvious that it must have been

slope was brutal!

It was an avalanche and five men, all soldiers, were gobbled up in no time!

Someone or the other had to take an initiative and it was none other than the Porter Hero at that moment Tsering Norbu!

Avalanches are deadly dangerous and they take anyone in their down slope snow twister. At that time and on that day 1993 the same was going to happen as five soldiers were swept off their feet in the minutest of seconds! In stepped Norbu with a thought racing through his mind, friends, 'you're born but you're not buried yet and I will pull you out'. The young man in Norbu did that!

But the whole life cannot be spent in

could have, he would have never become a porter? But he had to become one because that was written in his destiny!

Now he is eighty plus and perhaps did not have enough funds to carry on with his house repairs but some one knew that a hero of the moment back in 1993 needed help! The officers and the men at work in the Fire and Fury Corps knew what they had to do and they did precisely that!

**And this is what they did:**

Maybe a patrol would have sighted the aged Tsering Norbu repairing his house!

The men from the Indian Army do not forget the services of men at work in the past and the feat that Norbu performed could not have ever been forgotten!

Obviously it was time to decide and the immediate decision taken was that the old man once young had to be helped!

And Lo! the help arrived from the Sub-Area Leh and Norbu heaved a sigh of relief with a typical smile which is very peculiar to the people of Leh and Ladakh!

It is not easy to forget the heroes and the Indian Army does not do that!

I will close this story with an incident that happened back in the mid nineties and the place was Rajouri! Pakistan would fire at will and we had to show restraint but on that afternoon one officer was to break the rules because the firing from the Pak post had punctured the back of a porter by the name of Mohammed Riaz while he was having his lunch! Hell had to freeze over and it did! Fire was met with fire. The officer did not allow the Pak soldiers to have their lunch or dinner! Riaz survived but was never the same young lad! The load carrying capacity had been taken apart by bullets! But the Indian Army never let him down and they still have not! Like every soldier has a story to tell, every army porter too has one, full of nostalgia because they interact with soldiers more!

should have been given to Tsering and one look at the picture and my memory was flooded as a nostalgic breeze just fled by!

Norbu may not have been a regular soldier but he was more than that because

at that time) would have thought of when he found five soldiers under nature's wrath in the form of an avalanche, perhaps something like this, 'I could be blindfolded and dropped into the deepest ocean and I would

bruised and battered by the conditions, I mean weather that prevails in a hostile weather place! That day in 1993 the weather conditions were certainly the fiercest and the sudden sliding of the snow on the

carrying loads. Finally a day comes when one has to give up and retire to the realms of his home! Tsering did not have a big one but it had plenty of warmth in it! But can a porter manage the repair works? If he



## Amid Covid Spike, Health Minister Orders Mock Drills In States Next Week

HT News Network

New Delhi: Amid rising cases of coronavirus, Union Health Minister



Mansukh Mandaviya today held a review meeting and advised states to stay alert and be prepared for COVID-19 management.

In the meeting with state health ministers and principal and additional chief secretaries held virtually, Mr Mandaviya stressed on identifying emergency hotspots by monitoring trends of influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases, ramping up testing and vaccination and ensuring readiness of hospital infrastructure.

Along with enhancing genome sequencing and ramping up whole genome sequencing of positive samples, he also emphasised on creating awareness about following Covid-appropriate behaviour.

The Centre and the states need to continue working in collaborative spirit as was done during the previous surges for COVID-19 prevention and

severity or immune escape. The prevalence of XBB.1.16 increased from 21.6 per cent in February to 35.8 per cent in March, 2023.

However, no evidence of an increase in hospitalisation or mortality has been reported, the statement said.

During the meeting, it was observed that 23 states and Union territories had average tests per million below the national average, according to a health ministry statement.

Mr Mandaviya said irrespective of the new variants, the five-fold strategy of 'Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour' continue to remain the tested strategy for Covid management.

This would facilitate undertaking of appropriate public health measures, he said. States and Union territories were also requested to expeditiously increase the rate of testing from the current rate of 100 tests per million, as on the week ending April 7. They were further advised to increase the share of RT-PCR in tests, the statement said.

The states and Union territories were briefed that the country has been witnessing a steady increase in COVID-19 cases with average daily cases rising to 4,188 in the week ending April 7 from 571 in the week ending March 17; and weekly positivity up to 3.02 per cent in the week ending April 7. However, 88,503 daily average cases have been reported globally in the same time, with the top five countries contributing 62.6 per cent of global cases in the last one week, the statement said.

management, Mr Mandaviya said.

He also urged the state health ministers to conduct mock drills of all hospital infrastructure on April 10 and 11 and review the health preparedness with district administrations and health officials on April 8 and 9.

States and Union territories were further informed that currently WHO is closely tracking one variant of interest (VOI), XBB.1.5 and six other variants are under monitoring (BQ.1, BA.2.75, CH.1.1, XBB, XBF and XBB.1.16), a health ministry statement said.

It was highlighted that while Omicron and its sub-lineages continue to be the predominant variant, most of the assigned variants have little or no significant transmissibility, disease

## PM Modi To Inaugurate New Airport, Vande Bharat Train In Chennai Today

HT News Network

Chennai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate several infrastructure projects, including the state-of-the-art integrated terminal building set up at a total outlay of 2,437 crore at the Chennai airport, upon his arrival in the state on Saturday.

Security has been increased across the city in view of the visit while motorists have been asked to plan ahead of their journey to reach their destination as elaborate traffic diversions have been made, police said.

Following his arrival, PM Modi will open the new terminal, the first phase of which has been completed. It is expected to enhance the passenger traffic to 35 million per year.

"This will be an important addition to Chennai's infrastructure. It will boost connectivity and also benefit the local economy," PM Modi had said in a tweet.

According to Chennai airport officials, the new integrated terminal is spread across 2.20 lakh sq metres and would cater to



the growing air traffic in Tamil Nadu.

The terminal is also a reflection of the government's commitment towards providing high-quality infrastructure to travellers, they said.

"With the annual passenger handling capacity of 35 million passengers, the modern facility at the Chennai Airport will improve air travel experiences for all," the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

The terminal is equipped with 108 immigration counters which are split equally between arrival and departure areas. It would significantly enhance the travel experience for passengers by expediting the transit process, it said.

Besides the inauguration of the integrated new terminal, PM Modi will flag off the Vande Bharat train between Chennai and Coimbatore at the Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M G R Central Railway Station here.

Southern Railway has planned to operate the high-speed Vande Bharat express train between the two cities on all days except Wednesdays. The train would ply at a speed of 130 kmph reaching the destination on both sides in about 5.50 hours thereby saving 1.20 hours journey time compared to express trains, Southern Railway said. Later, PM Modi would take part in the 125th annual day celebrations of Ramakrishna Mutt at Vive-

kanandhar Illam on the arterial Kamarajar Salai (Beach Road) and also inaugurate infrastructure projects at Pallavaram. Security has been increased across the city in view of the visit while motorists have been asked to plan ahead of their journey to reach their destination as elaborate traffic diversions have been made, police said.

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## Rahul Gandhi To Hold Poll Rally In Karnataka's Kolar On April 10

HT News Network

New Delhi: Ahead of the upcoming Karnataka Assembly polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will hold a rally in Karnataka's Kolar on April 10.

He is also scheduled to visit his former Parliamentary constituency Wayanad in Kerala, a day later on April 11. Karnataka is slated to go to Assembly polls on May 10 and the counting of votes will take place on May 13. Earlier on Monday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi along with several senior party leaders went to the Gujarat court to file an appeal against his March 23 conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark. He was accompanied by his sister and party leader Priyanka Gandhi. Along with her, the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh too came to the court.

## Akanksha Dubey death: Bhojpuri singer Samar Singh arrested

HT News Network

Varanasi, Apr 7 (UNI) Bhojpuri singer Samar Singh was arrested from Nandgram area in Ghaziabad on Friday for allegedly inciting Bhojpuri actress Akanksha Dubey to commit suicide, police sources said.

Police sources said that with the help of Ghaziabad police the Crime Branch team of Varanasi Commissionerate arrested Samar Singh in the morning from Charms Crystal Society under Nandgram police station. His brother Sanjay Singh is still absconding, they said. Samar Singh allegedly incited Bhojpuri actress Akanksha Dubey to commit suicide. Her mother Madhu Dubey had lodged an FIR against Samar Singh and Sanjay Singh at Sarnath police station in Varanasi on March 27.

It may be noted that Akanksha Dubey committed suicide on March 26 in Somendra hotel in Sarnath area. Police sources said that Samar Singh is being brought to Varanasi on the transit remand. "He was produced in a court in Ghaziabad after medical examination which gave him on transit remand," they said.

## Former Andhra CM Kiran Kumar Reddy joins BJP

HT News Network

New Delhi, Apr 7 (UNI) Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Kiran Kumar Reddy on Friday joined the Bharatiya Janta party (BJP).

Reddy joined the Party in the presence of Union Minister Prahlad Joshi and other senior leaders at Party headquarters in New Delhi.

Welcoming Mr Reddy into the party, Mr Prahlad Joshi said, the joining of Mr Reddy will strengthen the fight against corruption in the state of Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

"Under the leadership of Mr Reddy there were some activities unfolding in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana" he said.

Speaking to the media after joining the party, Mr Reddy thanked BJP President JP Nadda and said "he will be ready to work under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi".

"My family's association with the Congress party was almost 60 years and he had never imagined that he would quit congress" he added.

## "Will Soon Finalise Candidates For Karnataka Polls": BS Yediyurappa

HT News Network

Bengaluru: Former Karnataka Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader BS Yediyurappa today said that the party will soon finalise the list of candidates for the State Assembly elections, scheduled to be held on May 10. BS Yediyurappa, who is flying down to the national capital to take part in BJP's Central Election Committee meeting along with Karnataka CM Bommali today, said that the party will finalise the candidates' list for the 224 seats soon. "I am going to Delhi today for the BJP CEC meeting. We will finalise all seats as early as possible and that is why I am going," Mr Yediyurappa said ahead of his flight here.

Asked about the Congress party's decision to give a ticket to Vinay Kulkarni, a former minister who is out on bail in connection with the murder of Zilla Panchayat member Yogeeshgouda Goudar, from Dharwad constituency, Mr Yediyurappa said that this is the grand old party's internal fight and he doesn't want to comment on that. On Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) planning to contest with the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) in Karnataka



and impact on the results if they rope in JDS, the former State CM said, "This is up to them and it is not going to affect BJP".

"The BJP is going to get absolute majority and we are going to form the government 100 per cent," he added.

Notably, while the opposition Congress and Janata Dal Secular have announced 166 and 93 candidates respectively so far, the ruling BJP is yet to announce its first list of candidates for the 224-seat assembly elections in Karnataka. In the 224-member Assembly, the NDA have 119 MLAs in Karnataka, but this time 40 per cent of the tickets of existing MLAs will be changed. Ahead of the Assembly election in Karnataka, the only southern.

## Pakistan Struggling For Food, While Free Ration In India: Yogi Adityanath

HT News Network

Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday, said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is achieving new heights of development and the world is looking up to the country.

On Friday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Kaushambi Mahotsav and also laid the foundation stone of various development projects.

Addressing the people in Kaushambi during the event, Chief Minister Yogi said, "The government of India is giving free rations to 80 crore people for the last three years, whereas people in Pakistan are struggling for food. Today, the world is looking up to India."

The Chief Minister thanked Union Minister Amit Shah for giving an international platform to the traditional values of the region through 'Kaushambi Mahotsav'.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the youth of the country is getting the inspiration to take part in sporting activities, live a healthy life and contribute to the development of the country," he said. He added, "Today, development projects worth more than 612 crores have



been inaugurated by the Home Minister. Kaushambi has very deep historic connections. It was one of the 16 Mahajanpads of that time. It is also believed that Lord Ram also spent his one night here." He further said that the state's development schemes are reaching every village, every poor, farmer and youth without any discrimination. "Our government is laying special focus on sports as well. We have set the target to make a playground in every village and a stadium in every district. PM Modi regularly says 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat'. Every panchayat, Nagar Nikay, and Janpad should celebrate its foundation day. Today, I am able to witness the same level of excitement and enthusiasm in the public, that I had witnessed during the Kaushambi Mahotsav in 2018," he said.

## Amit Shah slams oppn, claims BJP will again come power with 300 plus seats

HT News Network

Kaushambi (UP), Apr 7 (UNI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday slammed the opposition parties, especially Congress, for disrupting the budget session of the Parliament and claimed that Narendra Modi government will be formed again after 2024 Lok Sabha elections with more than 300 seats.

Addressing a rally after inaugurating Kaushambi Mahotsava and launching projects of more than Rs 600 crore, Shah said, "The Parliament session ended on Thursday and it was for the first time in the history of independence that the budget session ended without a single sitting or debate.

The opposition leaders did not allow the Parliament to function just because Rahul Gandhi was disqualified from the membership of Lok Sabha."

He said the law to disqualify an elected representative was made after the judgement of the Supreme Court. "To save Lalu

Prasad Yadav Manmohan Singh wanted to amend the law, but Rahul Gandhi prevented him for doing so," he said.

Shah said that Rahul was disqualified after a court in Surat in Ahmedabad. "It is the law that whoever he or she is convicted loses his or her membership. So far 17 MPs and MLAs have lost their membership. So Rahul too was convicted and after this Congress people came wearing black clothes and the Parliament was shut down," he said.

He said, "I want to tell Rahul one thing that it is the duty of every citizen of the country to obey the law and you were the MP. You should have challenged the conviction and should have fought in the court. But they wasted the time of the Parliament which the people of the country will never forgive."

The Home Minister also slammed Rahul for his remarks during his Cambridge visit. "tell me if a leader of the country should criticise India on a foreign land. What type of politics you want to bring in the country. You

think that the people don't see.

India in the world. "These Con-

gressmen say that one day Modi's grave will also be dug. I want to tell Congress people that whether it's Sonia Gandhi or Rahul or whoever else has abused Modi, the lotus (BJP's symbol) has been strengthened more by the people," he said.

He said, "The opposition parties claim that democracy is under threat. I want to tell them that your family is in danger and not democracy. Idea of dynastic politics and not the idea of India is under threat. Not democracy but the autocracy of your family



The people of the country not only see, but understand as well," he said.

Continuing his attack on Rahul, he said, "In the last 10 years you have lost the post of Leader of Opposition and I want to tell you that the Modi government will again come back to power with more than 300 seats."

Shah said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi secured the country, formulated a number of schemes for the welfare of the poor, he made the country prosperous and increased respect for

is in danger. "The Home Minister said that for decades democracy was beset by cankers of casteism, nepotism and appeasement by the opposition. "Modiji removed casteism and today Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) are nowhere to be seen. He defeated dynastic politics and ended appeasement and that is why you feel scared," he said.

He said that today Uttar Pradesh is on the path of development under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. "I have been told that a web of express ways has been developed in UP. As Modiji is also an MP from Varanasi he brought all the schemes of poor welfare on the ground in huge quantities in UP. Today poverty alleviation is taking place in every house," he said.

Shah said 46 lakh people were provided houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in UP. "2.16 crore toilets were constructed, cooking gas cylinders were provided to 1.76 crore mothers and sisters, benefit of SVANidhi scheme was extended to more than 10 lakh street vendors.



# Two killed in occupied West Bank as Israeli strikes continue in Lebanon, Gaza

HT News Network

Israel's military hit sites in Lebanon and Gaza early on Friday, in retaliation for rocket attacks it blamed on Hamas, as tensions following police raids this week on the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem threatened to spiral out of control.

Israeli authorities said two people were killed during a shooting attack in the occupied West Bank on Friday.

Israel's military said a shooting attack was carried out on a vehicle near the Hamra settlement. The Magen David Adom ambulance service said two women were killed and a third was seriously wounded.

According to the Associated Press, violence again broke out at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound before dawn prayers on Friday as "Israeli police wielding batons descended on crowds of Palestinian worshippers, who chanted slogans praising Hamas as they tried to squeeze into the site".

"An hour later, according to videos, people leaving the prayers staged a vast protest on the limestone courtyard, with Palestinians raising their fists and shouting in support of Hamas rocket fire," the report added. It further said that the Israeli police forced their way

into the compound.

Al Jazeera also shared a video

response to 'masked suspects' who threw rocks toward officers

Press reported. Regarding the situation after



of people fleeing in panic as Israeli forces broke up a group of Palestinian worshippers who wanted to visit the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem, to perform morning prayers on the third Friday of Ramazan.

The video also shows meals and drinks placed on tables for the worshippers as they were having their Sehri meal for fasting.

The Associated Press said the Israeli police "did not comment on the earlier beatings but said security forces entered the holy compound after prayers in

at one of the gates".

It further reported that the Israeli military said it "pounded Gaza with more airstrikes on Friday, hitting 10 targets that it described as underground tunnels, along with weapons production and development sites belonging largely to the Hamas militant group".

"There were no immediate reports of casualties in Gaza, but the Palestinian Health Ministry said that one of the strikes caused some damage to a children's hospital in Gaza City," the Associated

the attack earlier today, it reported that "even as calm returned to Al-Aqsa a few hours after the burst of violence, the situation remained tense ahead of midday Friday prayers".

Loud blasts rocked different areas of Gaza, as Israel said its jets hit 10 targets including tunnels and weapons manufacturing and development sites of Hamas, which controls the blockaded southern coastal strip.

At around 4am, the military said it had also struck three Hamas infrastructure targets in southern

Lebanon, where residents around the area of the Rashidiyeh refugee camp near the southern city of Tyre reported three loud blasts.

"We strongly condemn the blatant Zionist aggression against Lebanon in the vicinity of Tyre at dawn today," Hamas said.

Two Lebanese security sources said the strike hit a small structure on farmland near the area from which the rockets had been launched earlier. The strike appeared to have left a large crater in farmland in the south, according to Reuters witnesses.

A member of Lebanon's Civil Defense at the scene on Friday morning said there were no casualties.

However, the Associated Press reported that "Israeli missiles struck an open field in the southern Lebanese town of Qalili, near the Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyeh, according to an Associated Press photographer and residents, killing several sheep and inflicting minor injuries on residents, including Syrian refugees". The strikes came in response to rocket attacks from Lebanon towards northern Israeli areas, which Israeli officials blamed on Hamas. The military said 34 rockets were launched from Lebanon, of which 25 were intercepted by air defence systems. It was the biggest such attack since 2006.

## 2 dead, over a million without power after ice storm hits Canada

HT News Network

Two people died and more than a million were without power on Thursday after an ice storm hit Canada's two most-populated provinces ahead of a holiday weekend, bringing freezing rain and strong winds that toppled trees and weighed down power lines. Just under a million people did not have power in Quebec and about 110,000 in Ontario as of 4pm according to Poweroutage.com. Outages combined for both provinces had crossed at least 1.3 million earlier in the day. A view shows the landscape after an ice storm, in Apple Hill, Ontario, Canada, April 6, 2023 in this picture obtained from social media. —Natalie Rowe/via Reuters. The two provinces account for more than half of Canada's total population of about 39 million. Electricity providers in both provinces were working to restore power, but repairs were expected to continue for days, meaning many Canadians could spend Easter weekend in the dark. One man was killed in Quebec when a tree fell on him, Premier Francois Legault said at a briefing, cautioning people to watch out for live wires and weakened trees.

## Stormy Daniels says Trump should not go to prison in hush money case

HT News Network

Stormy Daniels, the adult film star at the centre of the criminal case against Donald Trump, said she does not think the former president should go to prison if convicted of concealing hush money payments he made to her. "I don't think that his crimes against me are worthy of incarceration. I feel like the other things that he has done, if he is found guilty, absolutely," Daniels, 44, said in an interview with Fox Nation's Piers Morgan broadcasted on Thursday.

Trump was charged in New York on Tuesday with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records over allegations he orchestrated hush-money payments to Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal before the 2016 US election to suppress publication of their alleged sexual encounters with him.

Trump, 76, also faces criminal investigations in Washington for trying to overturn his 2020 election loss and mishandling classified documents, and a separate criminal probe in Georgia about his attempt to overturn his defeat in that state.

Prosecutors in Manhattan accused Trump — the first sitting or former US president to face criminal charges — of trying to conceal a violation of election laws during his successful 2016 campaign.

## India and China spar over visas for their journalists

HT News Network

NEW DELHI: India and China broke into fresh diplomatic sparring on Thursday, accusing each other of creating visa hassles for their journalists posted in New Delhi and Beijing.

The exchange came days after India objected to China renaming or "standardising" names of 11 locations in the eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China calls southern Tibet and claims as its territory.

Indian newspapers reported this week that two Indian journalists posted in Beijing were barred from returning to their jobs in the Chinese capital from India.

Correspondents for The Hindu newspaper and state broadcaster Prasar Bharati were told on Tuesday that their visas have been frozen, an Indian source familiar with the issue said.

Asked about the visa suspensions, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said on Thursday that Chinese journalists have received unfair and discriminatory treatment in India for a long time, and a Xinhua journalist was recently asked to leave India by March 31.

"China has always treated Indian journalists well," Mao said. Chinese authorities have been in touch with the Indian government, which did not respond "nor correct the mistake", she said.

"China therefore has to take corresponding counter measures to safeguard our legitimate interests. China welcomes Indian journalists to work in China. If India can correct its mistakes, China is willing to continue to facilitate Indian journalists in China," Mao added.

## French study warns of pesticide traces in water

HT News Network

PARIS: France's public health watchdog said on Thursday that mass testing of drinking water revealed traces from a banned pesticide in half the samples, showing how potentially harmful chemicals persist in the environment. The National Agency for Food, Environment and Workplace Security (Anses) began a testing regime in 2019 to identify around 200 complex chemical compounds originating from pesticides or explosives which are not normally sought in its routine checks.

The agency said "one case in particular stood out": traces left behind from a fungicide known as chlorothalonil, sold widely by Swiss chemicals group Syngenta in Europe from the 1970s until it was banned by the EU in 2020.

## China holds the key to understanding Covid-19 origins: WHO chief

HT News Network

The World Health Organisation chief pressed China on Thursday to share its information about the origins of Covid-19, saying that until that happened all hypotheses remained on the table, more than three years after the virus first emerged.

"Without full access to the information that China has, you cannot say this or that," said Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in response to a question about the origin of the virus.

"All hypotheses are on the table. That's WHO's position and that's why we have been asking China to be cooperative on this."

"If they would do that then we will know what happened or how it started," he said.

The virus was first identified in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019, with many suspecting it spread in a live animal market before fanning out around the world and killing nearly 7 million people.

Data from the early days of the Covid pandemic was briefly uploaded by Chinese scientists to an international database last month.

It included genetic sequences found in more than 1,000 environmental and animal samples taken in January 2020 at the Huanan seafood market in Wuhan, the location of the first known Covid outbreak.

The data showed that DNA from multiple animal species - including raccoon dogs - was present in environmental samples that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid, suggesting that they were "the most likely conduits" of the disease, according to a team of international researchers.



However, in a non-peer reviewed study published by the Nature journal this week, scientists with China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention have disputed the international team's findings.

They said the samples provided no proof the animals were actually infected. They were also taken a month after human-to-human transmission first occurred at the market, so even if they were Covid-positive, the animals could have caught the virus from humans.

The WHO's Maria Van Kerkhove, technical lead for Covid-19, said the latest Chinese information offered some "clues" on origins but no answers. She said the WHO was working with scientists to find out more about the earliest cases from 2019 such as the whereabouts of those infected.

She added WHO still did not know whether some of the research required had been undertaken in China.

The WHO has also asked the United States for original data that underpinned a recent study by the US Energy Department that suggested a laboratory leak in China had likely caused the Covid-19 pandemic, she added.

## "Was The Best Mother I Could Be": Ex New Zealand PM Quits Politics

HT News Network

Former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern urged women not to let motherhood stand in the way of leadership roles as she bowed out of politics.

"I leave knowing I was the best mother I could be," Ardern, 42, said in her valedictory speech to parliament Wednesday in Wellington. "You can be that person, and be here." Lauded globally for her empathy and strong leadership, Ardern's resignation in January came as a shock. But she had increasingly become a divisive figure at home and her Labour Party was falling in opinion polls ahead of an election later this year. She will be remembered as a crisis manager who led her country through some of its darkest days during her five-year premiership. They included the Christchurch terrorist attack on two mosques in 2019 that left 51 worshippers dead, a volcano eruption later that year that killed 22 people, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Having sadly seen our nation in horrific moments of grief, I've concluded that countries don't move on from tragedy, rather they become part of your psyche," she said. "But the way these moments weave themselves into our being will be determined by how we confront them."

Young, female and charismatic, Ardern quickly gained prominence as a torchbearer for liberal values after exploding onto the world stage in 2017.

In 2018 she became just the second world leader to give birth in office, after former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto,



blazing a trail for working women.

Ardern opened up about her fertility journey in her speech, saying she was told at age 37 that there were a range of factors preventing her becoming pregnant, including stress. "I had not long experienced a failed IVF round when I became leader of the Labour Party," she said. "I thought I had found myself on a path that meant I wouldn't be a mother. Imagine my surprise when a couple of months later, I discovered I was pregnant." When Ardern announced she was stepping down, saying she didn't have the energy or inspiration to seek re-election, it sparked a wave of global commentary about the abuse and threats female leaders are subjected to. It also put the spotlight on a wave of senior-level women leaving their jobs because of exhaustion. Since Ardern's decision, Nicola Sturgeon resigned as Scotland's first minister, citing burnout.

Ardern also used her final speech to urge action on climate change.

## Biden report on Afghan pullout lays blame at Trump's door

HT News Network

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's administration on Thursday released a summary of after-action reports on the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, saying "there were no signs that more time, more funds or more Americans" could have fundamentally changed the trajectory.

In a 12-page declassified summary of the report sent to Congress, the White House insisted that President Joe Biden's administration had done everything it could. It blamed a deal struck previously between Donald Trump's administration and the Taliban for



putting the incoming Biden government in an impossible position and it said that no intelligence agency had predicted such a catastrophic collapse of Afghan government forces.

"The departing Trump administration had left the Biden administration with a date for withdrawal, but no plan for executing it. And

after four years of neglect — and in some cases deliberate degradation — crucial systems, offices, and agency functions that would be necessary for a safe and orderly departure were in disrepair," the document said. "After more than 20 years, more than \$2 trillion dollars, and standing up an Afghan army of 300,000

soldiers, the speed and ease with which the Taliban took control of Afghanistan suggests that there was no scenario — except a permanent and significantly expanded US military presence — that would have changed the trajectory," it said. The report does fault overly optimistic intelligence community assessments about the Afghan army's willingness to fight, and says Biden followed military commanders' recommendations for the pacing of the drawdown of US forces. "America is on a stronger strategic footing more capable to support Ukraine and to meet our security commitments around the world.

## Taliban move spokesman's office to Kandahar

HT News Network

KABUL: The main spokesman for Afghanistan's Taliban administration will move his office from the capital to the city of Kandahar, the information ministry said, a sign of the growing importance of the region that is home to its supreme leader.

The province of Kandahar is the historical birthplace of the Taliban movement.

Supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada lives there and rarely makes public visits to Kabul, about 450 km to the north, where national government offices, the cabinet and the acting prime minister are based.

"Zabihullah Mujahid and Samangani are both transferred to Kandahar," said Abdul Maten Qanee, a spokesperson for the information ministry, referring to Innamullah Samangani, a deputy spokesman.

It is one of the first known instances of an official in a senior role in the Taliban administration shifting their office from the capital.

The information ministry did not elaborate on the reason for the move but it suggests more prominence for those officials based in Kandahar.

Major decisions, such as restricting the access of girls and women to high school and university and stopping most female NGO staff from working.



## DC Rajouri unveils admission prospectus for Eklavya Model Residential School

Reyaz Badana

RAJOURI, APRIL 07: Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal unveiled the admission prospectus for the upcoming academic year 2023-24 of Eklavya Model Residential School, marking the second academic session for the school. The school was established with the noble objective of providing quality education to students from schedule Tribe communities.

During the unveiling ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the importance of education in empowering young minds and creating a better future for the country. He highlighted the need for equal access

to education for all children, irrespective of their background or socio-economic status.

The Deputy Commissioner encouraged parents and guardians to take advantage of this opportunity and enroll their children in the school. He emphasised that the school will have state-of-the-art infrastructure, with its buildings in an advanced stage of construction, highly qualified faculty and a comprehensive curriculum designed to provide students with a holistic learning experience.

The Eklavya Model Residential School is affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and offers education from class VI to XII. The prospectus contains detailed



information about the admission process, eligibility criteria, and fee structure. Interested parents and guardians can obtain a copy of the prospectus

from the school's website or by visiting the admission office.

Chief Planning Officer, Mohd Khurshid; Chief Education Officer, Sultana Kouser; District Social Welfare Officer, Wakeel Ahmed Bhat and teachers of the school were present at the event. During the unveiling ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the importance of education in empowering young minds and creating a better future for the country. He highlighted the need for equal access to education for all children, irrespective of their background or socio-economic status.

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enroll their children in the school. He emphasised that the school will have state-of-the-art infrastructure, with its buildings in an advanced stage of construction, highly qualified faculty and a comprehensive curriculum designed to provide students with a holistic learning experience.

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## Chairman SIDBI appreciates efforts of IUST towards establishing effective Industry-Academia Linkages

HT News Network

AWANTIPORA, April 7. Islamic University of Science and Technology today signed MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu. The MoU Signing Ceremony was attended by Shri Sivasubramanian Ramann, (Chairman & Managing Director SIDBI), Prof. Shakil A Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST Shri S. S. Acharya (Chief General Manager, SIDBI), Shri S. P. Singh (Chief General Manager, SIDBI), Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur (Director IIP Jammu), Dean Research, Dean Academic Affairs, Director CIED, Registrar, Finance officer, representatives of Consulting agency Grant Thornton Bharat LLP, besides other officers from the university, SIDBI

and IIT Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Siva Subramanian Ramann congratulated IUST for having established an impactful connection with the industry and said that the ecosystem would help transfer of practical knowledge to the budding industrialists. He promised help for further enriching the entrepreneurship ecosystem and recommended identification of areas for intervention to strengthen the MSME sector. Pertinently, SIDBI is the principal financial institution for the promotion, financing and development of micro-, small and medium enterprise (MSME) in India.

Prof. Shakil A Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST said that universities have a critical role to play for nourishing innovation and entrepreneurial spirit among the



youth urged the need for collaboration among different institutions to accelerate entrepreneurship ecosystem in the country in order to realize the goals envisioned under "Amrit-Kaal". He outlined the skilling

initiatives taken at IUST especially in the areas of high demand such as Photovoltaics, Electrical Vehicles, Green energy etc. to ensure employability of youth and said that IUST will be skilling 3200 youth in Kashmir under the

PMKVY 4.0.

Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur hoped that IUST-IIT collaboration would promote innovation culture in the country and facilitate the exchange of ideas to find solutions to the problems of societal concern.

Dean Research IUST Prof. Moon gave a detailed presentation highlighting the achievements of CIED and recognition of its efforts and also shared the future plan. He said that the two guiding principles behind the establishment of CIED at IUST are the NEP 2020 and Atmanirbhar Bharat mission. He said that all the verticals of Centre have been developed to have an 'impactful engagement' with different stakeholders.

Director CIED, Dr Pervez coordinated the event and welcomed the guests.

## Market Checking drives conducted at Hermain & Keegam in Shopian

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, APRIL 07: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Tehsil Hermain along with concerned SHO today conducted market checking at various locations in the Hermain market.

The checking drives were aimed at ensuring quality and price control and keeping a vigil on erring traders.

The authorities said that such drives will be conducted on a routine basis so that the quality and price of commodities is ensured without undue profiteering. Traders were advised not to infringe upon the consumer rights and were also asked for displaying the rate lists at their respective trade centres.

Similarly, in Keegam tehsil, a joint team of revenue, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs conducted Market checking in Tehsil Keegam.

A sum of Rs. 3900 has been recovered from erring Shopkeepers. Rotten and expired items have been destroyed on spot. Earning shopkeepers have been warned against the illegal transactions.

## Delegation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers (J&K) participated in Mazdoor-Kisan Sangharsh Rally at Delhi

Farooq Rather



SRINAGAR April 7: A delegation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Union (J&K) a unit of all India federation of Anganwari workers and Helpers (AIFAWH) affiliated with CITU participated in Mazdoor-Kisan Sangharsh Rally called by (CITU) Centre of Indian Trade Unions, (AIKS) All India Kisan Sabha and (AIAWU) All India Agriculture Workers Union at Ramlila Ground in Delhi on 4th & 5th April 2023.

The delegation highlighted the demands and issues confronting Anganwadi workers and helpers in J&K which include providing of gratuity to retiring Workers, Helpers enhancement of wages, releasing of pending wages and enhancement in retirement age.

## CUK's Botany Deptt holds millet awareness webinar

Ganderbal, Apr 6: Department of Botany, School of Life Sciences (SLS), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Thursday organized a "Millet Awareness Webinar" in Science Campus to celebrate the international year of Millets, under the G20 University Connect.

Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar who was the chief guest on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath stressed on educating locals on millets, promoting their daily use, giving incentives to farmers to adopt millet cultivation in J&K. Director R&D, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah stressed that the world is facing multiple challenges like climate change, shortage of food grains, over-population, poverty, hunger, spread of lifestyle diseases. He laid emphasis on the need to promote millets as alternative foods under the aegis of IYM-23. Dean, SLS & Head Deptt. of Zoology, Prof. M Yousuf talked about millets gaining popularity as alternative foods among rich people who consider it privilege to consume millet recipes. In her address, Prof. Azra N Kamili (Nodal Person Botany deptt and webinar convener) shared 'quick facts on millets' and remarked that India wants to position itself as 'Global Hub for Millets' through IYM-23 activities at national & International level. Head Deptt of Biotechnology & Co-convener, Dr. Abid Hamid Dar informed the audience that India has surpassed China as diabetic capital of world and millets can be a solution due to their low glycemic content. Dr. Vijay Kumar Yadav, Principal Scientist IGFRI-ICAR, Jhansi who was the invited guest speaker talked about 'millets-coarse grain to nutri-cereals' and said that millets can be used to reduce 'rising' cases of colon cancer in J&K.

## District Health Society Doda celebrates World Health Day 2023

HT News Network

DODA, APRIL 07: The District Health Society celebrated World Health Day today under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr Ab Hamid Zargar. Health awareness and medical check-up camps were organised in different health facilities across the district to raise awareness and advocate for healthcare issues.

The main program was held at Chenab Valley Public Hr Sec School Doda and presided over by CMO Doda, Dr Zargar. He said the aim was to raise awareness about health issues and mobilise efforts in support of healthcare. He exhorted people to take necessary measures to achieve equitable health.

At Baderwah, the main program was held at Crescent Public School where Block Medical Officer Baderwah, Dr Mohd Ashraf Kuchay presided. MD of the school, Dr Mohd Iqbal Zargar and health staff were also present. Students were made aware of hand washing techniques and personal hygiene by health officials.

Staff and students took out bicycle rallies in Doda, Baderwah and other parts of the district to commemorate the day and create awareness on World Health Day. At Baderwah, the main program was held at Crescent Public School where Block Medical Officer Baderwah, Dr Mohd Ashraf Kuchay presided. MD of the school, Dr Mohd Iqbal Zargar and health staff were also present. Students were made aware of hand washing techniques and personal hygiene by health officials.

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## NIT Sgr students develop Kashmir's first racing model 'Go-Kart'

Director flags off inaugural run, welcomes unique initiative

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 07: A group of 25 students from National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has developed Kashmir's first racing model, Go-kart (G-01). It will be participating in All India Go Karting Competition to be held in Coimbatore Tamil Nadu next week.

Department of Mechanical Engineering Team Garuda's first racing model, G-01 was flagged off on Thursday by In-charge Director NIT Srinagar Prof. MFWani and Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari. The ceremony was attended by all Deans and HOD's of various departments.

The team of 25 students was formed by Head MED, Prof. Adnan Qayoum and they worked under the mentorship of Dr.H.S. Pali and Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran from the past



several months on the campus.

Go-Kart has been designed from various equipment and Bajaj Pulsar 150 Engine has been used in the vehicle. It runs on Diesel and goes extreme to 150 kilometers per hour. Trail run was conducted successfully and it passed all normal tests before going on the road.

In-charge Director Prof. M.F.Wani appreciated Team Garuda's model and stated that it is a proud movement for the entire Institute. "It is the first time that

students have developed the G-Kart model. It is just beginning and more to come. Our students are working day and night on innovations and we are also upgrading our infrastructure on the campus," he said.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said that in the recent decades, GoKart is a new edition in Kashmir and it is more popular in south Indian states.

"The trend of innovations in the Valley is evolving with advanced technology

in every field and our students are performing well," he said.

Prof. Sehgal appreciated the contribution of Dr.H.S. Pali and Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran for mentoring the students on the campus.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said NIT Srinagar is progressing towards nation building and is empowering students with innovation and skill development.

"The young bachelor's across the country were working together for months to make it happen. Despite all odds, students worked hard and developed the first racing model, Go-kart (G-01). It is their gift for the entire region," he said.

HOD MED, Prof Adnan said that the department is using the latest technologies in various fields. Youth who are fascinated with automobiles and dream of making a career in that field, he said.

## Kupwara district panchayat wins National Award.

HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 7: In a marvellous moment, Phulmarg panchayat of Tarathpora block in Kupwara district has brought laurels and has bagged National award under Water Sufficient Panchayat theme for the year 2021-22.

According to Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Phalmarg Panchayat of Block Tarathpora was conferred National Award under "Water Sufficient Panchayat" theme of Local Sustainable Goals (LSDG's) by the Union Ministry of Rural development and Panchayat Raj Govt. of India in recognition of the best performance at grass roots level in improving delivery of services and achieving saturation in different indicators.

This award shall be officially presented on April 18 on the occasion of celebration of National Panchayat award week at New

Delhi (from 17th to 21st April 2023 as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav 2.0

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Dr Sagar D Doifode IAS, has appreciated the concerned functionaries and PRIs associated with the achievement and hoped that other panchayats of the district will work with more zeal and dedication so that the district will shine and get more awards in coming days.

Elaborating the details, Assistant Commissioner Development Kupwara Hilal Ahmad Mir has informed that the national awards have been conferred to Phulmarg Panchayat of Kupwara district in recognition to the best performance achieved in making the panchayat water sufficient and improving other parameters.

ACD added that National Panchayat award for the Phalmarg Gram Panchayat was conferred



owing to extreme endeavours of field functionaries, PRIs and efforts of District Administration lead by District Development Commissioner Kupwara Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray.

Officials of award winning Phalmarg Panchayat said that, to make remote Phulmarg Panchayat water sufficient, a 13 member village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) was framed with members from Jal Shakti

dept, RDD, Forest and PRI members.

20000 Ltr. capacity Water Service Reservoir (WSR) was constructed at Hatchmerg and supply pipes were laid and all House Holds were provided clean drinking tap water connections under Jal Jevan Mission Scheme.

To Harvest the Snow water and Rain water an old and dilapidated Phalmarg Sar (water storage reservoir) was renovated and developed under 14th Fc grants.

To provide round the year irrigation facility, the water of Bangus Nallah was tapped into fields of panchayat by constructing 3-Km long irrigation canal under 14th FC and MGNREGA convergence.

Improved irrigation facilities resulted into increase in crop yields of Paddy, Maize, Pulses, vegetables and potatoes in Panchayat. For recharge of ground

water of Panchayat 3 No's Of water Harvesting Tanks were constructed under MGNREGA with a Water holding capacity of more than 15000 ltr each. 125 Ground water recharge pits were constructed in convergence with NREGA and Forest Dept to recharge under ground water table. In addition to this 83 soakage pits were constructed to dispose off the waste water and grey water emanating out of the households to improve the water conservation and to retain humidity of soil. 8 vermi compost pits were constructed to make organic fertiliser out of raw cow dung.

Meanwhile Commissioner Secretary RDD & Panchayat Raj, Mandeep Kour while congratulating award winning Panchayat of Kupwara has said that it is a moment of pride that Phalmarg Panchayat has exhibited exemplary work in respective thematic areas.



# How to get rid of a toothache at night



Having a toothache at night can make falling asleep or staying asleep very difficult. Methods to relieve or reduce the pain range from taking pain relief medication to chewing on a clove or using an extra pillow. However, there are a number of remedies that may help people find relief and get to sleep, including taking pain relievers or applying a cold compress or even cloves to the tooth.

In this article, learn more about nine home remedies for relieving a toothache at night.

## 1. Oral pain medication

Taking over-the-counter (OTC) pain medications such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil) is a quick, simple way for many people to effectively reduce mild-to-moderate toothaches.

Always stay within the recommended dosage on the packaging.

If the toothache is severe, it is best to see a dentist and speak to them about stronger pain relievers.

## 2. Cold compress

Using a cold compress may help ease the pain of a toothache.

Applying a bag of ice wrapped in a towel to the affected side of the face or jaw helps constrict the blood vessels in the area, which can reduce pain to allow a person to fall asleep.

Applying a cold compress to the area for 15–20 minutes every few hours in the evening may also help prevent pain when going to bed.

## 3. Elevation

Pooling blood in the head may cause additional pain and inflammation. For some people, elevating the head with an extra pillow or two may relieve the pain enough for them to fall asleep.

## 4. Medicated ointments

Some medicated ointments may also help reduce toothache pain. OTC numbing gels and ointments that contain ingredients such as benzocaine may numb the area. However, benzocaine is not suitable for use by young children.

## 5. Salt water rinse

A simple salt water rinse is a common home remedy for a toothache.

Salt water is a natural antibacterial agent Trusted Source, so it may

able for use by young children. Researchers note that peppermint contains antibacterial and antioxidant compounds. Menthol, an active ingredient in peppermint, may also have a mild numbing effect on sensitive areas.

**8. Clove**

may help kill the bacteria in the mouth that lead to cavities and tooth pain. Simply chewing a clove of garlic and allowing it to sit near the tooth may help relieve pain. That said, the taste of raw garlic can be too strong for some people, so this may

day, but they may seem to get worse at night. One reason that this may occur is because when a person is lying down, blood rushes to the head. This extra blood in the area may increase the pain and pressure that people feel from a toothache. Another reason why many aches feel worse at night is because there are fewer distractions. With little else to focus on but the toothache, a person may find it difficult to fall asleep. When to see a dentist People with a toothache at night should see a dentist as soon as possible. Any home remedies are only for temporary relief. If the toothache also comes with other signs of an infection, a person may need antibiotics to clear out the infection. When a cracked or decaying tooth is causing the pain, a person should see their dentist. They will be able to find a permanent solution. Ignoring the signs of tooth decay, such as an aching tooth, may lead to more serious issues, including abscesses, gum disease, and tooth loss.

**Summary**

Dealing with a toothache is a painful experience. Although many home remedies can provide temporary relief and help a person get some sleep, they are not permanent solutions. Anyone who experiences a toothache for longer than 1 or 2 days without symptoms of a sinus infection should see a dentist for a full diagnosis and treatment. They may need to clean out a cavity or consider more serious options, such as root canals or tooth extractions. Read the article in Spanish. Some of the home remedies in this article are available in stores and online: Shop for ibuprofen. Shop for cold compresses. Shop for medicated ointments. Shop for hydrogen peroxide. Shop for peppermint tea.

reduce inflammation. This, in turn, helps protect damaged teeth from infection.

Rinsing with salt water may also help remove any food particles or debris stuck in the teeth or gums.

## 6. Hydrogen peroxide rinse

Periodontitis is a serious gum infection that generally occurs as a result of poor oral hygiene. It can cause issues such as soreness, bleeding gums, and teeth that come loose in their sockets.

The author of a 2016 study Trusted Source found that rinsing with hydrogen peroxide mouthwash helped reduce plaque and symptoms of periodontitis.

People should always dilute food-grade hydrogen peroxide with equal parts water. Swish the solution in the mouth, but do not swallow it.

This remedy is not suitable for children, as there is a risk they may accidentally swallow the mixture.

## 7. Peppermint tea

Swishing peppermint tea or sucking on peppermint tea bags may also help temporarily relieve pain from a toothache.

Researcher note that peppermint contains antibacterial and antioxidant compounds. Menthol, an active ingredient in peppermint, may also have a mild numbing effect on sensitive areas.

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not be the right solution for everyone.

**Causes**

Tooth decay is a very common cause of a toothache. Tooth decay may lead to cavities if a person does not receive treatment. Cavities occur when acids and bacteria break through the enamel and eat away at the delicate tissues inside the tooth. This can expose the nerve, causing mild-to-severe pain. Sinus infections may also cause toothache in some people. This symptom occurs as the infection drains from the head. Symptoms such as pain and pressure from the infection may hurt more at night. Other potential causes for a toothache include:

- losing a filling
- dental abscesses
- trauma to the jaw
- a wisdom tooth or adult tooth coming in
- food stuck in the teeth or gums
- grinding the teeth at night
- gum disease
- Why do some toothaches hurt more at night?
- Toothaches can be painful in the

day, but they may seem to get worse at night. One reason that this may occur is because when a person is lying down, blood rushes to the head. This extra blood in the area may increase the pain and pressure that people feel from a toothache. Another reason why many aches feel worse at night is because there are fewer distractions. With little else to focus on but the toothache, a person may find it difficult to fall asleep. When to see a dentist People with a toothache at night should see a dentist as soon as possible. Any home remedies are only for temporary relief. If the toothache also comes with other signs of an infection, a person may need antibiotics to clear out the infection. When a cracked or decaying tooth is causing the pain, a person should see their dentist. They will be able to find a permanent solution. Ignoring the signs of tooth decay, such as an aching tooth, may lead to more serious issues, including abscesses, gum disease, and tooth loss.

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## NEWS

### “SKIMS celebrates World Health Day”

Srinagar 07 April, 2023: World health day was celebrated today at SKIMS on this year's theme of WHO "Health for all". The event was organized by the Department of Hospital Administration SKIMS.

Director SKIMS & EOSG Prof Parvaiz A. Koul who was the chief guest on the occasion in his address highlighted the main issues concerning the health system across the world. He said there is huge inequity in availability of health care—huge expenditure, mental illness, pregnancy related mortality etc. are still prevalent. In India despite the improvement in health delivery lack of accountability, unrelated drug policy, misuse of antibiotics are areas of main concern, he added. Prof. Koul stressed on uniform access to health systems and said onus lies on health care professionals and underlined the importance of healthy ageing. He further said that SKIMS is excelling in digital health care delivery and received 90% positive feedback for its services from general public. He thanked Department of Hospital Administration for organizing the event and expressed hope that the deliberations will be fruitful for participants attending the event.

Dean Medical Faculty SKIMS Dr. Bashir A. Laway in his address said that despite progress at many levels the non-communicable diseases still remain the main challenge. He also congratulated the Department of Hospital Administration for conducting this academic program.

Medical Superintendent SKIMS Dr. Farooq A. Jan in his address underscored the importance of celebrating the World Health Day. He highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the health system and said that inequalities in health system needs to be addressed. Low cost of care, insurance schemes like Ayushman Bharat are the main strengths in existing health system, however, unregulated private sector, lack of accountability, medical errors, antibiotic resistance need to be focused on.

Dr. G H Yattoo, HOD Hospital Administration SKIMS and organizing Chairman of the event greeted the guests and audience for attending the event. He gave the introductory remarks and spoke about the current health problems and its impact.

The event was attended by all HoDs, Resident doctors and other supportive staff of SKIMS. The event was concluded with the vote of thanks.

### What are the worst fruits for someone with diabetes?

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Trusted Source recommend that people with diabetes include fruits as part of a balanced diet.

Eating fruits and vegetables may put a person at lower risk of developing heart disease and cancer. Fruit is also an important source of vitamins, minerals, and fiber.

However, fruit can also be high in sugar. People with diabetes must keep a watchful eye on their sugar intake to avoid blood sugar spikes.

That said, there is a difference between the type of sugar in fruit and the type of sugar in other foods, such as chocolate and baked goods.

This article will explore which fruits a person with diabetes should eat and avoid and how they relate to diabetes. Fruits to avoid

In general, a person should not have to exclude fruit from their diet. In fact, one 2017 study Trusted Source suggests that eating fruit can actually help prevent diabetes.

However, it may be worth people who already have diabetes limiting their intake of the following fruits.

#### Fruits high in sugar

The glycemic index (GI) shows how much a certain food can raise a person's blood sugar after they have eaten it.

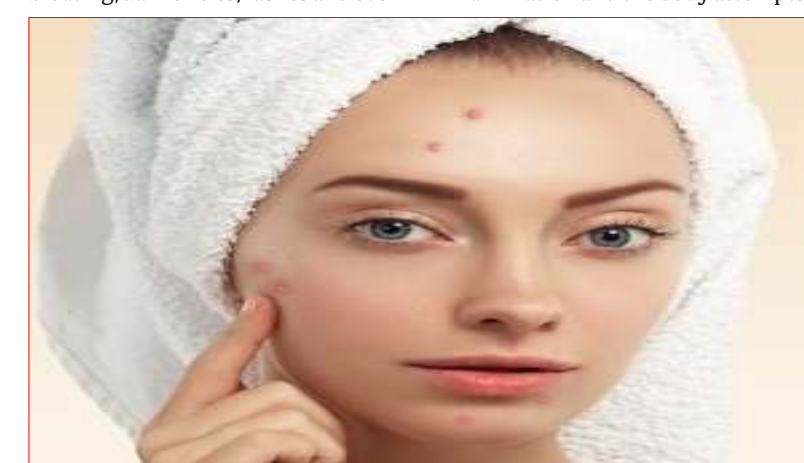
If a food has a GI score of between 70 and 100, it is high in sugar. Some fruits with a score in this range include:

# Constipation can cause these common skin issues; dermats on tips to treat

Your skin can tell a lot about your overall health. Just as dry skin is an indicator of dehydration, acne and pimple may show up at times when you have constipation. The reason this may happen is because of reabsorption of toxins and waste back into your bloodstream rather than being eliminated and manifest as acne, pimple and a number of other skin issues. Constipation occurs when one has fewer than three bowel movements per week. It may also lead to stomach discomfort, ache, feeling of incomplete bowel movement, straining for stools or hard stools. Women may be more at risk of constipation due to hormonal issues or structure of their colon. Adding probiotics to diet, drinking adequate water, managing stress levels can help prevent constipation and the skin issues that are caused due to it. "Constipation is a common problem among men and women. Very few people are blessed with perfect metabolism.

Medically constipation is termed as having fewer than three stools per week normally. The common symptoms of constipation are discomfort in lower stomach, sense of incomplete bowel movements, straining to pass stools or small and hard stools," says Dr Rinky Kapoor, Consultant Dermatologist, Cosmetic Dermatologist & Dermato-Surgeon, The Esthetic Clinics. "Women are more affected by constipation than men because their colon is longer and has more twists and turns than a man's. Women are also subject to more stress and have irregular cortisol. Also, events like pregnancies and inability to poop in public places causes them to withhold the stools leading to more constipation. It can be caused because of slow movement of substances in colon, poor eating habits, low fibre diets, overuse of laxatives, hormonal issues, etc," says Dr Rinky. Chronic constipation is also associated with skin issues. One may have acne, pimples, face

bloating, dark circles, rashes and even inflammation and the body attempts



eczema due to constipation. "Our body uses the process of digestion to move toxins from the body and when we are constipated, the accumulated toxins cause the gut health to become imbalanced and microbiome environment is not able to function as it should. This causes to eliminate the toxins through the kidneys and skin and it shows up on skin," says Dr Rinky. Skin, lungs, kidney and colon are the organs that remove toxic waste from the body. This is extremely vital for the proper functioning of the body. The waste that we eliminate from our

body is the combination of solid waste such as undigested food, dead cells and bacteria; liquids such as chemicals and gases such as carbon dioxide. When the movement of the muscles of the colon slows down, it is unable to push the stools in the rectum. The increased transit time increases the water absorption from the stools making it hard, says Dr Sneha Ghunawat, Consultant Dermatologist & Cosmetologist, Director and Co-Founder Meraki Skin Clinic, Gurugram. "When constipation is present, the food we eat is not completely broken down and digested. This leads to toxins being released into the body, creating an environment that encourages inflammation and can cause irritating skin conditions such as cystic acne, eczema, psoriasis and even rosacea," says Dr. Manjot Marwah, Celebrity Dermatologist and Hair Transplant Surgeon, Consultant & Director at Dr Manjot's Clinic. "When the gastrointestinal excre-

tion of food is hampered, the body tries to eliminate the toxins through other organs such as skin causing spots, marks and rashes to appear. Other problems in the skin such as dark circles, under eye puffiness and acne can also be due to constipation," says Dr Ghunawat.

"In addition to skin irritations, constipation can also cause puffiness in the facial area due to increased water retention. Another factor is that hormones produced during periods of constipation can cause increased oil production in the skin, leading to breakouts in a short period of time," says Dr Marwah. Increasing the fibre intake through your diet and this includes millets, quinoa, papaya, legumes, nuts, vegetables, fresh fruits, berries etc.

• Including exercise in your daily routine for minimum 20 minutes a day. Regular exercise stimulates the intestines and helps in better bowel movements.



**The Prophet (SA) said:**  
*Whoever builds a Masjid for the sake of Allah Almighty, like a sparrow's nest or even smaller, Allah Almighty will build for him a house in Paradise. (Ibne Maajah)*  
*"Whoever builds a mosque, desiring thereby Allah's pleasure, Allah builds for him the like of it in paradise." (Bukhari)*

**MARKAZI JAMIA MASJID TILAGAM (Pattan)**

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**HEMOPHILIA SOCIETY OF KASHMIR**  
 Under Registration No.: 6923-S of 2017  
 HEAD OFFICE GOLE MARKET KARANAGAR NEAR GREEN STONE PHARMACY

**APPEAL**

Hemophilia is a bleeding disorder which occurs in a human being once the clotting process does not work properly. Such persons can bleed for longer periods than normal, some may experience spontaneous bleeding into joints which leads to permanent disabilities and into internal organs it proves life threatening.

To combat the miseries faced by the patients, Hemophilia Society of Kashmir (HSK) has come into existence with the aim and object to serve the destitute Hemophilia patients. Society also has to undertake maintenance and upkeep of the patients. The Society is tirelessly working for the treatment, rehabilitation, empowerment, betterment and bearing the educational expenses of these bleeding disorder patients as well. We have facilitated 24 x 7 Ambulance service for the patients to meet the emergencies. In addition to above, HSK has been organizing various awareness programs, seminars, workshops etc. to educate and aware the patients, parents and care givers. For the purpose we need sufficient resources to carry our mission and program to save disgruntled and downtrodden sect of the society.

Hemophilia Society of Kashmir fervently appeals to generous people to contribute **SADQAT, ZAKAT AND KHAIRAT** into our account maintained by JK Bank GMC Srinagar branch under No. CD-0349010100000962 having IFSC code JAKA0DOCTOR which will definitely play a vital role for the Society to carry its mission to serve the patients and to reduce their problems. For this act Almighty will reward the contributors / donors suitably.

Sd/ PRESIDENT  
 Hemophilia Society of Kashmir

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