

Ashwin on Rajkot ordeal: 'I just blanked out... I was crying'

P12

Lt Governor Lays Foundation Stone Of PoJK Bhawan At Suketar Jammu

P3



EC Will Disclose Details On Electoral Bonds In Time: CEC Rajiv Kumar



HT News Network
JAMMU, MAR 13: The Election Commission has received details from the State Bank of India (SBI) related to the electoral bonds and will share all relevant information in time, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said here on Wednesday.

No Delay On EC's Part, Decision On Holding LS And Assembly Polls Together In J&K After Reviewing Feedback: CEC

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 13: The Election Commission will decide on holding Lok Sabha and Assembly elections together or separately in Jammu and Kashmir after reviewing the security situation and feedback from stakeholders, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said here on Wednesday.

He also rejected criticism about the "delay" in holding assembly elections in the Union Territory, saying delimitation and necessary legislative processes were completed by December 2023 only.

"The changes happened in December 2023 and we are in March... We know our responsibilities and

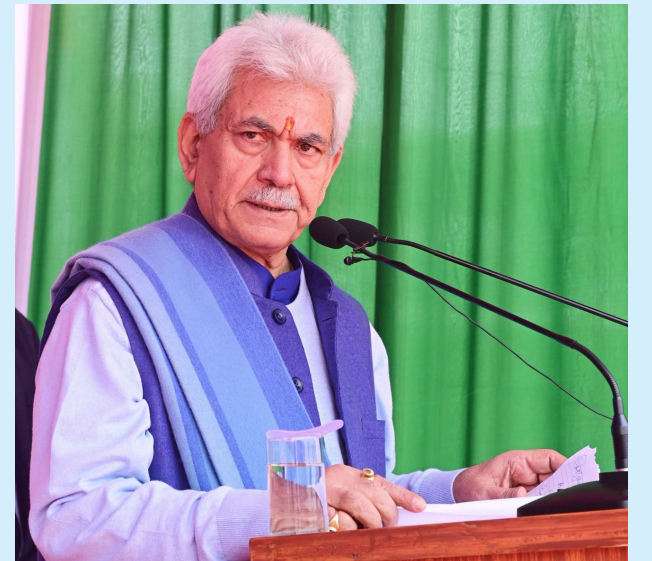
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Sports Icons Are True Inspiration For Youth Of J&K: LG Manoj Sinha

Lt Governor felicitates medal winners of National & International Competitions for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 13: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today felicitated the medal winners of National and International Competitions for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23. The Lt Governor congratulated all the athletes and



coaches on their outstanding performances.

A total 368 sportspersons, from 17 disciplines, received special cash awards amounting to Rs 1.35 crore directly in their Bank accounts through DBT mode. Rs 12 lakh awarded to Aqsa Gulzar and Sohan Kamotra was awarded with Rs 8 lakh cash award, in Pencak Silat and Chess disciplines, respectively.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor inaugurated a State-of-the-Art Synthetic Football Turf costing Rs 4.83 Cr at

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Police Solves Burglary Case Within 12 Hrs In Baramulla, 3 Arrested

SRINAGAR, MAR 13: Police on Wednesday solved a burglary case within the 12-hour commissioning of crime, arrested three accused persons, and recovered the stolen property in Jammu and Kashmir Baramulla district.

Police Shree received a written complaint from one Abdul Aziz Bhat, alias Bhat Traders, a resident of Sheeri, stating therein that his salesman Zubair Ahmad Mir, a resident of Gantamulla Bala, has stolen hardware, sanitary items, and other items from the shop worth 6 lacs.

Accordingly, a case FIR No. 11/2024

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Forest officials stop sheep grazing in Srinagar's Mulnar

SRINAGAR, MAR 13: Hundreds of sheep in Srinagar's Mulnar area are on verge of starvation as forest officials have erected barbed wires and stopped the herders from entering the nearby grazing areas.

The sheep farmers in Mulnar area told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the officials of the forest department prevented the sheep from grazing in the area, where they have been taken for grazing traditionally.

The negative approach of forest officials towards sheep grazing is a severe hit to the government's efforts to promote sheep farming on an entrepreneurial level.

The farmers complained that the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

4 houses damaged in downtown blaze

SRINAGAR, MAR 13: At least four residential houses were damaged in a fire incident at Islaam Yarbal area of Pathar Masjid in Srinagar's Downtown late last night.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that four residential houses were involved in the fire that broke out due to an electric short circuit.

He added that the attic portion, including roofing, ceiling, doors, windows, and household goods on the second and third floors of two four-storey houses were severely damaged in the fire.

Also, the roofing, ceiling, doors,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CS For Making Robust Plan For Savings Made In JTFRP Projects

Also Directs For Completing All The Infra Projects Before December Deadline

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 13: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today while reviewing the pace and progress of World Bank funded Jhelum & Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) impressed upon the concerned to make a robust plan for around Rs 140 Cr savings amount out of the total outlay for 213 sub-projects



funded under it. Besides the CEO, ERA the meeting was also attended by Principal Secretary, Higher Education; Commissioner Secretary, I&C; Secretary, PWD; Secretary, Health; Secretary, School

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Rains Lash Plains In Kashmir, Gulmarg Receives Fresh Snowfall

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 13: Rains lashed the plains in Kashmir while upper reaches including the tourist destinations of Gulmarg and Sonamarg received fresh snowfall on Wednesday.

Light to moderate rains were lashed at most parts of the Kashmir valley while Ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district and tourist spot of Sonamarg in central Kashmir received a fresh snowfall today.

Reports of snowfall were also received from Gurez valley and Tuail in Bandipora district of north Kashmir and Leh in Union Territory of Ladakh.

Meteorological Centre Srinagar has predicted that widespread light to moderate rain or snow coupled with the thunder over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

MODI'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC REFORMS AROUSED ASPIRATION IN COMMON CITIZEN: DR JITENDRA

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 13: "Prime Minister Modi's socio-economic reforms have aroused aspiration in the common citizen. For example every citizen now feels that he is entitled to a "pucca house" and a decent toilet like any other citizen and that is the true spirit of democracy", said Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh here today.



"The citizens no longer resign to their fate and that is the true essence of democracy", he said while speaking at the launch of Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ) National Portal for Credit Support to Disadvantaged sections of society by Prime Minister Modi via videoconferencing. The Minister said, Modi's

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

2 Udhampur Hotels Achieve Swachhata Green Leaf Rating

Heritage Patnitop Receives 3 Leaf Rating; Subash Hotel Patnitop Gets 1 Leaf Rating'

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 13: In a significant development towards promoting cleanliness and sustainability, two hotels in Udhampur district have achieved Swachhata Green



Leaf Ratings (SGLR) by completing self-certification com-

pliance. This accomplishment highlights their commitment to maintain high standards of hygiene and environmental stewardship.

The self-certification compliance for Swachhata Green Leaf is a rigorous process that requires hotels to adhere to strict guidelines related to cleanliness, waste management, and sustainability practices. By successfully

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

I&C Deptt overshoots financial targets set by DPIIT for 2023-24

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 12: Jammu & Kashmir's industrial sector is witnessing a remarkable transformation, catalysed by the success of New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) and the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS). These initiatives, implemented by the Government of India and the UT Government, are providing impetus to investment, job creation and overall economic growth in the region.

Launched in February 2021 with a substantial outlay of Rs. 28,400 crore, NCSS offers a comprehensive package of incentives to attract businesses to Jammu & Kashmir. These incentives included capital investment subsidy, interest subvention and GST-linked benefits, making the UT a sought after destination for entrepreneurs.

The scheme has gained impressive momentum in just three years, with a total of 838 units registered under NCSS, a testament to its impact.

In FY 2023-24, a total of ten Secretary Level Committee (SLC) meetings were held, under the chairmanship of Vikramjeet Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce and facilitated by

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Govt Forms High Level Selection Committee For Post Of Dir SKIMS

CS Dulloo appointed as Chairman

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 13: Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted a high level selection committee led by Chief Secretary for the post of Director Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura. As per the order issued by the Health and Medical Education Department, the committee



TURN ON.....PAGE 02

ACB Registers Case Against EO, Others In Misappropriation Of Funds

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 13: Anti-Corruption Bureau registered a



case of Criminal misappropriation against Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

GPS-Enabled Tracking Systems To Be Installed In J&K Poll Duty Vehicles, Says Official

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 13: In keeping with the directions of the Election Commission, Jammu and Kashmir's election department will procure GPS-enabled tracking systems for 12,500 poll duty vehicles for the forthcoming parliamentary elections in the Union Territory.

J-K Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Pandurang K Pole has issued a request for proposal (RFP) for companies to procure GPS-enabled vehicle tracking systems for election duty vehicles.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

EC Will Disclose.....

since April 12, 2019 to the EC. SBI is the authorised financial institution to issue the electoral bonds.

"The SBI was supposed to submit the data by March 12. They have given to us the details in time. I will go back and look at the data (and) would definitely disclose it in time," Kumar told reporters here.

Kumar reached here on Wednesday to review preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are ready for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. We will ensure free and fair elections across the country. We request voters across the country including Jammu and Kashmir to enthusiastically take part in the 'festival of democracy,'" the EC said.

He said social media cell will be established in all districts in order to respond to fake news in real time.

"Adequate security to be provided to all candidates and central forces will be deployed," he added.

Kumar said strict vigil will be maintained on online cash transfers through wallets in Jammu and Kashmir.

People above 85 years and those with disability will be provided voting at home facility in J-K, he added. (AGENCIES)

No Delay On.....

we are also aware that there should be no political vacuum and the elections should be held sooner," he told reporters before wrapping up his three-day tour of Jammu and Kashmir to assess the preparedness for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

He said the Commission had taken feedback from stakeholders including political parties, security agencies and administration on holding assembly elections with the upcoming general elections.

"We reviewed whether the two elections will be held together or one after another. We will decide after reviewing the security situation and taking the feedback.

"We have taken feedback from everybody about how much security is required. Each candidate needs security cover (in J-K) so it (holding elections together) will have security implications," the EC said.

Kumar said the Commission is equally concerned about assembly and parliamentary elections.

"We had a meeting with representatives of national and regional political parties and questions were raised about the delay in holding of assembly polls. I want to clarify that there was no delay on the part of the Election Commission," Kumar said.

He said the J-K Reorganisation Act came in 2019 followed by a delimitation commission which completed its exercise in 2022, recommending an increase of assembly seats from 107 to 114 including 24 seats for residents of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

"Now we have 90 assembly seats including nine seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes. There was a dissonance between the J-K reorganisation act and the delimitation.

"We have to bring them together and that happened in December 2023 in the form of the J-K Reorganization (Amendment) Act," he said.

Kumar said the amended act also included the recommendation of the delimitation commission to reserve two seats for migrants including a woman and another provision of one nomination for displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Sports Icons.....

Parade Ground, Jammu. He also laid the foundation stone of the Synthetic Hockey Field at Bandhura Kh worth Rs 4.85 Cr.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, we have built modern sports infrastructure, providing world-class training and mentoring to athletes and all other supports to ensure J&K's sportspersons are able to achieve excellence in national and international sporting events," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor extended his felicitations to the Para teams and women athletes for their remarkable feat in major sporting events.

He said, the recent successes in Asian Para Games, National Games, National School Games of athletes and players from J&K have kindled brighter hope of an upswing in performances in many more international events.

The Lt Governor said that our Sports Icons are the true inspiration for the youth of Jammu Kashmir and the efforts of the government to take sports to villages, far-flung and border areas have bridged the decades-old gap between talents and the opportunities.

Adequate sports infrastructure, new sports policy, upgradation in the quality of coaches, youth engagement drives at Panchayat Level, LG rolling trophy and various other initiatives will create a robust sports culture involving all sections and secure attractive career track for athletes, he said.

A total of 702 sports projects have been completed in the last few years. Two athletic tracks, one each at Jammu University and Kashmir University; five synthetic hockey fields and two synthetic football fields have been constructed at Pulwama, Srinagar, Jammu, Poonch, Nagrota. Further, more athletic tracks, synthetic hockey and synthetic football fields are coming up at Jammu, Poonch, Sopore, Srinagar, Shopian,

Baramulla, Ganderbal, Jagti Nagrota and Rajouri, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor commended the endeavours of Sports Department, Sports Council and associations for promoting sports activities in Jammu Kashmir.

He also highlighted the commitment of J&K Administration towards the welfare of the sportspersons bringing laurels to the country and the Union Territory. We are determined to complete the recruitment process of sportspersons at the earliest, he added.

The Lt Governor interacted with the sportspersons and handed over sports kits and equipments to the budding players.

Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Ms Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; senior officials, eminent sports personalities and youth in large number were present.

CS For Making.....

Education; MD, JKPC; Commissioner, SMC besides other officers.

Srinagar based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary directed for considering some significant works for upgradation of infrastructure in our education, health, disaster management and livelihood generation here so that these savings are spent on a positive developmental front in a time-bound manner.

He asked for identifying the works that are critical and of most emergent nature to be taken up shortly and completed before December this year. He enjoined upon the concerned authorities to assess the viability of such projects beforehand and take measures accordingly to ground them within the onset of upcoming working season.

Dulloo also stressed on holding consultations among different departments to ascertain their urgent needs regarding augmentation of their capacities and mitigating of disaster management in future.

He even asked about the issues faced in completion of ongoing projects and the dates for their completion. He emphasised on ensuring that all the ongoing and newly taken up works are completed before December this year, which is the deadline of this project as well.

In her presentation, the CEO, ERA, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar briefed the meeting about the accomplishments made so far under JFRP. She gave out that 213 sub-projects under different components were taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 1810 Cr. She further informed that out of these 186 projects had been completed in the UT at an expenditure of Rs 1363 Cr.

Dr Sehrish further revealed that the major components includes reconstruction & strengthening of Critical Infrastructure (40 projects), reconstruction of Roads and bridges (31 projects), Restoration of Urban Flood Management Infrastructure (13 projects), Restoration and Strengthening of Livelihoods (26 projects), Strengthening Disaster risk management capacity (22 projects) and Contingent Emergency Response (74 projects).

In addition it was revealed that the project was pivotal in introducing rigid pavement in roads, preparation of a digital risk database, building a semi arched trussed bridge, building schools with BALA (Building as a Learning Aid) feature, building first state of the art Emergency Operation Centre and introduction of Green Hospital Building here in the UT besides augmenting and upgrading critical infrastructure and damaged infrastructure across the districts of J&K.

Rains Lash.....

The weather will remain partially to generally cloudy today with the possibility of widespread rain or snow at most of the places over Jammu and Kashmir.

The weather is likely to remain dry from March 15 to March 20, the MeT office said.

Gulmarg and tourist hot spot of Pahalgam recorded subzero temperatures while other stations also witnessed a slight drop during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday. However, the temperatures were recorded above normal in all the stations of Kashmir valley during this period of the season.

Srinagar witnessed a slight drop in the night temperature recorded at a low of 5.4°C during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday against the 5.9°C previous night. It was 1.7°C above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national highway in south Kashmir recorded a low of 3.4°C against the 5.8°C while the picnic spot of Koker-nag also settled at 4.2°C against the 4.4°C recorded the previous night.

The night temperature at Pahalgam dropped to -0.5°C against the 1.7°C a day ago. However, it was 0.7°C above normal for the famous tourist hot spot of south Kashmir.

The temperature at the ski resort of Gulmarg slightly improved by a few notches and recorded at -1.2 against the -1.6°C the previous night. It was 2.1°C above normal for the valley of meadows in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday. Kupwara had a low of 4.5°C against the 4.0°C the previous night. It was 2.2°C above normal for the frontier Kashmir district on Tuesday, the MeT office said. (UNI)

Modi's Socio.....

reforms have introduced a new work culture as well as a change of the mindset

Dr Jitendra Singh stated that every citizen is now feeling confident enough to have every facility available to another person and the confidence to reach the highest position by dint of his or her effort. "Prime Minister, Narendra Modi-led NDA Government unveiled scheme after scheme in the last ten years, with the sole motto of reaching the last person in the queue, rising above the narrow considerations of caste, religion or region", the Minister said, adding that the government was driven by the spirit that each section of society should get what it deserves and feel that they have the right to seek opportunities alike.

The Union Minister described PM-SURAJ as a transformative initiative which aims at uplifting the most marginalised segments of society. The nationwide PM-SURAJ national portal for credit support to disadvantaged sections embodies Prime Minister's commitment to prioritise the underprivileged (vanchiton kovariyata). The credit support will be provided to the eligible persons across the country, facilitated through banks, NBFC-MFIs, and other organisations. "In the last decade, the government has ensured upliftment and conferment of honour on those sections of society which were either neglected or overlooked by previous governments", Dr Jitendra Singh said.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that after becoming Prime Minister, Modi had said that his government is dedicated to the poor and committed to the development and welfare of weaker and marginalised sections. "Today's launch of PM-SURAJ is a testament to that dedication and commitment", he said.

Enumerating the achievements of the government in the past ten years, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that more than 10 crore gas connections have been provided and as many as toilets built, keeping in mind the health and honour of women. "Earlier, our sisters in rural areas were forced to commit injustice unto themselves because they were constrained to answer the nature's call in the twilight or at the first sight of dawn", the Minister said.

Dr Jitendra Singh stated that the government had not only ended the all-pervasive cynicism and doom and gloom of the past, but has also transformed the people's mindset. "The government has walked the talk in the past 10 years", Dr Singh said, and stressed the need for generating awareness about the government's welfare schemes and initiatives for the poor, farmers, women and the youth.

"By doing away with the colonial practice of attestation, the government sent the message across that it has trust in its citizens who can now self-attest their documents", Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted, adding that this decision was carried forward by abolishing interviews for certain government posts. "With its countless people-centric programmes and schemes, particularly for the upliftment of disadvantaged and neglected sections of society, the Modi government has shown what real democracy is", the Minister underlined. He pledged that the journey of development for all would continue in the next term of the government.

Earlier, during the programme, Dr Jitendra Singh distributed Ayushman Health Cards, sanction letters for credit support, and PPE kits to sanitation workers to Safai Mitras (Sewer and Septic tank workers) hailing from several districts of J&K under the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE). The initiative represents yet another step towards safeguarding the health and safety of frontline workers who serve in challenging conditions.

2 Udhampur.....

completing this process, these hotels have demonstrated their dedication to provide a clean and eco-friendly environment to their guests.

Hotel Heritage, Patnitop received 3 leaf rating and Subash Hotel Patnitop received 1 leaf rating.

The SGLR is divided into three major categories, in which '3 leaf' certificate is provided to the establishments with best cleanliness, waste management, and sustainability practices followed by '3 leaf' and '1 leaf' rating system.

Director General Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra said: "The achievement of Swachhata Green Leaf Ratings by these hotels is not only a testament to their commitment to excellence but also a commendable step towards promoting cleanliness and sustainability at tourist hill-station Patnitop in Udhampur district."

Director General Rural Sanitation added that it is hoped that other hotels and establishments in the area will follow suit, contributing to the overall improvement of cleanliness and environmental standards in the area.

SGLR is a groundbreaking move to revolutionize sanitation practices within India's expanding tourism industry, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, introduced the SGLR initiative.

The Swachhata Green Leaf Ratings scheme is part of the Swachh Bharat Mission, which aims to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation across India. The successful completion of the self-certification compliance by these hotels is a testament to the success of this mission and a shining example for others to follow.

Earlier this year, "National Pilot on Swachhata Green Leaf Rating in Hospitality Facilities" was launched at tourist place Pahalgam in district Anantnag of Jammu and Kashmir and Kaziranga National Park, Assam.

Aligned with the Travel for LiFE programme under Mission LiFE, the Swachhata Green Leaf Rating initiative endeavours to promote sustain-

able tourism practices that harmonize with nature.

I&C Deptt.....

Dr. Arun Manhas, Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu, and Khalid Majeed, Director Industries & Commerce, Kashmir as its member secretaries. These meetings, till date, have approved the registration of 372 units, with 240 from Jammu division and 132 from Kashmir division. These units represent a diverse range of sectors, including manufacturing and services, indicating the scheme's broad reach and impact.

Furthermore, the Department of Industries and commerce has approved substantial incentives during the current financial year. In FY 2023-24, Rs. 85.15 crore stands approved under Capital Investment Incentive (CII), Rs. 27.45 crore under Working Capital Interest Subvention (WCIS), and Rs. 7.48 crore through Capital Interest Subvention (CIS).

It is pertinent to mention here that Goods and Services Tax Linked incentive (GSTLI) is the most important incentive under the New Central sector Scheme and in the current financial year the approval for Rs 40.80 crore under GSTLI stands given. The disbursements are directly empowering businesses, enabling them to expand their operations and create new employment opportunities.

J&K has surpassed the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) target of Rs. 150 crore in incentive approval. This achievement is a significant milestone in the UT's industrial journey.

While NCSS marks a new chapter in J&K's industrial development, the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS) 2017 continues to play a crucial role. Launched as a precursor to NCSS, IDS offers its own set of incentives, including central capital investment support, interest subsidy, and GST reimbursement.

In FY 2023-24, IDS SLCs approved incentives worth Rs. 22.44 crore for Jammu division and Rs. 3.92 crore for Kashmir division. These additional incentives complement the support provided by NCSS, further strengthening the industrial ecosystem in the UT.

The combined efforts of NCSS and IDS are paving the way for a vibrant and robust industrial landscape in Jammu & Kashmir. With a focus on attracting investment, fostering innovation, and creating a conducive business environment, the UT is poised for sustained industrial growth in the years to come. This transformation will not only generate employment opportunities but also contribute significantly to J&K's overall economic development and prosperity.

Govt Forms.....

has been asked to prepare a panel of three candidates in order of merit as per the laid down criteria for selection to the post of Director SKIMS.

As per order, Atal Dulloo Chief Secretary J&K will be Chairman of the committee, while M. Srinivas Director AIIMS New Delhi, Prof Dr Vivek Lal Director PGIMER Chandigarh and Dr Achal Kumar Srivastava, Professor, Department of Neurology, AIIMS New Delhi will be members of the committee while Syed Abid Rasheed Secretary Health and Medical Education Department will be member/secretary of the committee.

Notably, former Director SKIMS Dr Parvaiz Koul retired on 8th March following which Abid Rasheed Secretary Health and Medical Education Department was given additional charge of the post of Director SKIMS.

The post of Director SKIMS was advertised last month and 29 candidates had applied for the post while the government is yet to publish the shortlist of the candidate. (KNO)

ACB Registers.....

Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Shopian, Gulam Rasool Mir, Khilafwazi Officer, Naseer Ahmad Indrabi, Head Assistant, Showkat Hussain Teli, Works Supervisor, Shakeel Ahmad Bhat, Driver and others under sections 5(1)(c)(d) r/w 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act Svt 2006 and section 120-B RPC on the outcome of a verification.

During the course of verification, it surfaced that the Municipal Committee Shopian had purchased one Ashoka Leyland BS-IV Tipper from GeM Portal in the year 2018 against which they had issued fuel of 11,051 litres from January, 2018 to 31st March, 2020 by inflating the figures of fuel consumption.

The said Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Shopian constituted a committee which had fixed fuel consumption of 11 litres per hour against the said Tipper, whereas, the same during verification was computed only 3 litres per hour as per opinion of Mechanical Engineering Department. Thus, 8 litres of fuel per hour as such was usurped by the people at the helm of the Committee by misuse and abuse of their official position which aggregated to 11,051 litres for the above period. Besides, against an already grounded Tipper, the committee had also illegally issued fuel measuring 3566 litres from February, 2018 to March, 2020

causing misappropriation of funds amounting to several lakhs.

After registration of a case searches in accordance with law were conducted at the residential houses of the accused situated at Bemina Srinagar, Frestbal Pampore, Puchal Pulwama, Batpora Shopian and Hargam Shopian. During search some important documents related to the case were collected and consequently seized.

Further investigation of the case is in progress.

GPS-Enabled.....

GPS control rooms will be established at the offices of district electoral officers (DEOs) and the CEO for real-time tracking and monitoring of the movement of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) through the trackers installed in the vehicles carrying them, officials said.

This step is being taken for the end-to-end movement of all EVMs and VVPATs on the pre-poll and poll days to ensure careful monitoring at all times. Accordingly, all polling parties and sector officers' vehicles will be fitted with GPS tracking devices, they said.

"As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India (ECI) regarding the transportation, storage and security of EVMs and VVPATs, it is imperative to streamline their handling, including reserve EVMs and VVPATs carried by sector officers for need-based replacement on the poll day," Pole said in the RFP.

He said the GPS tracker devices along with all the necessary hardware are to be fitted and installed in the election duty vehicles. The tentative number of vehicles will be 12,500, he added.

To facilitate this, GPS control rooms will be set up at the DEO and CEO levels to monitor and track the movement of EVMs and VVPATs through the vehicle tracking system and other related infrastructure and applications.

"This is a tentative number, subject to change based on the actual requirements calculated after the declaration of elections. The installation of GPS tracker devices will be done inside the vehicles," he explained.

The vehicles will be stationed at various locations across Jammu and Kashmir, with the specific locations provided by the respective DEOs, he added. (Agencies)

Police Solves....

under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Sheeri, and an investigation was initiated, the police said, and an investigation team of officers and officials was constituted to look into the matter.

During the course of investigation and analysis, CCTV footage has revealed the involvement of a salesman and his other two associates who were involved in the commission of the crime.

The duo associates were identified as Wali Mohd Bhat, a resident of Bimar Boniyar, and Zubair Ahmad Lone of Budmulla Sheeri, who were accordingly arrested, and stolen property worth 5 lacs was also recovered from their possession.

Further investigation is going on, and more recoveries are expected, the police said.

Forest officials.....

move of the forest officials threatens to starve hundreds of sheep in the area which can choke the local economy.

"The livelihood of so many families is dependent on sheep farming and yet these officials do not take the ground reality into consideration," a sheep farmer in Mulnar said.

Another farmer said the sheep are the most docile animal and will not harm any afforestation attempt of the forest department. "If the forest officials continue to prevent our sheep from grazing in Mulnar then they will be responsible for the starvation and deaths of hundreds of sheep," a sheep farmer said.

Mulnar and its nearby areas of New Theed are located on outskirts of Srinagar.

4 houses.....

windows, along with household goods on the first and second floor of the other two three-storey houses were partly damaged. "At around 12:30 AM, a fire surrounded the area. Being a congested area, Fire and Emergency services could not reach here on time, but as they arrived, the fire was controlled, leaving four houses in ashes until 3:00 AM in the morning," said a lady from Islaam Yarbala area, while asking for help from the administration.

Another house owner, while describing the scene, told KNO, "at around 12:45, cries filled the area, and when I looked out from the window, I saw the neighboring house on fire. As I ran out from my house along with my children, my entire house was engulfed in flames."

"Now, we are appealing to the administration to help us as we have been left with nothing but ashes and a damaged house, and our belongings also got gutted in the blaze, and we want the administration to help us stand," he added.



DEO/DC Srinagar Reviews Preparedness For Upcoming Lok Sabha Election

Asks AROs And Nodal Officers To Gear Up Resources For Smooth Conduct Of The Polls

SRINAGAR, MAR 13: Deputy Commission (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO) today chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the preparedness for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections in District.

At the outset, the DEO/DC Srinagar held a detailed discussion with the Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), designated Nodal Officers and Officers/Officials of District Election Authority Srinagar to assess the important aspects of the Election process mainly aimed at ensuring smooth and peaceful general elections in Srinagar District.

The DEO/DC took a first-hand appraisal of the preparedness regarding various crucial

aspects and activities for upcoming Lok Sabha Elections including assessment of logistical requirements, manpower management plan, transportation of poll staff/Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), training management, expenditure monitoring, media communication, transport management, PWD voters, SVEEP activities and randomization of polling staff.

The DEO/DC asked the AROs and designated Nodal Officers to take all required measures to ensure that every necessary facility is made available at polling locations/stations, distribution/collections centres. He also stressed them to gear up the all available men and machinery on ground to ensure an effective and meticulous election management plan.



The DEO instructed for establishing a robust District Level Control Room to efficient-

ly monitor the forthcoming election. He also laid emphasis on ensuring Adequate Minimum Facilities (AMF) at all polling booths for electorates, polling staff and the security personnel deployed for electoral duties on the election day.

The DEO emphasised the importance of effective coordination among all stakeholders to ensure the smooth, transparent and peaceful conduct of the electoral process. He directed all the designated Nodal officers to complete their allotted tasks on time and maintain cooperation and coordination with the line executing Departments. He further asked them to go through comprehensive ECI guidelines regarding duties and responsibilities during the election period.

The DEO also asked the AROs to undertake a visit to Distribution/Collection Centres to ensure all requisite arrangements are put in place in adherence to the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

The DEO also asked the Officers to undertake necessary technological upgradation/training of the poll staff with respect to the IT interventions launched by the ECI.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ARO/ERO- Zadibal), Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ARO/ERO- Hazratbal), Syed Ahmad Kataria, Deputy District Election Officer, Imtiyaz Ahmad, Other AROs, Designated Nodal Officers for elections and other concerned from District Election Authority were present in the meeting.

JK Govt Identifies 10 Focus Sectors in New Start-Up Policy

SRINAGAR, MAR 13: Jammu and Kashmir administration has identified 10 different sectors, which will be given special attention under the new start-up policy.

As per the Start-up Policy 2024-27, a copy of which lies with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), start-ups coming up in different sectors will get assistance and funding from the government to thrive.

The policy document reveals that these 10 sectors include food processing and allied activities, agriculture and allied sectors including horticulture and floriculture, handicrafts and handloom, education, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, textile, apparel and fashion technology, renewable energy, electronics system design and manufacturing, information technology enabled services, tourism and adventure sports and environment protection and green technology.

As per the policy, the government will create a Technical Support Unit to orchestrate networking activities between various start-up ecosystem players.

"The Government of Jammu and Kashmir shall establish a Technical Support Unit in JKEDI to orchestrate networking activities between various start-up ecosystem players such as start-ups, accelerators, incubators, angel investors, corporates, venture capitalists and other necessary stakeholders. The TSU shall provide necessary support and assistance in appraising incentive cases, collaboration with VCFs and successful implementation of this policy," it said.

Under the policy, the government has also decided to create a feedback mechanism to get insights into challenges being faced by the start-ups.

"The Government of Jammu and Kashmir will create quarterly feedback mechanisms from start-ups, mentors, incubators and other related stakeholders on its portal. These surveys, focus groups or public consultations will gather input from start-ups and other stakeholders on the implementation of the start-up policy. The feedback will help provide valuable insights into challenged being faced by the start-ups and the support they intend to receive," it said.

Pertinently, the union territory administration has targeted to establish Jammu and Kashmir as one of the leading start-up ecosystems in India by 2027.

Under the policy, the administration has targeted to set up at least 2000 new start-ups in Jammu and Kashmir in next five years.

Jammu and Kashmir under the policy has constituted a High-Level Empowered Committee (HLEC) to monitor the performance of Jammu and Kashmir start-up eco-system.

With Chief Secretary as the chairman of the 12-membered HLEC, the committee as per the document shall take necessary decisions for encouragement of innovations in Jammu and Kashmir and modify start-up policy, guidelines from time-to-time.

The government has also constituted a start-up task force to monitor the implementation of policy and decisions of HLEC on a regular basis.

The 10-membered task force will be headed by administrative secretary Industries and Commerce department.

Srinagar Admin Hosts Live Streaming of PM's Interaction with Beneficiaries, launch of 'PM-SURAJ' portal

Div Com, DC Srinagar, Prominent Citizens and large public gathering watch live streaming at SKICC

SRINAGAR, MAR 13: As a part of the Prime Minister's scheduled Programme to interact with beneficiaries of various government schemes from disadvantaged groups, the District Administration Srinagar Wednesday hosted Live Streaming of the Programme here at SKICC.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri; Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat and the Officers of all line Departments participated in the programme.

During the Programme, the



gathering at SKICC Auditorium watched live streaming of Prime

Minister's speech, marking a nationwide initiative for provid-

ing credit support to marginalised sections of society and Prime

Minister's interaction with beneficiaries of various Government schemes from disadvantaged groups, including Scheduled Castes, backward classes, and sanitation workers.

The participants also witnessed the launch of 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) National portal and approval of credit assistance for one lakh entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communi-

ties. Later, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat hand over sanction letter among the beneficiaries of different Government schemes.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Director Local Bodies, Mathura Masoom, District Social Welfare Officer, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad and other senior Officers and large gathering of people witnessed the event.

Silent thief of vision': Glaucoma among leading causes of irreversible blindness, say doctors

Stress regular eye screening, caution against self-medication

SRINAGAR, MAR 13: Glaucoma, often termed the "silent thief of vision", is one of the primary causes of irreversible blindness, and there is a critical need for regular eye screening, according to doctors.

Dr. Shugufta, Assistant Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at GMC Srinagar, speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), explained that Glaucoma manifests when the intraocular pressure – the pressure within the eyes – exceeds normal levels.

Contrary to popular belief, this pressure is distinct from blood pressure and can cause compression.

This pressure can lead to compression and damage of the optic nerve, which is essential for transmitting light signals to the brain, and can result in compromised vision, she said, adding that the damage inflicted upon the optic nerve is permanent and irreversible.

While the exact cause of glaucoma may often be unknown (idiopathic), structural abnormalities of the eye and inflammatory eye diseases are potential contributing factors, Dr. Shugufta said, adding that conditions such as diabetes and myopia may be associated with glaucoma.

She said Glaucoma typically remains asymptomatic until it has advanced significantly. There is a need for regular monitoring, especially for people aged 40 and above, she added.

Dr. Bhavani Raina, Additional Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at AIIMS Jammu, highlighted the severity of Glaucoma, saying it stands as a leading cause of global irreversible blindness.

"It causes progressive damage to the nerve which is associated with carrying visual stimulus from eye to our brain leading to a loss in vision and eventually blindness if left untreated," she said.

"Glaucoma often progresses slowly, earning its name as the 'silent thief of vision.' By the time symptoms manifest, considerable vision loss may have already occurred," Dr. Raina remarked.

To combat this stealthy disease, doctors stressed the importance of comprehensive eye check-ups, particularly for individuals over 40 years of age. They identified several risk factors, including age, family history, and medical conditions like diabetes and hypertension, underlining the need for regular monitoring and early intervention.

Advocating for caution against self-medication, doctors urged adherence to prescribed anti-glaucoma medications and the avoidance of steroids. They called for regular eye screenings, medication adherence, and lifestyle modifications in combating Glaucoma and said collective efforts are needed to safeguard vision and prevent irreversible damage.

Food Deptt starts sampling amid concerns over early-ripened fruits

SRINAGAR, MAR 13: Food and Drugs Department J&K has started sampling of fresh fruits, vegetables and other food items following social media reports about early-ripened fruits, particularly watermelons, in markets. Commissioner of Food Safety & Control, Drugs & Food Control Organisation, Hashmat Ali Yattoo, speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said social media is an "uncontrolled" platform where people post whatever they like.

"We have a role in ensuring food safety, whether these are packed goods, milk, meat, chicken, fruits or vegetables. We collect samples for analysis and only make statements after conducting tests in labs. We are collecting samples from every district of the Union territory," he said.

The Commissioner added, "Our staff has been working on this for the past few days, and we have collected samples. Mobile testing labs are also operational. We will only provide information after the results of the samples are available."

Yattoo said teams are active in each district of Kashmir and also in Jammu. "We cannot comment on artificially ripened or mature fruits until the results come in," he said.

GoI asks J&K admin to complete all SSCL projects by mid-2024

SRINAGAR, MAR 13: After missing the deadline for the completion of several smart city projects in Srinagar, the government of India has directed the authorities in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the completion of all the projects by June of this year.

Sources privy to the development told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that following the failure to meet the earlier deadline for project

completion; the GoI has mandated the timely execution of all pending and ongoing projects by mid-2024.

"Out of the 158 projects earmarked, approximately 93 have reached completion. However, significant work remains, with many projects still in progress and others in the tendering phase. The directive stresses the completion of all pending and ongoing projects by June 2024," the sources disclosed.



According to the smart city officials in Srinagar, the five-year project plan started in 2018 for which funds of around Rs 1000 Cr were allocated for various

smart city projects, of which over Rs 500 Cr have been spent on many projects.

Although, according to the Srinagar Smart City officials sev-

eral works may have been completed, it is pertinent to mention that there are several projects which are ongoing and are causing disruptions for the movement of transport in the city.

Notably, the earlier deadline for the completion of Smart City Projects in Srinagar was slated to be on Dec 2023, but failing to meet the deadline a revised and final date has been issued by GoI for the completion of all the projects in the city.

Distt Admin Ganderbal organizes mega Block Diwas at Panchayat Ghar Kijpora

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, MARCH 13: The District Administration Ganderbal today conducted a public outreach programme as part of weekly Block Diwas at the Panchayat Ghar Kijpora, Ganderbal.

The event was chaired by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani.

The outreach programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from various stakeholders including SDM Kangan, ACD, Executive Engineer KPDCL, Tehsildar Kangan, district officers, and DDC member Kangan, alongside civil society members, prominent citizens,

and locals of Kangan sub-division.

Numerous pertinent issues were raised during the event, reflecting the community's concerns and aspirations. These ranged from staff shortages at Kijpora Middle School, to infrastructure development needs such as the Kijpora Penzin road, branch cutting in the dumping park at Kijpora, and the development of the Kijpora playground.

Additionally, concerns were voiced regarding the desilting of the filtration plant at Kijpora, timely commissioning of the Chattergul Bala Filtration Plant, establishment of a playground at Upper Margund, pending forest rights cases, and unscheduled power cuts. The need for streamlining the issuance of Agriculture and Domicile Cer-



During the event, the ADCDC reiterated the program's primary objective of fostering direct engagement with grassroots issues. He emphasized the pivotal role these outreach camps play in bringing govern-

menting promptly to the concerns raised, particularly regarding unscheduled power cuts, the ADCDC issued directives to the Executive Engineer KPDCL to ensure uninterrupted power supply during Sehri and Iftar timings in the entire Kangan area.

Furthermore, addressing the challenges pertaining to the issuance of Agriculture and Domicile Certificates, SDM Kangan assured the locals that these issues would be promptly resolved.

In parallel, the Social Welfare department, alongside other concerned departments, provided a comprehensive overview of self-employment schemes and raised awareness about the Nasha Mukta Bharat initiative.

The ADCDC urged locals to engage with these departments to learn about available schemes, ensuring that benefits reach those in need.

The District Administration Ganderbal remains committed to proactive community engagement and resolving issues in a timely and efficient manner, thereby fostering inclusive development and ensuring that all residents are benefited. Additionally, concerns were voiced regarding the desilting of the filtration plant at Kijpora, timely commissioning of the Chattergul Bala Filtration Plant, establishment of a playground at Upper Margund, pending forest rights cases, and unscheduled power cuts. The need for streamlining the issuance of Agriculture.

DC leads preparations for mega plantation drive at Ganderbal

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, MARCH 13: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a meeting here to discuss the modalities and arrangements for upcoming mega plantation drive across the district.

During the meeting, the DC instructed key officers including Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Sindh Forest Division; Tehsildar Ganderbal, and officials from the Floriculture department to identify suitable patches of land that could be transformed into Chinar Parks or Deodar parks.

Additionally, the DC emphasized the importance of seeking technical guidance from SKUAST Social Forestry to ensure the effective development of these areas.

All concerned departments were directed to promptly submit reports on identified land parcels to facilitate comprehensive planning for the plantation



The District Floriculture Officer was specifically instructed to devise a detailed plan for plantation in collaboration with other relevant departments. Sufficient equipment and manpower will be mobilized to ensure the success of the plantation days.

Furthermore, the DC provided directives regarding the selection of plant species capable of thriving in the local climatic conditions, ensuring the sustainability of the plantation efforts. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner,

drive. The District Floriculture Officer was specifically instructed to devise a detailed plan for plantation in collaboration with other relevant departments. Sufficient equipment and manpower will be mobilized to ensure the success of the plantation days.

Gulzar Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Development, District Floriculture Officer, DFO Sindh Forest Division, Tehsildar Ganderbal, CEO, and other concerned stakeholders.

This proactive initiative underscores the commitment of the Ganderbal administration to environmental conservation and the enhancement of green spaces within the district. The District Floriculture Officer was specifically instructed to devise a detailed plan for plantation in collaboration with other relevant departments. Suf-

ficient equipment and manpower will be mobilized to ensure the success of the plantation days.

Furthermore, the DC provided directives regarding the selection of plant species capable of thriving in the local climatic conditions, ensuring the sustainability of the plantation. During the meeting, the DC instructed key officers including Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Sindh Forest Division; Tehsildar Ganderbal, and officials from the Floriculture department to identify suitable patches of land that could be transformed into Chinar Parks or Deodar parks.

Additionally, the DC emphasized the importance of seeking technical guidance from SKUAST Social Forestry to ensure the effective development of these areas.

All concerned departments were directed to promptly submit reports on identified land parcels to facilitate comprehensive planning for the plantation drive.

DC conducts comprehensive inspection of Polling Stations at Shopian

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MARCH 13: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Has-eeb today undertook a comprehensive visit to several polling stations in the district including Bohrihlan, Heerpora, Padapawan, Chottipora and Sedow.

The visit was aimed to assess and review the sta-

tus of assured minimum facilities at these polling stations.

The scrutiny encompassed a thorough examination of various essential facilities for the smooth conduct of the elections.

During the inspection, the DC engaged with the stakeholders to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place to facilitate

a smooth and efficient voting process. Basic amenities such as electricity, water supply, sanitation, and accessibility for differently-abled voters was assessed at these polling stations.

Expressing satisfaction with the overall preparedness observed during the visit, the DC underscored the importance of ensuring that all polling stations

adhere to prescribed standards of ECI to uphold the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

He reiterated the unwavering commitment of the administration to facilitating free, fair and transparent elections, wherein every eligible citizen can exercise their democratic right with confidence and ease.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)**
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of AAMINA ALTAFA D/O A L T A F A H M A D K H A N R / O SHRAKAWARA Tehsil wagoora Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 02/08/2021 and event has been to be occurred at SDH Kreeri for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS KREERI

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)**
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of AHAAN MUSHTAQ S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD CHOPAN R/O PATI DOLIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 15/04/2019 and event has been to be occurred at Home for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine .

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS KREERI

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA**
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHSIN FIRDOUS MALLA S/O FIRDOUS AHMAD MALLA R/O WAGOORA Tehsil wagoora Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 18/02/2017 and event has been to be occurred at SDH Kreeri for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH
(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAGOORA**
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.
PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from SHABIR AHMAD BHAT S/O GH AHMAD BHAT R/O, KREERI Tehsil KREERI District Baramulla for issuance of DEATH Certificate in favour of my FATHER namely GH AHMAD BHAT S/O KHALIL BHAT R/O kreeri D.O.D as per documents is 06/31/10/2023 & In this connection if anyone have any objection in the registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar Kreeri/Wagoora /BDO office Wagoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH
(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT WAGOORA)

Truefare
(Kashmir First B2C Online Application)

**WE ARE HIRING
JOIN OUR TEAM**

SEND YOUR CV TO OUR EMAIL ADDRESS
support@truefare.in / truefare247@gmail.com

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION 1 MARCH 2024 **WHAT'S APP NUMBER 9906688481**

PACKAGE CONSULTANT **TICKETING** **SOCIAL MEDIA /EMAIL**

- Proven 1-2 years working experience as a tour operator
- Bachelor's degree in any discipline
- Expert in Air ticketing Like amending, Cancellation, Flight processing Refunds, Rescheduling and making new reservation.
- Must be aware of designing of Posts/Banners and expert in performing Emails.
- Expert in MS word, Excel

OFFICE ADDRESS: PEERBAGH MAIN CHOWK SRINAGAR KASHMIR OPPOSITE CITY MALL SHOPPING COMPLEX -190014
Branch Office: 1st Floor Libra Complex Main Road Ganderbal 191201

Note: Male and Females both can apply and preference will be given nearby areas.
INTERVIEW WILL TAKE PLACE AT OUR BOTH OFFICES

Hiring

DERMATOLOGIST (FEMALE)

ORTHODONTIST

Those who having Moh License and ready to join should send Resume

Send Resume
+968 78027092

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
CHOTTA BAZAR, KARAN NAGAR SRINAGAR
Call: 0194-2456214

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited for the post of Teacher in the below mentioned subjects

Science Urdu and Computer

QUALIFICATION: M.Sc/B.Sc/B.ED/M.A/BCA/MCA

Applications Can Be Submitted In The School By Or Before 5th of March, 2024 (between 10:00AM TO 12:00PM)

Sd/- Principal

Libra Educational Institute
ZooHama, Chadoora

We Are HIRING

ENGLISH TEACHER
Qualif.: PG English, B.Ed for Higher Department

GENERAL LINE TEACHERS / KG TEACHERS
M.A/M.Sc+B.Ed

Salary: 8000 to 12000

EXPERIENCE: AT LEAST 2 YEARS
Fluency in English Language

Pick n drop

Send CV at @LibraschoolzooHama@gmail.com
Or WhatsApp at 9797708226

ARUN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
NATIPORA SRINAGAR

WE ARE HIRING

URDU TEACHER **GENERAL LINE**

LPD TEACHER **AUNTY**

SCIENCE TEACHER **GATE KEEPER**

EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES WILL BE PREFERRED
WHO ARE FROM ADJACENT AREAS ONLY

www.arunpublicschool.com

SEND YOUR CV TO EMAIL: arunpublichighschool@gmail.com

Call On **7006000051**

MIRANDA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
CHINKRAL MOHALLA, HABBA KADAL, SRINAGAR

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited for the below mentioned posts:

English Teacher	Science Teacher
Mathematics Teacher	Social Science Teacher
Urdu Teacher	Kashmiri Teacher
General Line Teacher	Peon

Submit your Resume in the office of the undersigned along with Xerox copies of the qualification certificates between 10 A.M to 1:30 P.M.

SALARY:- NEGOTIABLE

CONTACT NO'S: 9419914880
miranda.public.high.school@gmail.com

INT ADS | 9018574208 Sd / - PRINCIPAL

DC reviews progress under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme in Udhampur

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MARCH 13: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

The meeting aimed to ensure the success of the program by reviewing the latest physical and financial progress achieved in different sectors.

At the outset, District Agriculture Officer Sanjay Anand provided an overview of the current status of schemes implemented in agriculture and allied sectors under HADP.

The officers from stakeholder departments, through detailed PowerPoint presentations, gave a comprehensive overview of their achieve-



ments, detailing aspects such as plan implementation, beneficiary approvals, banking connections, convergence of activities, and processing of applications.

The DC conducted a detailed review of the physical and financial progress made in the implementation of projects under the Holistic Agriculture

Development Plan 2023-24. She emphasized the need for expediting the implementation of agricultural and allied sector projects to achieve the desired targets at the earliest. The DC stressed the importance of working in a coordinated and dedicated manner to ensure visible results at the grassroots level.

RDD Secretary reviews functioning of JK Rural Livelihoods Mission

Advocates innovative, economically viable development projects

HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 13: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, emphasized the imperative need of initiating innovative and economically viable developmental projects.

He highlighted the significance of convergence not only within the department through various programs and schemes but also with other departments to maximize the impact and efficiency.

While chairing a meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission, Dr. Shahid directed for promoting convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and Rash-



triya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). He emphasized the potential of construction of sheds for SHGs related to farming activities with MGNREGA convergence and developing infrastructure through convergence with RGSA.

Dr. Shahid highlighted that such convergence efforts would signifi-

cantly enhance the financial status of women and empower them in a tangible manner. He said that steps should be taken for village empowerment.

He said that Umeed is an ideal and successful program, bringing pride as its achievements have garnered recognition from the Prime Minister.

During the meeting, bank linkage of women associated with self help groups, Bank Sukhi, Bank Mitra, to bring more women into the fold of Lakhpati Didis, declaration of Jammu and Kashmir as a difficult area, RBI rules for providing banking benefits to the number of women for self help groups, setting up of warehouses in Jammu and Srinagar for easy marketing access to manufactured products by SHGs and other issues were discussed.

Electoral Awareness Campaign under SVEEP Reaches Border Areas

HT News Network

LAM, LAROKA RAJOURI, MARCH 13: The District Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Team, led by Prof. Iqbal Raina (DNO), Prof. Joginder Singh, Prof. Ajaz Nazir, Dr. Sajjad Mir and Tanweer Ahmed Chowdhury, today conducted an extensive Electoral Awareness Campaign in Lam and Jhanger border belt.

The primary event took place at Government Higher Secondary School Laroka, where students and local residents gathered for an informative session led by the SVEEP team. Prof. Iqbal Raina, the designated Nodal Officer for SVEEP, answered questions from students, enhancing their understanding of the electoral process.

Before this, Prof. Joginder Singh engaged with the public in the main market, collaborating with the local Panch and provided awareness about SVEEP and asked them to bring every enrolled elector to the polling booth. The team also visited homes, ensuring the seamless spread of crucial SVEEP information, emphasizing the importance of active participation in upcoming elections.

The collaborative efforts of the SVEEP team, combining information sharing and community involvement not only increased electoral awareness but also garnered a strong commitment from the public to maximize their involvement in the upcoming election. The collaborative efforts of the SVEEP team, combining information sharing and community involvement not only increased electoral awareness but also garnered a strong commitment from the public to maximize their involvement.

Launching Ceremony of Kashmir Lawyers Guild Organization J&K and Ladakh First time In History of J&K

HT News Network

The Press conference was chaired by the President Kashmir Lawyers Guild Organization Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Advocate Haamid Bhat along with other stakeholders including General Secretary Advocate Shabir Ahmad Najar, Spokesperson Advocate Syed Gousia Tabasum, Joint Secretary Advocate Uzma Hussain, Treasurer Advocate Asif Mohi-ud-din, Media Incharge Advocate Mohammad Suhail & Co-ordinator Advocate Aadil Jamal.

It was reiterated that the organization will work for the well being and betterment of Lawyers fraternity besides the general public to get their genuine grievances redressed the president said. It has been pointed out that the Advocates Protection Bill Act 2021 be implemented in letter and spirit.

That the organization shall provide free legal assistance to the Kashmiri minorities, and ex-sainiks, Jammu Kashmir Police, Indian Army and other paramilitary forces. President Advocate Haamid Bhat further added that the organization shall provide free legal aid to the



women in distress, destitute and abandoned and including orphanage, having not any financial, Socio economic support. To work for the victims of terrorism which includes any crime against the citizens of India in order to rehabilitate them and to conduct legal literacy programs for the people of far flung areas, who are educationally and economically backward. The Gen. Secretary Advocate Shabir Ahmad Najar added organisation will conduct legal awareness programmes

in colleges, Universities, and other government institutions, besides to facilitate legal aid, good education and medical treatment and other essential needs to the jail inmates.

Advocate Haamid Bhat President Kashmir Lawyers Guild Organization emphasized that the Advocates Welfare Funds Act 2001 shall be implemented in letter and spirit, and the stipend be provided to the newly enrolled advocates across the Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh

PSPS Women College inspires young voters through SVEEP initiative

HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 13: Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women today organized a one day Voters awareness workshop under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

Held under the guidance of District Election Officer Jammu, Sachin Vaishay and the leadership of Nodal Officer Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP), the event aimed to educate and engage young voters, promoting active participation in the democratic process.

The workshop raised awareness among students regarding NSVP portal and form no.6. Many students registered themselves, corrected their forms and generated their EPIC cards. Doubts of the students were cleared thoroughly and they were educated about the voting registration process.

"We believe that every vote counts, and it is essential to empower our young generation with the knowledge and understanding of their voting rights," said the faculty coordinator of the Electoral Literacy Club. "Through events like these, we aim to encourage students to actively participate in the democratic process and make informed choices."

The event at PSPS Government College for Women successfully concluded under the supervision of Principle Dr. S P Saraswat which inspired young voters and created awareness about the power.

DMO imposes Rs. 9 lakh penalty on excavator for illegal mining at Sahar Khad

HT News Network

KATHUA, MARCH 13: District Mineral Officer Kathua (DMO) Rajinder Singh has imposed Rs. 9 lakh penalty on an Excavator involved in illegal mining at Sahar Khad here today.

The excavator was seized from Palan Morh area of Sahar Khad where River Bed Mineral was dug and lifted to Shree Krishna Stone Crusher without seeking any permission from the mining department.

It was informed that immediately after seizure as per extant rules, the JCB machine was brought to police post and shall be released by Joint Director only after payment of penalty in Directorate office Jammu.

The action was initiated on the complaint of some local people. The DMO informed that there are clear directions from DC Kathua to curb the practices of illegal mining in the district.

He informed that three excavators have already been seized from the same location for excavation of minor minerals in violation of rules of Geology and Mining department.

Launch of SURAJ Portal by PM: Rajouri District Beneficiaries participate virtually

HT News Network

RAJOURI, MARCH 13: District administration Rajouri today hosted live streaming of the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ) portal Minister by Prime Narendra Modi.

The portal embodies the commitment of the Government to prioritise the underprivileged and is a transformative initiative, aimed at uplifting the most marginalised segments of society. The beneficiaries from district Rajouri participated virtually in the event

During the ceremony, Prime Minister Modi also distributed Ayushman Health Cards and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits to Safai Mitras under the NAMASTE scheme. This initiative represents yet another step towards safeguarding the health and safety of frontline workers who serve in challenging conditions

ADDC Doda reviews progress under Capex Budget 2023-24

HT News Network

DODA, MARCH 13: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Doda Pran Singh today chaired a meeting here in the Mini Hall DC Office to review progress made on the development works under CAPEX Budget for the year 2023-24 in the district Doda.

The meeting was attended by Chief Plan-



ning Officer Doda, Assistant Commissioner Development Doda, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Education Officer, DYSSO, Execu-

tive Engineers of PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti (PHE), JPDCL, I&FC, REW, EO MC and other district officers. The ADC Doda directed the officers and

executing agencies to ensure completion of all works within stipulated time. He also stressed for regular field visits to ensure works to be executed on time and under set quality and laid parameters.

He stressed upon the officers to work in coordination for achieving all the set targets on time besides gear up men and machinery for bringing additional vibrancy in the departmental functioning.

CRPF 33 Battalion organises Bharat Darshan tour-2024 for students of Doda

HT News Network

DODA, MARCH 13: Bharat Darshan tour-2024 under the Civic Action Programme was organized by the 33 Battalion CRPF.

The tour was flagged off by the Commanding Officer, Davinder Singh Negi.

District Education and Planning Office, Dr. Anis Ahmed, besides Harish Mehra, Assistant Commandant Pankaj Kumar were also present.

As many as 30 students of 9th class from different educational zones/ clusters of the District Doda are participating in the tour.

During the tour, the students will visit various historical sites



and places of interest in the country, providing them with a unique opportunity to learn about the diverse cultural heritage of India.

The participants were excited and grateful for the opportunity to embark on this journey and were escorted by two teachers.

Government Polytechnic Ramban hosts exposure visit for students of GHS Gam

HT News Network

RAMBAN, MARCH 13: Government Polytechnic, Chanderkote, Ramban, under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary reaffirmed its commitment to foster technical and skill education by organizing a special technical exposure visit for students from Government High School Gam- Ramban.

A group of 30 students from the 9th class, accompanied by their faculty members, had the opportunity to explore the technical infrastructure of the institution. They were introduced to the state-of-the-art facilities including the computer center, smart classrooms, electronics and communication engineering labs, and



electrical engineering labs.

Earlier, Er. Vivek Mahajan, the Polytechnic Principal along with the staff warmly welcomed the visiting school students.

The Principal said that this initiative is part of our dedication to promote skill education and innovation through exposure visits for prospective candidates

interested in pursuing a career in engineering and technology. Such visits provide young minds with firsthand experience and insights into the world of technology, fostering their interest in engineering and technology fields.

This unique opportunity exposes students to cutting-edge technologies, Industrial best practices, and real-world applications of the subjects they study in school. The visit was organized under the overall supervision and guidance of the Principal, who actively interacted with the visiting students and staff members. The coordination for the visit was led by Er. Pawan Kumar, Head of the Electronics and Communication Engineering Department, and Er. Aabid Hussain from the Electrical Engineering Department.

EDITORIAL

Rising Fire Mishaps in Kashmir

The recent incidents of fire outbreaks in Srinagar's Rawalpura and J&K's Poonch are distressing reminders of a persistent threat facing the residents of Kashmir. With the onset of winter, the vulnerability to fire mishaps amplifies, endangering residential houses, shops, and livelihoods. These incidents not only result in devastating losses of property but also pose grave risks to human lives.

Despite efforts to mitigate the risks, the frequency of fire incidents remains alarmingly high. Factors such as inadequate fire safety measures, outdated infrastructure, and the prevalent use of traditional heating methods exacerbate the situation. The severity of the Kashmiri winters demands urgent attention to prevent further tragedies.

Firstly, there is an urgent need for improved fire safety regulations and enforcement mechanisms. Building codes must be strictly adhered to, with regular inspections conducted to identify and rectify potential hazards. Additionally, public awareness campaigns highlighting fire safety practices should be intensified to educate residents on preventive measures and emergency protocols.

Furthermore, investing in modern firefighting equipment and infrastructure is imperative. This includes the establishment of well-equipped fire stations strategically located across the region, ensuring swift response times in the event of emergencies. Adequate training for firefighters is also essential to enhance their preparedness and effectiveness in tackling fire outbreaks.

Collaborative efforts involving government agencies, local communities, and relevant stakeholders are essential to address this pressing issue comprehensively. Initiatives such as community-based fire safety committees can facilitate proactive measures at the grassroots level, fostering a culture of prevention and preparedness.

In the face of escalating fire mishaps, complacency is not an option. Immediate action must be taken to safeguard lives and property in Kashmir. By prioritizing fire safety measures and fostering a collective commitment to prevention, we can mitigate the risks and ensure a safer future for all residents.

WHAT MAKES US SHARE POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA?



Sheikh Aqib Farooq

The average internet user spends nearly three hours a day using social media. It's clear that social media is becoming increasingly crucial to sharing important information with the public -- like how to stay safe from COVID-19, for example -- and researchers want to know what makes a piece of media compelling enough for people to share it online.

A new study published in the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Generalized by University of Pennsylvania researchers Danielle Cosme and Emily Falk analyzed the behavior of more than 3,000 individuals to explore the psychology behind sharing information online.

It turns out that the answer is quite straightforward: People share information that they feel is meaningful to themselves or to the people they know.

Cosme and her team test what contributes to "value-based virality" -- essentially that information on the internet can go viral because people find it inherently valuable, either to themselves or to society.

This finding is key to crafting effective messaging for social causes, says Cosme, a research director at the Annenberg School for Communication's Communication Neuroscience Lab.

Knowing the psychological ingredients that make a person share a post on social media can help scientists share facts about climate change or public health officials dispel myths about vaccines.

Cosme's research shows that people pay more attention to information they perceive to be related to themselves.

Similarly, humans are social beings and love to connect with each other.

Sharing information activates reward centers in our brain. And when we communicate with others, we consider what the other person is thinking or wants to hear -- a quality known as social relevance.



For Cosme's study, participants were exposed to articles and social media posts about health, climate change, voting, and COVID-19. Some participants read headlines and summaries of news articles, others looked at social media posts.

All of the participants rated how likely they were to share each message and how relevant they found each one to themselves and to people they know.

The researchers found that no matter the topic covered or the medium of the message, people were most likely to say they'd share messages that they perceived as self- or socially relevant.

Further, they found that when participants were asked to explicitly write out why a message was relevant to themselves or people they know, they were even more likely to share it than when they just reflected on the topic.

"Sharing information is a critical component of individual and collective action," Cosme says.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, we needed to quickly spread accurate information about what was going on, how to protect ourselves, how to protect each other. Information spreading within social networks can be really impactful for changing our individual behavior, and also changing our col-

lective behavior through shifting our perceptions of what's normative."

With data on tens of thousands of messages, Cosme and her colleagues at the Communication Neuroscience Lab believe this finding can help shape effective public messaging on social media.

"We're interested in understanding how we can translate psychological theory into real-world interventions to try to promote behavior change," Cosme says.

One way to improve content sharing is to recruit people who find the content self- or socially relevant to share messages online.

Another is to frame messages to be seen as more self- or socially relevant by audiences without tailoring the messages themselves.

"We developed message frames that could be paired with existing news and social media posts," says Falk, the study's senior author.

"This means that the same prompts that worked in this study could be tested easily in other contexts as well."

The Communication Neuroscience Lab is continuing this research by looking at brain activity in relation to social media sharing.

For these studies, the researchers are using fMRI scanners to understand

how specific regions of the brain shape perceptions of self and social relevance.

Overall, the team hopes that the results of the study will give those wanting to create social change the tools to do so effectively.

"Big issues require collective action," Cosme says. And spreading accurate information empowers individuals to join together and act.

"This study highlights key psychological ingredients that motivate people to share information about topics that impact our well-being," Falk says. "Sharing is one key lever for shifting cultural norms and motivating larger scale action, so it's really important to understand what makes it happen."

About the Author-
Sheikh Aqib Farooq, a distinguished figure in the realms of skill development, civil service training, and insightful commentary, has left an indelible mark on various spheres of professional and intellectual pursuits. His commitment to empowering individuals with the necessary tools for personal and professional growth has contributed significantly to the enhancement of skill sets across diverse sectors.

Threat to Bird Species

The challenge of saving birds is greater than that of animals



Vijay Garg

At present more than one million wildlife species are on the verge of extinction. At present, there are about ten thousand living species of birds, out of which one thousand four hundred eighty are about to become extinct and two hundred and twenty three are in critical condition. According to 'State of India's Birds', the number of some 'Raptors' and ducks has decreased the most. Has been seen. Similarly, the Indian sparrow and woodpecker are said to be on the verge of extinction. so will The threat of animal extinction has been looming for a long time, but with the development of science in the last century, the threat to wildlife has increased rapidly.

In today's changing circumstances, conservation of birds is becoming extremely difficult due to increasing challenges from global warming and green house gases. Various types of diseases are increasing. Wildlife protection laws were made in India in 1873 to protect wildlife from extinction or hunting, but even they did not help in saving wildlife, especially birds, from hunting. Was able to meet. When the country became independent, the Wildlife Board was established in 1952. Then it was reorganized in 1991.

After the formation of the Board, efforts to conserve wildlife intensified, yet animal trafficking and hunting could not be completely stopped. In the last century, due to smuggling, hunting and imbalance of the ecosystem, many rare birds have also disappeared from the earth forever. This includes the dodo, carolina parrot, passenger pigeon, laughing owl, Labrador duck and many other rare birds. most birds Man is responsible for its demise. For example, the world's only frog, 'Rabb's Freeze-Libbed Tree Frog-Tuffy', died in 2016. It was housed in the Atlanta Botanical Garden. But there was no frog of his

species to breed with. Now his generation is no longer on earth. There was a subspecies of zebra in Africa, named quagga. By the end of the nineteenth century, hunters hunted them so much that they became extinct forever. The Pinta Island tortoise, discovered in Ecuador in 1971, has also become extinct. the world Australia's last thylacine, named Benjamin, also known as the Tasmanian Tyder, also died out in 1936. Extinct animals include special species of birds.

Most species have become extinct in the countries of Africa and South Asia. There was a time in India when twelve hundred species of birds were found, but now more than fifty of these species have become extinct. According to a study, hundreds of bird species have disappeared from the earth in the last fifty years and many are on the verge of extinction. vulture And bird species like woodpeckers became extinct. Are or are on the verge of extinction. Temporary development related policies and increasing insensitivity towards nature are being said to be the reason for this.

Even today, many bird habitats of India are in danger. Due to this, the risk of extinction of birds has

increased. The latest study by 'Bombay Natural History Society' states that at least ten biodiversity areas of India are in danger of disappearing forever. Important bird habitats are called 'IBAs' around the world. Their conservation has also become challenging. The existence of many birds found in areas like the foothills of the Himalayas, the higher regions of the Western Himalayas, the Eastern Himalayan region, South India and the Ganga Basin region, the Indian Desert, the Thar Desert, and the Indomalayan subdivision is under threat.

There is a threat to the existence of Golden Eagle, Gaur, Godavan, Stork, Tilor, Hawk, Nicobarese Pigeon. Himachal Pradesh is a lush green state of India, where biodiversity is present. Many birds here The species resides. Their conservation is becoming increasingly challenging. Fifty-four bird species from Central Asia and Europe visit the Pong Dam every year. Due to being in the Himalayan region, the environment here always remains cold. But due to changing weather, people's inclination towards artificiality, insensitivity towards nature and secret hunting, the number of rare birds in the

park is continuously decreasing.

The state government is certainly aware of this, but the problem is people's decreasing love for birds, which is causing trouble for them. Therefore, it is very important to make the common man aware of values like non-violence instead of violence and compassion instead of cruelty. Similarly, for the conservation of birds, the Central Zoo Authority was established at the central level in 1992 under the Wildlife Act 1972. Its purpose is to see the functioning of zoos. It is an organization with twelve members. Almost similar conservation boards are in place at the state level too, but questions are raised from time to time about their effectiveness. Are. For the conservation of rare species, a global body for international trade in rare species of wildlife has also been created, whose task is to stop the illegal international trade of endangered species.

India is also its member. India has taken major steps in this regard to stop the trafficking of many animals, but they have been inadequate, because the declining numbers of birds and other wildlife and the conservation of endangered bird species have not been

completed. In such a situation the question arises that How can the declining number of birds be stopped? Do conservation projects need to be further improved or should other measures be taken? This includes increasing the designated area of national level wild sanctuaries and parks and provision of more expenditure in the budget for the conservation of birds, illegal hunting, further improving the security area, paying more attention to the conservation of rare birds, making the environment safe for birds.

Adaptation, removal of residential settlements around bird parks in the blind race of development Or steps can be taken to increase people's love for birds, from relocating parks to other places, making bird habitat suitable by eliminating water, food and other environmental problems, and making appropriate laws to give harsh punishment to poachers. Needed The challenge of saving birds is greater than that of animals. The reason for this is that they do not have a place to stay.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist MALOUT punjab

A Man of God-I

He was the only leader in India who was offered thrice the honour of the presidency of the Indian National Congress and which he declined every time

MANAS DAS

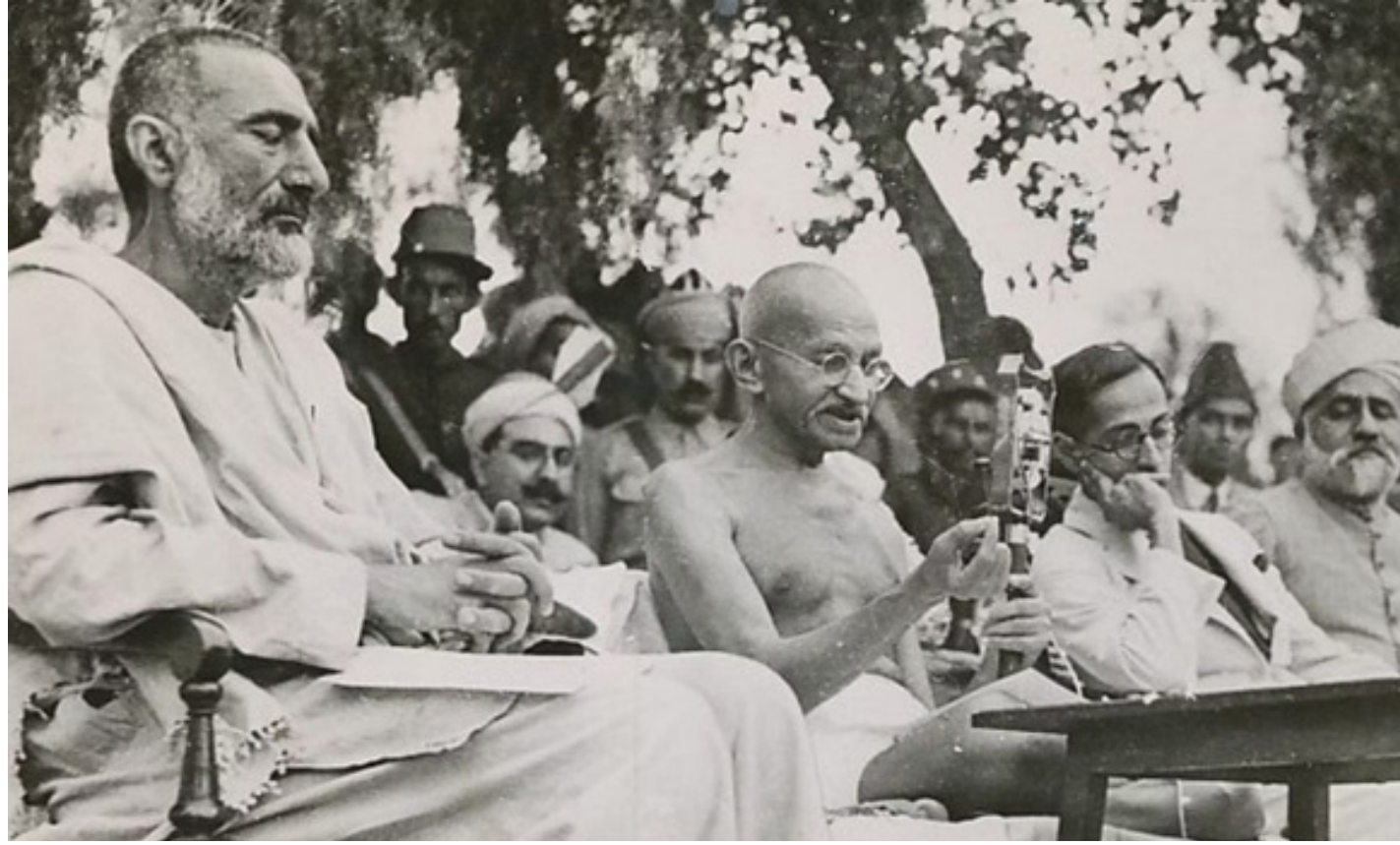
He was the only leader in India who was offered thrice the honour of the presidency of the Indian National Congress and which he declined every time. He is probably the most overlooked Muslim leader of non-violence in the world.

He belonged to one of the most intractable races on earth oozing sagas and memories of violence and bloodshed, yet he was a great apostle of peace and non-violence. During the freedom struggle, the organisation he formed lost a greater number of workers than most other parties fighting for independence. He fought for the freedom of his land; but when freedom came, it came with partition and he had to be away from Bapu, away from India and her people. He is Abdul Ghaffar Khan or Badshah Khan, whose death anniversary falls this month. His life and activities contain ingredients myths are made of.

In one sense, he is like Tagore's Kabuliwala. Under compelling circumstances, both left the land of their prime-time activities with a heavy heart. Tagore's Kabuliwala left India to go home to his loved ones, but Khan left this country for a life of disillusionment, sadness and extreme hardship, always under the gaze of suspicion of his own countrymen.

A seeker of peace, brotherhood and justice, Ghaffar Khan got the strength and inspiration for his struggle from his spirituality. His life stood as an example of how the might of determination could be stronger than that of the gun even in a society that was a serious victim of diverse forms of internecine violence. Compared by many to the mighty mountains of his rugged homeland, this giant of a man stood steadfast not for a specific political group, but for universal values of love and humanity.

In fact, as one of the greatest humanitarians of the 20th century, Frontier Gandhi epitomised the non-violent soldier who fought persuasively for human dignity. Nehru paid his tribute to this man in the following words: "When the history of



the subcontinent is being written, perhaps only a very few of those who occupy public attention will find a mention in it.

But among those very few there will be the outstanding and commanding figure of Badshah Khan. Straight and simple, faithful and true, with a finely chiselled face that compels attention, and a character built up in the fire of long suffering and painful ordeal, full of hardness of the man of faith believing in his mission and yet soft with the gentleness of the one who loves his kind exceedingly." Hailing from a well-to-do land-owner's family in Peshawar, Ghaffar Khan (1890-1988) first understood the importance of education in the service to the community under the influence of Rev.

Wigram in Edwards Memorial Mission

High School. His joined the Guides, an elite corps of Pashtun soldiers under the British Raj, but witnessing an incident where a family friend, also an army officer, was being insulted by a British officer, he opted out of the military out of anguish and disgust. The Pashtun society at that time was deeply wounded by colonial oppression, devastating violence and blood feuds.

Moreover, the situation was aggravated by the repression of the mullahs who told the people that if their children went to school, they would go to hell. The circumstances stirred up a determination in Badshah's mind to overthrow the foreign rulers although he felt that the then Pashtun society, largely uneducated and violence-prone, could not achieve this

mission. Education, he felt, would be the first step towards reform and empowerment.

Khan launched his first school in Uthmanzai and soon he was initiated into the circle of progressive minded people. But the regressive authorities, fearing the influence of these people, started repressive measures and shut down the school. In the meantime, Khan got married and was blessed with two sons. But his wife's death drew him into the arena of politics and he began his active political career by protesting the notorious Rowlatt Act in 1919 which was introduced to curb the so-called seditious activities in the country.

At Uthmanzai, Khan held a protest meeting which was attended by 50,000 people. But the provincial authorities arrested Khan immediately followed by

a fine of Rs 30,000 upon the villagers of Uthmanzai. Khan left India for Afghanistan for a short time during the Khilafat movement as Muslims were told that they were not safe in British India.

But Khan soon returned to India to restart his social and educational activities in his hometown. With the support of likeminded Pashtuns, he embarked on preventing or at least reducing crimes in society as well as the pervasive use of intoxicants among his native people. Initiatives were taken to create awareness regarding modern education and promote Pashto language and literature in addition to inculcating true Islamic principles among the Pashtuns.

Under Khan's inspiration a host of schools came up offering subjects like English, Mathematics and History side by side with a number of vocational skills like carpentry, weaving and tailoring. Education was free and the schools were open to all people irrespective of their religion. Badshah Khan toured his homeland extensively, connecting with people and sowing the seeds of nationalism amongst them.

When the Provincial Khilafat Committee was reconstituted, Khan was made its President. He also founded the Anjuman-i-Islam-ul-Afghanistan (Society for the Reform of Afghans). The rulers were prompt to jump into action sending Khan behind bars where he would be locked up day and night with his food shoved in through a barred opening in the door. The food was so bad that even dogs and cats around the prison refused to touch it.

Moreover, Khan had to grind twenty seers of corn every day on a grindstone. He bore all the hardships stoically. Khan's political publication 'Pakhtoon' inspired the then King Amanullah Khan to come out with another publication 'Jagh Pakhtoon'.

The writer, a PhD from Calcutta University, teaches English at the Government-sponsored Sailendra Sircar Vidyalyaya, Shyambazar, Kolkata

Why are so many young Chinese depressed?

In 2018, around 35 per cent of Chinese adults reported being depressed on average. The rate was 50 per cent higher in rural areas and among women.

NANCY QIAN

China's high youth unemployment rate and increasingly disillusioned young people - many of whom are "giving up" on work - have attracted much attention from global media outlets and Chinese policymakers. The standard narrative is to associate the problem with the country's recent growth slowdown. In fact, the issue goes much deeper.

The rise of youth depression has been decades in the making, and owes much to China's rigid education system, past fertility restrictions, and tight migration restrictions. Chinese youth are burned out from spending their childhood and adolescence engaged in ceaseless, intense study. Attending a good university is seen as necessary for securing a good job; and for rural children, a university degree is the only path to legal residence in cities under the hukou registration system. In a city, average household annual disposable income is \$6,446, which enables a middle-class lifestyle. By contrast, in rural areas, an income averaging only \$2,533 means living in relative poverty.

As if the pressure to get into a university wasn't bad enough, the rigid structure of the school system makes matters worse. After nine years of compulsory schooling, children must pass an exam to enter an academic high school, and only 50% of them are allowed to pass. Teenagers who don't make the cut attend vocational high school and are destined for low-paying jobs.

Chinese children therefore begin studying in earnest very early in life. They not only go to school but also receive expensive outside tutoring and pursue extracurriculars like music or chess - which are rewarded in an opaque manner. In an attempt to alleviate some of these pressures, the government banned for-profit tutoring and barred public-school teachers from offering such services on the side. But this only added more pressure, because the price of tutors increased as their supply declined.

Wealthy households in Shanghai and Beijing now pay \$120 to \$400 per hour for in-person tutoring, while the children of the non-wealthy must study even harder to make up for the tutoring that their parents can no longer afford. In the 1980s and 1990s, Chinese village and city streets were full of children. Today, one rarely sees any unless it is a holiday. Even on weekend afternoons, playgrounds are empty. The kids are all inside studying.

Another cause of youth depression is loneliness. Owing to the one-child policy, which lasted from 1979 to 2016, children in urban areas lack siblings. And unlike the first generation of single children after the policy was introduced, later generations do not even have cousins with whom to play (since their parents have no siblings, either). One survey of Chinese college students finds that the typical only child is much more likely to experience anxiety and depression than her classmates with siblings. Suicide rates for children between the ages of five



and 14 have increased more than fivefold since 2010.

Parents are also under tremendous stress. In addition to taking care of their children, most middle-age urban couples also must care for four elderly parents. By contrast, in rural areas, where around 491 million Chinese live, the one-child policy was enforced less strictly, which means that adults often have siblings with whom to share the burden. But they face more stress when they have children. Many must seek higher-paid work in cities, but the hukou restrictions prevent them from bringing their offspring with them. Around 11% of Chinese today are rural-urban migrants, which translates into some 69 million

children being left behind in rural areas.

Rural parents who might have been able to remain with their children have begun to face a different problem. Following the closure of around 300,000 rural schools between 2000 and 2015, 12% of primary-school-age children, and 50% of secondary schoolers, must attend often faraway boarding schools. Many rural adults thus work long hours to educate children with whom they must part after the first few years of life. Ironically, their chances of being reunited are even lower if their child ultimately succeeds, because most university graduates settle permanently in cities.

In 2018, 35 per cent of Chinese adults reported being depressed on average. The rate was 50 per cent higher in rural areas and among women. For obvious reasons, widespread depression is dangerous for any society, auguring future economic stagnation, low fertility, and other problems reminiscent of Japan starting in the 1990s.

The good news for China is that straightforward policy solutions are available. The first is to get rid of rigid, centrally planned schooling. Local governments ought to be able to decide how many schools to build and how many students to take, and each high school and university should decide who it wants to admit, including late

bloomers who may have not been good test takers as kids. The government can still regulate schools, but it should delegate and decentralize most of the decision-making to increase the system's flexibility. This alone would take a lot of pressure off young children and their parents.

A second step is to lift the rural-urban migration restrictions that are dividing families and condemning rural households to relative poverty. This solution has become especially important as aggregate growth has slowed. Rural areas cannot just wait their turn for the next run of growth. They need access to the same opportunities as urban households. Moreover, rural labor can boost productivity by filling low-skilled factory jobs. While college graduates struggle to find high-paying jobs, there are 30 million unfilled vacancies in manufacturing and assembly.

These policies are not without costs. Efforts to change the school system would trigger resistance from current stakeholders, and allowing free migration would increase urban congestion. But such measures would also yield clear benefits by boosting economic growth and improving the mental health of China's young people and their parents. - Project Syndicate

Nancy Qian, Professor of Economics at Northwestern University, is Co-Director of Northwestern University's Global Poverty Research Lab and Founding Director of China Econ Lab.

PM Modi To Kickoff BJP Poll Campaign From Congress President's Home Turf

■ HT News Network

Bengaluru: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will kickstart the BJP's Lok Sabha poll campaign in Karnataka by addressing a public meeting in Kalaburagi on March 16, the party's state general secretary V Sunil Kumar said on Wednesday.

Kalaburagi is the home district of AICC President M Mallikarjun Kharge, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from there in 2009 and 2014 but lost to BJP's Umesh Jadhav in the last general elections.

The Congress is likely to field the 81-year-old Kharge's son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani this time, according to party sources.

PM Modi will also address a public gathering in Shivamogga on March 18, Sunil Kumar told reporters at the BJP state headquarters here.

"The public meeting will be held at NV Playground on March 16 at Kalaburagi. The event in Shivamogga will take place at Allamprabhu Ground on March 18," he said.

Karnataka is the most important State for the BJP in south India as it's only here that it had held



power in the past. The BJP swept the previous Lok Sabha elections bagging 25 seats out of the total 28 in the State, while an independent backed by the party also won. The Congress and the JD(S) headed by former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, who were running a coalition government back then and fought the elections together, came a cropper winning a seat each.

But the political landscape has changed significantly since then. The Congress scored a landslide victory in the May Assembly polls, winning 135 seats in the 224-member Assembly. The BJP and JD(S)

slumped to 66 and 19 seats, respectively.

The JD(S) joined the BJP-led NDA last September and the two parties are fighting the elections together.

Sunil Kumar said BJP president J P Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with other national leaders will visit different Lok Sabha constituencies and address public gatherings in the coming weeks. Kalaburagi is the home district of AICC President M Mallikarjun Kharge, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from there in 2009 and 2014. Kalaburagi is the home district of AICC

President M Mallikarjun Kharge, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from there in 2009 and 2014 but lost to BJP's Umesh Jadhav in the last general elections.

The Congress is likely to field the 81-year-old Kharge's son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani this time, according to party sources.

PM Modi will also address a public gathering in Shivamogga on March 18, Sunil Kumar told reporters at the BJP state headquarters here.

"The public meeting will be held at NV Playground on March 16 at Kalaburagi. The event in Shivamogga will take place at Allamprabhu Ground on March 18," he said.

Karnataka is the most important State for the BJP in south India as it's only here that it had held power in the past. The BJP swept the previous Lok Sabha elections bagging 25 seats out of the total 28 in the State, while an independent backed by the party also won.

The Congress and the JD(S) headed by former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, who were running a coalition government back then and fought the elections together, came a cropper winning a seat each.

Nitin Gadkari, ML Khattar, Piyush Goyal In BJP's 2nd List For Lok Sabha Polls

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The BJP released its second list of candidates this evening for the Lok Sabha polls, after a last-minute hiccup over one seat each in Bihar. The list of 72 names includes a number of old hands including Union ministers including Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal and Anurag Singh Thakur. The fresh face is Manohar Lal Khattar, who was pulled out of the Haryana Chief Minister's post yesterday. Two other former Chief Ministers -- Trivendra Singh Rawat and Basavaraj Bommai -- have also been fielded.

Sources said there was an eleven-hour negotiation over one seat in Bihar.

Candidates have been declared for two seats in Delhi, seven seats in Gujarat, six seats in Haryana, two seats in Himachal Pradesh, 20 seats in Karnataka, 5 seats in Madhya Pradesh, 20 seats in Maharashtra, 6 seats in Telangana, 1 seat in Tripura and



2 seats in Uttarakhand. Candidates have also been announced for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

In Delhi, it has fielded two new candidates -- Harsh Malhotra from East Delhi and Yogendra Chandolia from North West Delhi. In Karnataka, the party is fielding around 10 new faces. Union minister Pralhad Joshi will fight from Dharwad while former chief minister BS Yediyurappa's son BY Raghavendra will contest from Shimoga.

In Bengaluru South, Tejasvi Surya, the BJP's youth wing chief, will seek

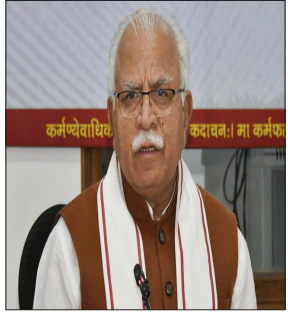
re-election. Yaduveer Krishnadatta Wadiyar of the erstwhile Mysore royal family has replaced Pratap Simha as the candidate for Mysore seat. BJP chief spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Anil Baluni has been fielded from Garhwal in Uttarakhand. Earlier this month, the BJP had announced its first list of more than 190 candidates for the Lok Sabha polls, due this summer in Delhi, it has fielded two new candidates -- Harsh Malhotra from East Delhi and Yogendra Chandolia from North West Delhi. In Karnataka, the party is fielding around 10 new faces.

ML Khattar In BJP 2nd Lok Sabha List, Day After He Quit As Chief Minister

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: A day after he resigned as Haryana chief minister, Manohar Lal Khattar today featured in the BJP's second list of 72 candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The 69-year-old will contest from Haryana's Karnal, the seat from which he resigned as an MLA earlier.

Mr Khattar, who served as the chief minister for nearly a decade, declared his resignation following the trust vote won by the incumbent government led by Nayab Saini. During an emotional address, Mr Khattar expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the Leader of the House and affirmed his commitment to continue



the purpose of cheating) and 120B (criminal conspiracy), along with provisions of the Arms Act at Mohammadabad police station of Ghazipur district in December 1990. According to the government counsel, Mukhtar Ansari joined the court proceedings via video conference from Banda Jail,

serving the people of Haryana. Among the prominent figures listed in BJP's second list are Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal, and Anurag Singh Thakur, alongside former chief ministers Mr Khattar, Trivendra Singh Rawat, and Basavaraj Bommai. The party's chief spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member, Anil Baluni, has been nominated as the candidate from Garhwal in Uttara-

khand. In Delhi, the BJP has introduced two fresh faces for the upcoming elections - Harsh Malhotra from East Delhi and Yogendra Chandolia from North West Delhi. Meanwhile, in Karnataka, Union minister Pralhad Joshi is set to contest from Dharwad, while BS Yediyurappa's son, BY Raghavendra, will represent the party in Shimoga. Tejasvi Surya will be seeking re-election from Bengaluru South.

Yaduveer Krishnadatta Wadiyar of the Mysore royal family stepped in as the BJP candidate in the Mysore seat, replacing Pratap Simha. The announcement follows the BJP's initial list of over 190 candidates earlier this month.

Chirag Paswan's LJP Agrees Seat-Share Deal With BJP, "Details Soon"

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Lok Janshakti Party have agreed a seat-share deal for the Lok Sabha election in Bihar, LJP boss Chirag Paswan said Wednesday. Details will be released at an "appropriate time", Mr Paswan said, sharing images on X of himself in talks with BJP chief JP Nadda.

Confirmation of the BJP-LJP deal comes after speculation last week the INDIA bloc had opened talks with Mr Paswan's party. Sources said the LJP had been offered eight seats. These would have included the six won in 2019 election and, as a bonus, tickets for two constituencies in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh. Sources also said the offer included a second sweetener - Mr Paswan would not have to share the seats with his estranged uncle. The BJP deal reportedly had such a clause. However, the final deal - with the BJP - could see the LJP settle for fewer seats. The saffron party must accommodate at least two



other smaller outfits, including former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), in addition to sharing seats with the ruling Janata Dal (United), which fought 17 (of the state's 40) in the last poll.

Meanwhile, after news of the INDIA bloc's offer, Chirag Paswan had declared himself a 'wanted' man by both camps - ruling and

opposition - and said he was weighing options. "Every party, every coalition wants Chirag Paswan to be on its side," he boasted.

Mr Paswan highlighted his 'Bihar first, Bihar first' platform, and also projected himself as 'sher ka beta', or 'the son of the tiger', and the true heir to the political legacy of his father - the late Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, who was widely respected across party lines.

In the 2019 election the LJP - then led by Ram Vilas Paswan - allied with the BJP and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JDU, and had a 100 per cent strike rate, winning all six seats allotted. Ram Vilas Paswan died a year later, and his death triggered a battle for control between his son, Chirag Paswan, and his brother, Pashupati Kumar Paras, which led to a split in the LJP. Mr Paswan, the MP from the Bihar's Jamui, now controls LJP (Ram Vilas) and his uncle - the junior Union Food Processing Industries Minister - heads the Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party.

Mukhtar Ansari Jailed For Life In Three-Decade-Old Fake Gun License Case

■ HT News Network

Varanasi: A special Varanasi court on Wednesday sentenced gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari to life imprisonment in a three-decade-old fake gun licence case.

The MP-MLA court of judge Awanish Gautam also slapped a fine totalling 2 lakh on Ansari under various penal provisions, district government counsel Vinay Singh said.

He said the case against Ansari was registered under IPC sections 467 (forgery), 468 (forgery for



where he is currently lodged. According to police officials, around 60 cases are pending against the gangster-turned-politician in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, New Delhi and other states. He has so far been convicted in at least seven cases.

Mr Singh said that on June 10, 1987, Mukhtar Ansari had approached the district magistrate of Ghazipur for a gun licence. He later obtained the licence by forging the signatures of the then-district magistrate and the superintendent of police.

the purpose of cheating) and 120B (criminal conspiracy), along with provisions of the Arms Act at Mohammadabad police station of Ghazipur district in December 1990.

According to the government counsel, Mukhtar Ansari joined the court proceedings via video conference from Banda Jail,

where he is currently lodged. According to police officials, around 60 cases are pending against the gangster-turned-politician in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, New Delhi and other states. He has so far been convicted in at least seven cases.

Mr Singh said that on June 10, 1987, Mukhtar Ansari had approached the district magistrate of Ghazipur for a gun licence. He later obtained the licence by forging the signatures of the then-district magistrate and the superintendent of police.

"Don't Believe In Dynasty Politics," Says Mamata Banerjee, Cutting Off Brother

■ HT News Network

Kolkata: Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has cut ties with her brother, Babun Banerjee, after he expressed displeasure over the Trinamool Congress re-nominating Prasun Banerjee (no relation) to contest the Howrah Lok Sabha seat in the forthcoming general election.



"My family and I renounce all relationship with Babun..." the fiery Ms Banerjee was quoted by news agency PTL.

"Before every election, he creates a problem. I don't like greedy people and don't believe in dynasty politics, so that I will give him a ticket in elections. I have decided to disown him and cut off all relationship with him," the irascible Trinamool boss told reporters. Hours earlier Babun Banerjee criticised the Trinamool for its selection of Prasun Banerjee.

September 17 To Be Celebrated As 'Hyderabad Liberation Day': Amit Shah

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The Centre announced that it will celebrate September 17 every year as 'Hyderabad Liberation Day'. In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said Hyderabad did not get independence for 13 months after India's independence on August 15, 1947, and was under the rule of the Nizams.

The region was liberated from Nizam's rule on September 17, 1948, after a police action namely 'Operation Polo'.

"Whereas, there has been a demand from the people of the region that 17th September may be celebrated as Hyderabad Liberation Day.

"Now in order to remember the martyrs who liberated Hyderabad and to infuse the flame of patriotism in the minds of youth, the Government of India decided to celebrate the 17th day of September every year as 'Hyderabad Liberation Day'," the notification read.

"It is a historic day as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to celebrate the 17th of September every year as Hyderabad Liberation Day in honour of the martyrs of



the Hyderabad Liberation Movement," Home Minister Amit Shah said on X.

"The decision is a befitting tribute to the freedom fighters and the martyrs who made supreme sacrifices to remain a part of Bharat by liberating the Hyderabad region from the atrocious Nizam rule," he added.

When India gained independence, the Razakars called for Hyderabad state to either join Pakistan or to become a Muslim dominion while resisting its merger with the Union of India.

The people of the region fought valiantly against the atrocities of the Razakars to merge the region into the Union of India. The Razakars, a private militia, had commit-

ted atrocities and defended the erstwhile Nizam rule in Hyderabad.

On September 17, 1948, the then Hyderabad state, which was under the rule of the Nizams, was annexed into the Union of India following military action, initiated by the then Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The Narendra Modi government has held an event on September 17 every year in the last few years to mark 'Hyderabad Liberation Day'. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had also attended the event in the past. The Narendra Modi government has held an event on September 17 every year in the last few years to mark 'Hyderabad Liberation Day'.

₹ 7 Lakh 'Fee', Haryana Resort: UP Police Crack Exam Paper Leak Case

■ HT News Network

Lucknow: The associate of a Delhi Police constable was arrested by a special task force of his Uttar Pradesh colleagues Wednesday evening, in connection with an exam paper leak case.

The UP team is trying to arrest the Delhi cop, also an accused, NDTV has been told. His associate has been identified as Mahendra Sharma, a resident of Haryana's Jind district. Last month around 1,000 aspirants were contacted by the Delhi policeman and assembled - some were moved in buses - at a resort in Haryana, where they were given the answer key and the question paper for the UP Police Constable exam held on February 17 and 18. Phones and gadgets were seized, and they were made to commit answers to memory.

NDTV has seen visuals from the 'cram session' - held two days before the exam - which shows dozens of young men and women sitting in rows on a lawn and reading from papers.

Sources said each person paid 7 lakh - to be paid after the exam - for leaked papers. The accused would retain original marksheets from previous exams as "insurance". The exam papers and answer keys were procured from two other people, identified simply as Abhishek and Ravi, the latter of whom was involved in the 2015 AIPMT paper leak case.

Today's arrest comes a month after 15 others were taken into custody for allegedly planning to leak question papers for the same exam. In that instance the accused were taking payments upto 8 lakh per aspirant. That edition of the exam was cancelled.

Over 48 lakh men and women sat for that exam, which was cancelled days later amid multiple paper leak reports. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on X (formerly Twitter), "There can be no compromise with the sanctity of examinations. Those who toy with the hard work of youngsters will not be spared under any circumstances."

Also last month, the Lok Sabha passed an 'anti-cheating' bill to check fraudulent practices such as these - the leaking of exam papers for government recruitment exams.

I&C Deptt overshoots financial targets set by DPIIT for 2023-24

NCSS registers 838 units in J&K, with 372 units receiving registrations in 2023-24; Over Rs. 160.88 cr incentives approved under scheme

HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 12: Jammu & Kashmir's industrial sector is witnessing a remarkable transformation, catalysed by the success of New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) and the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS). These initiatives, implemented by the Government of India and the UT Government, are providing impetus to investment, job creation and overall economic growth in the region.

Launched in February 2021 with a substantial outlay of Rs. 28,400 crore, NCSS offers a comprehensive package of incentives to attract businesses to Jammu & Kashmir. These incentives included capital investment subsidy, interest subvention and GST-linked benefits, making the UT a sought after destination for entrepreneurs.

The scheme has gained impressive momentum in just three years, with a total of 838 units registered under NCSS, a testament to its impact.



In FY 2023-24, a total of ten Secretary Level Committee (SLC) meetings were held, under the chairmanship of Vikramjeet Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce and facilitated by Dr. Arun Manhas, Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu, and Khalid Majeed, Director Industries & Commerce, Kashmir as its member secretaries. These meetings, till date, have approved the registration of 372 units, with 240 from Jammu division and 132 from Kashmir division. These units represent

a diverse range of sectors, including manufacturing and services, indicating the scheme's broad reach and impact.

Furthermore, the Department of Industries and commerce has approved substantial incentives during the current financial year. In FY 2023-24, Rs. 85.15 crore stands approved under Capital Investment Incentive (CI), Rs. 27.45 crore under Working Capital Interest Subvention (WCIS), and Rs.7.48 crore through Capital Interest Subvention (CIS).

It is pertinent to mention here that Goods and Services Tax Linked incentive (GSTLI) is the most important incentive under the New Central sector Scheme and in the current Financial year the approval for Rs 40.80 crore under GSTLI stands given. The disbursements are directly empowering businesses, enabling them to expand their operations and create new employment opportunities.

J&K has surpassed the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) target of Rs. 150 crore in incentive approval. This achievement is a significant milestone in the UT's industrial journey.

JKSDM conducts State Level India Skills Competitions at Institute of Technology, Kashmir University

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 13: J&K Skill Development Mission, in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), GoI and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) today kick started the state level competitions of different job roles with the active support of Skill Department J&K, in the UT of J&K.

The competitions in various skill sets are being conducted in collaboration with Academic Partners across the UT.

Among the job roles selected, State Level Competition in skills of Automobile Technology, Electronics and Electrical Installations were organized under the aegis of Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship, Institute of Technology, Zakura Campus University of Kashmir, who were academic partners to JKSDM for the competitions.

The candidates across UT of J&K participated in the state level competition, which will lead them to Pre-National competitions and National level competitions and finally the winner will participate in World Skills Competitions scheduled in Lyon, France later this year.

Such competitions should be given more awareness so that more and more youth participants involved in such initiatives get a chance to showcase their skills, said Dr. Bilal Ahmad Malik, Sr. Scientific Officer, one of the Jury Members for the competition from Kashmir University.

Er. Ubaid Qureshi, another Jury Member from Kashmir University said that such initiatives are insightful and brainstorming for the participants as it can unleash their hidden talent.

JKSDM will continue to organize such initiatives and give opportunity to youth of J&K, State Level Competitions in 18 skill sets are being conducted at various venues across the UT wherein more than 250 candidates will compete to represent J&K in Pre National and National Level Competitions, said Leena Padha, Mission Director, JKSDM.

FSD Anantnag conducts spot test for artificial colours in watermelons through MFTV

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, MARCH 13: Food Safety team Anantnag today tested more than 30 samples of watermelon on spot for artificial colours through Mobile Food Testing Van (MFTV) during intensive market inspection in view of the apprehensions surrounding on social media regarding availability of artificially ripened watermelon in markets during the holy month of Ramadan. However, during on spot analysis none of the samples showed a positive test for artificial colours.

During the drive all the Food Business Operators dealing with Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at Fruit and Vegetable Mandi Ashajipora and Batengoo Anantnag were inspected and were warned regarding any kind of malpractice in the trade. Moreover, the team procured 25 samples of fresh fruits and vegetables for detailed analysis in the Public Health Laboratory, J&K. In addition mass awareness was provided among consumers for detection of artificial colours through rapid testing at home. The Food Safety authorities of the district have cautioned that regular inspections will continue in the district to maintain the highest standards of food safety and quality, and FBOs were sternly warned to comply with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006/ Rules and Regulations there under.

Police solves burglary case within 12 hours in Baramulla; Stolen property recovered

HT News Network

Baramulla March 13: Police in Baramulla have solved a burglary case by arresting three accused persons involved in the commission of crime and recovered stolen property from their possession. Police Station Sheeri received a written complaint from one person namely Abdul Aziz Bhat @Bhat Traders son of Abdul Ahad resident of Sheeri stating therein that his salesmen namely Zubair Ahmad Mir son of Farooq Ahmad resident of Gantamulla Bala has stolen hardware/sanitary & other items worth 6 lacs from the shop. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 11/2024 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Sheeri and investigation was initiated. An investigation team comprising of SHO PS Sheeri & other officer/ officials of PS Sheeri under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Baramulla was constituted. During the course of investigation, CCTV footage was collected and analysis of CCTV footage has revealed the involvement of salesman and his other two associates in the commission of crime. They were identified as Wali Mohd Bhat son of Ali Mohd resident of Bimar Boniyar & Zubair Ahmad Lone son of Ab Rashid resident of Budmulla Sheeri. Subsequently they were arrested. Stolen property worth 5 lacs was recovered from their possession and further investigation is going on and more recoveries are expected. Community members have lauded the efforts of police for solving the burglary case. Our consistent actions shall assure community members that Police have resolved to act tough against individuals involved in any kind of criminal activities.

NIT Srinagar organises seminar on semiconductors

HT News Network

Srinagar, Mar 13: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday organized a seminar on 'Contribution of NIT Srinagar in the field of Semiconductors'. The event commemorated the momentous occasion of the foundation laying ceremony by Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi for three semiconductor facilities across the nation.

The event was organized by the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, NIT Srinagar at the Common Hall of the Institute. The proceedings of the session on semiconductors were kick-started by 9:30 AM.

The inaugural session was hosted by Prof. Najeeb-Ud-Din who spoke about



the history of Semiconductors in India and the way forward. He also highlighted the contribution of Indian scientists in various fields.

It was followed by Dr. Sheikh Amir Ahsan, a faculty member at Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering who delivered his expert talk on 'Semiconductor Era in India: Opportunities Challenges and our potential Contribution.

In his speech, Dr. Ahsan covered the background of

semiconductor industry, global landscape, industry initiatives, activities of NIT Srinagar and call for action. India's semiconductor market is currently - \$34B (2023) and it is expected to increase to \$100B in 2032.

"This industry is expected to create 300 thousand jobs by 2026. The Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering has been running successfully a PG (M Tech) programme in Microelectronics from 2015." Design tools including Synopsys.

Seven-day Winter Camp kicks off at GDC Kathua (Boys)

HT News Network

KATHUA, MARCH 13: The NSS Units of GDC Kathua today inaugurated a Seven-Day Special Winter Camp. The Camp will continue till March 19, 2024, under the patronage of Principal Prof. Seema Mir.

The initiative, a flagship endeavor of the NSS, aims to provide participants an opportunity to make meaningful contributions to society while fostering personal growth and leadership skills. The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of senior faculty members Dr. Sanjay Kurlopa, Dr. Yash Paul, Dr. Ram Singh, Prof. Shivani Kotwal, Dr. Mannohan Singh, Dr. J.S. Soodan, Prof. Charandeep Handa and Dr. Jasvinder Singh, alongside various other faculty members. Dr. J.S. Soodan, HOD



Physical Education and Dr. Ram Singh, HOD Education lauded the efforts of NSS Volunteers and Program Officers for organizing an informative camp for the local community in the adopted village. Dr. Kulbir Singh delivered the formal welcome address, followed by a vote of thanks by Dr. Pinkey. The proceedings were conducted by Vishal and Aliesha. Cultural performances by NSS volunteers highlighted the event,

followed by a cleanliness drive within the college premises, in line with the Swachh Bharat campaign. This year's camp exemplifies NSS's commitment to addressing pertinent challenges and promoting sustainable development. Volunteers will engage in various activities including Swachh Bharat missions, environmental conservation projects, women's health and hygiene awareness campaigns.

Rainfed Area Development Programme Farmers' Orientation camp on HADP held at Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MARCH 13: A one-day farmers' orientation cum training programme on Rainfed Area Development program was held today in the zonal office Kishtwar.

More than 70 farmers participated in the programme inaugurated by Chief Agriculture Officer, Amjad Hussain Malik in the presence of District Agriculture Officer, Sanjay Kumar Sharma and Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Paddar, Dheeraj Singh. In his inaugural address, the Chief Agriculture Officer highlighted



the importance of Rainfed Areas Development training programme which will enhance the capability of participating farmers in crop production and changing climatic conditions. He briefed on a range of schemes of the Agriculture Department like HADP, CSS, PM-Kisan, Soil Health Cards, Farm mechanization etc. While focusing on HADP, he exhorted

the farmers to apply through the online portal for getting benefits for different farm sector entrepreneurship schemes. "HADP is a game changer for the farming community which provides employment opportunities to the unemployed youths as well as rural women" he added.

He also asked them to register on the Daksh and

Sathi portal of HADP to get more information regarding the scheme. Later, the farmers were given a detailed briefing on the cultivation of crops suited for Rainfed Areas in the context of District Kishtwar. Subject Matter Specialist, Jatinder Singh asked the farmers to adopt and adjust the cropping pattern in the changing climatic conditions and cultivate crops which are suited to the changing environment. The farmers were further sensitized about roof top water harvesting and rain water harvesting techniques for storage of water to provide life saving irrigation to the crops.

Police recovers illicit timber in Sopore, Baramulla & Budgam

HT News Network

Sopore March 13: Police have recovered an illicit timber in Sopore, Baramulla & Budgam and arrested the accused persons involved in the commission of crime.

A Police Party of Police Station Dangiwaicha headed by SHO PS Dangiwaicha during patrolling at village Bonibal Rawoocha, intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK05D 3903 driven by Mir Ikhlas Ahmad Abasi son of Nazir Ahmad resident of Nowpora Hamal Rafiaband.

During search, officers recovered 10 logs of illicit timber from the vehicle. The accused driver has been arrested and illicit timber, vehicle have been seized.

Meanwhile in Baramulla, following a reliable information, Police recovered 8 logs of illicit timber (Deodar) from compartment No 9 Bimyar Boniyar besides arrested the accused persons identified as Mushtaq Ahmad son of Ali Mohd, Maroof Ahmad son of Amod Yaqoob Khan & Ab Rehman son of Mohd Ismail, all residents of Bimyar Boniyar.

Similarly in Budgam, following an information regarding illicit timber in Forest area of Village Hamchipora, a Police party from PS Khag rushed to the spot and seized the illicit timber comprising of 08 logs measuring 12 Cft.

'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat' CUKashmir VC leads staff in watching live speech of Hon'ble PM

HT News Network

Ganderbal, Mar 13: Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, Wednesday led the faculty, scholars and students and watched the live speech by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, addressing the 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat' programme and laying the foundation stone for three semiconductor projects worth about Rs 1.25 lakh crores via video conferencing. The Schools of Physical Sciences and Engineering jointly organised the seminar on 'India's Techade- Chips for

VIKSIT Bharat,' at Tulmulla Campus in connection with the live speech by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi. The live speech was also streamed in all the four campuses of the university and was watched by the faculty, scholars and students. The Honourable Prime Minister described the day as a historic occasion and a significant step towards a bright future for India as foundation stones were laid for three major Semiconductor manufacturing projects in Dholera and Sadanand in Gujarat and Moregaon in Assam. "Today's projects will play a key role in making India a semiconductor hub", PM



Modi said. He said more than 60,000 colleges, universities and educational institutes were connected with the event. "The youth is witnessing how India is working in a multi-pronged fashion for self-reliance

and a strong presence in the global supply chain", Hon'ble PM added. Later, in his address to the participants, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath stressed on the importance and application of semiconductor technologies, its development in the country through Atmanirbhar Bharat. "The universities should focus on such research work that is socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant," he said. He added that the young generation must think of such works that contribute to Viksit Bharat by making use of the demographic dividend of the young population.

Director Agriculture visits SMF Tapper Kreeri, Floriculture farm Nunar Ganderbal

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 13: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited seed multiplication farm (SMF) Tapper, Kreeri to take stock of the agriculture activities, developmental works there. He visited different blocks and poly houses at the farm and held discussions with concerned officers and technical experts. Speaking on the occasion, the Director expressed satisfaction over the production/productivity of dif-

ferent vegetable crops. He reiterated the department's commitment to ensure sufficient quantity of seed/seedlings of different agricultural crops is made available to the farmers of the region well in time.

He said that a special project for the promotion of vegetables in the region is being implemented under HADP.

Iqbal highlighted the importance of introducing new varieties of different agricultural crops (with more production and productivity) at the farm and helping farmers of the area to get acquainted with the benefits



of introducing such varieties. He said that departmental Farms are becoming centers of excellence in terms of different innovations in the field of agriculture.

Director also discussed some innovative ideas regarding the cultivation of different crops with the officers and technical experts of the farm. He asked the concerned officers to adopt latest technologies during the cultivation of different crops so that the same could be replicated at the farmers field in a comprehensive manner.

He also kick-started the 4th phase of vegetable seedling distribution

among the farmers.

Earlier, Farm Manager S.M. Farm Tapper gave a detailed presentation of various agriculture activities at the farm. He also informed the Director regarding the new technologies that have been adopted during the cultivation of present crops for the first time at the farm.

Later, the Director visited floriculture farm Nunar Ganderbal and took stock of the developmental works there. Later, the Director visited floriculture farm Nunar Ganderbal and took stock of the developmental works there.

ADC Handwara Leads Market Inspection to Enforce Fair Pricing and Quality Standards

DR. AB QAYOOM



Handwara, Mar, 13: In a bid to ensure fair pricing and maintain quality standards, a comprehensive market inspection was conducted in Handwara town, Kupwara district. Led by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Aziz Ahmad Rather, the inspection aimed to combat overpricing, illegal profiteering, and black marketing activities rampant in the area. Accompanied by a team of officials including Executive Officer (EO) MC Handwara, Farhana Showkat, SHO Showkat Ahmad, and food experts, ADC Rather meticulously examined various establishments. The focus was not only on ensuring compliance with government-approved rates for essential commodities but also on guaranteeing their quality and availability. The inspection team emphasized the significance of prominently displaying rate lists and maintaining the freshness of consumables. Furthermore, stringent measures were taken to address encroachments on footpaths and pavements, ensuring unimpeded pedestrian access. Speaking to the media, ADC Rather reiterated the administration's commitment to fair trade practices and consumer welfare. He emphasized the importance of eliminating malpractices that exploit consumers and undermine the integrity of the market. The market inspection in Handwara serves as a reminder of the administration's resolve to uphold transparency and accountability in commerce. By actively addressing issues of overpricing and ensuring quality standards, the authorities are working towards fostering a fair and equitable trading environment for all stakeholder. As consumers, it is crucial to remain vigilant and report any instances of unfair pricing or substandard goods. By working together with the administration, we can create a marketplace where everyone abides by the rules, ensuring a fair deal for all. In conclusion, the market inspection in Handwara underscores the administration's proactive stance in promoting fair trade practices and safeguarding consumer interests. It is a testament to their dedication to creating a marketplace where honesty, integrity, and fairness prevail. Let us continue to support such initiatives and contribute to building a thriving economy founded on principles of fairness and accountability.

Block Diwas: Public Outreach programme held at 3 blocks of Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MARCH 06: In order to take first hand appraisal of public grievances and demands, public outreach programmes as part of weekly Block Diwas were today held at three blocks of the district viz. Devsar, D. H. Pora and Kulgam.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Kulgam, Muhtaq Ahmad presided over a grievance redressal camp at Kulgam block where he listened to grievances and issues of people.

Other officers from District Administration were also present during this Block Diwas.

Visiting delegations from various areas apprised ACR about their issues and put forth their demands.

Officers on the spot responded to the queries and demands of people pertaining to their departments.

ACR after giving patient hearing to the public addressed some of the



immediate nature of grievances on the spot and assured that the rest of the genuine issues and grievances will be addressed in a time bound manner.

Similarly, concerned officers listened to the people at Devsar and D.H. Pora blocks, and assured of redressing public issues and grievances.

Public Speaking Competition hosted by 52nd CRPF Battalion concludes at Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MARCH 13: The Public Speaking Competition organized by the 52nd Battalion CRPF Kishtwar culminated today in the Government Degree College Auditorium.

The event graced by Parma Shivan, Commandant-52 Bn CRPF as the Chief Guest and Sunil Parihar from Ashiana as the Special Guest, witnessed enthusiastic participation from 34 students representing various schools and institutions of Kishtwar.

A distinguished panel of jury members, comprising Gaurav Kumar, Assistant Commandant, CRPF, Inspector Vipin Jha, CRPF, Lokesh Sharma, Civilian,



Inspector B.C. Pathak, CRPF evaluated the participants based on the criteria viz Content (10 marks), Language (10 marks), Style (10 marks), Overall Presentation (20 marks)

Each jury member has to award 50 marks to the contestants. The competition offered a range of prizes, including Consola-

tion Prizes of Rs. 500 each awarded to Atika Kousar - Dreamland Academy, Keshwan, Adil Ahmed - Dreamland Academy, Keshwan, Shivan Koul - K.V. Adiba Ara - Islamiya Faridiya, Pearl Bhandari - Divine Light Academy, Vanshika Thakur - Daffodil Public School, Saad Ahmed - Kidzee International School

and Kajal Rani from Nagni Village.

Among the winners, the 3rd Place went to Tavish Mahajan from Kidzee International School, who received a trophy along with Rs. 2000.

The 2nd Place was clinched by Anam Kalam from AL-Hilal Education Academy. She was awarded a trophy and Rs. 3000 cash prize.

Divyanshi Sharma, a 6th-grade student from Kishtwar Valley Public School Hidayal secured the 1st position, receiving a trophy along with Rs. 5000.

The event drew an audience of approximately 250 individuals, showcasing the vibrant spirit of public speaking in the community.

Ministry of MSME's PM iVshwakarma Awareness programs successfully held across 5 Districts

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MARCH 13: In a concerted effort to promote and facilitate the growth of artisans, the Ministry of MSME, through its dedicated Br MSME Development & Facilitation Office Srinagar, orchestrated a series of impactful PM Vishwakarma Programs across five districts.

Under the guidance of Br MSME DFO Srinagar, the programs were successfully conducted in Baramulla, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Bandipora and Srinagar districts, in collaboration with the respective District Administrations.

The events garnered substantial participation, with over 1200 enthusiastic stakeholders and beneficiaries joining.

The Assistant Director MSME, Saheel Alaqband emphasized the primary goal of these programs—to generate awareness about the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, ensuring its reach to the remotest locations, allowing artisans to avail themselves of its myriad benefits.

During the programs, comprehensive information about the scheme's advantages was disseminated, and handholding support through Common Service Centre (CSC) centers was ensured.

Alaqband highlighted that the PM Vishwakarma Scheme provides artisans with recognition through certificates and identity cards, accompanied by training, toolkit incentive, credit support, digital and marketing support.

Awareness programme on Drug Abuse held at Amar Singh College

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, MARCH 13: Amar Singh College Srinagar and Crime Branch J&K/Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), jointly organized an awareness programme on drug abuse, showcasing a collective effort towards combating the menace of drug abuse in the Kashmir Valley.

The programme was attended by a wide range of audience including students and faculty members.

SSP ANTF J&K, Raj Kumar presented the presidential speech. He accentuated that fighting drug abuse is not just a duty; it is a shared responsibility that demands our collective commitment. By raising awareness and fostering collaboration, we pave the way for a resilient, drug-free Kashmir Valley.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Prof. Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Vice Principal Amar Singh College. He stressed that youth are the largest force of our nation and they must be directed positively for their happy and healthy living. He further elaborated that in educating our youth about the perils of drug abuse, we empower them to make choices that shape a future of strength and resilience. Knowledge is our most potent weapon against the shadows of addiction.

Dr. Muzafar Khan, in charge of the Drug De Addiction Center, delivered an in-depth PowerPoint presentation about the menace of drug abuse. He pointed out that breaking free from the chains of addiction requires not just treatment but understanding and support.

He stressed the need for collective effort against evil and impressed that together, we can heal the wounds of drug abuse and build a community that thrives on compassion and recovery.

Dr. Atia Faheem Khan from IMHANS; Nisar Bakshi, DSP ANTF, and CEO of KRSF also presented their views on achieving a drug-free society. They contended that knowledge can be the guiding light that illuminates the path towards a healthier, happier society.

Lok Sabha Election 2024: DC Ganderbal chairs meeting of Nodal Officers

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, MARCH 13: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir who is also District Election Officer (DEO) today convened a meeting of Nodal Officers responsible for overseeing the forthcoming Lok Sabha General Elections 2024, at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat, here. The meeting focused on ensuring the readiness and efficiency of all officers involved in the electoral process.

The DC addressed critical aspects of the upcoming elections and instructed the Nodal Officers to remain well-equipped for their roles and responsibilities.

Discussions encompassed various operational, logistical and administrative matters pertinent to the smooth conduct of the electoral process. Nodal Officers were given a comprehensive briefing



regarding their roles and responsibilities in overseeing the electoral process within their respective jurisdictions. Emphasis was laid on enhancing operational efficiency and coordination among different

stakeholders involved in the electoral process, including law enforcement agencies, administrative authorities and electoral staff. Nodal Officers were reminded of the importance of strict adherence to

electoral laws, regulations and ethical standards to uphold the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

Strategies for conducting voter awareness campaigns and initiatives to encourage maximum voter participation were discussed to ensure inclusive and democratic elections. The DC reiterated the significance of the Nodal Officers' roles in upholding the democratic values and principles of free and fair elections. He underscored the importance of their proactive engagement and commitment to ensuring a transparent, impartial, and efficient electoral process.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad and all the Nodal Officers appointed for various election assignments in the district.

Will take people into confidence before approving railway line: DM Shopian

Locals express concern over impact on livelihoods, land ownership

HT News Network

Shopian, Mar 13: District Magistrate of Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb on Wednesday assured that the people's voices will be heard and considered before any final decision is made regarding the proposed railway line in the district.

Speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the DM, who is also the Deputy Commissioner Shopian, said railway authorities had taken the marking process of the railway line in the Zainapora area of the district where some locals have objected to it. He said people have various apprehensions and misconceptions in this regard which are being looked into.

"Before granting approval for the railway line, the administration will engage with local residents to ensure their concerns are taken into account," Haseeb said, adding that the revenue authorities have been instructed to prepare a detailed report in this regard.

The government's recent green signal for the final survey of five rail lines in Kashmir, including the Awantipora-Shopian route via Kulgam, has sparked protests among residents



of Reshipora and Pahnoo areas in south Kashmir's Shopian district. The locals fear that the construction of the railway line will lead to the displacement of hundreds of families, depriving them of their land and livelihoods.

The residents said many families rely on their orchards for livelihood, and the proposed railway project threatens their way of life. They urged authorities to either relocate the railway line or reconsider its construction, fearing the

project will leave hundreds of families landless.

The locals appealed to higher authorities to address their grievances and ensure a fair resolution to the ongoing dispute over the proposed railway line. Speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the DM, who is also the Deputy Commissioner Shopian, said railway authorities had taken the marking process of the railway line in the Zainapora area of the district where some locals have objected to it. He said people have various apprehensions and misconceptions in this regard which are being looked into.

"Before granting approval for the railway line, the administration will engage with local residents to ensure their concerns are taken into account," Haseeb said, adding that the revenue authorities have been instructed to prepare a detailed report in this regard.

The government's recent green signal for the final survey of five rail lines in Kashmir, including the Awantipora-Shopian route via Kulgam, has sparked protests among residents of Reshipora and Pahnoo areas in south Kashmir's Shopian district. The locals fear that the construction of the railway line will lead to the displacement of hundreds of families.

Kandi Nutnussa Village Celebrates Approval of 3.5km Road Upgradation: A Milestone in Local Infrastructure Development

DR. AB QAYOOM



Handawara, Mar 13: The collective aspiration of the residents of Kandi Nutnussa village has been realized with the approval for the upgradation and macadamization of the 3.5 kilometers road, marking a significant milestone in local infrastructure development. The announcement came during a momentous inaugural ceremony overseen by Exn R&B Division Handwara, Mr. Farooq Ah Shah, alongside other esteemed officials of the department. Amidst the celebratory atmosphere, DDC Kandi, Adv. Zahoor, graced the event as the chief guest, symbolizing the community's unity and determination in advocating for this vital project. His steadfast advocacy and support for the road's approval were warmly acknowl-

edged by the residents, who expressed profound gratitude for his unwavering commitment to their welfare. The proactive approach and dedication of R&B Division Handwara officials were also lauded by the villagers, who recognized their efforts and regard in facilitating the approval process for the much-needed road upgrade. In his address, Exn R&B Division Handwara, Mr. Farooq Ahmad, reiterated his paramount commitment to serving the broader interests of the sub-district, particularly the Kandi belt. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between the community and the construction agency tasked with executing the project, urging mutual cooperation for the seamless progress of the work ahead. Farooq Ahmad commended Khan Constructions for their exemplary track record and assured the public of the division's unwavering dedication to ensuring quality and timely completion of the project. He underscored the division's ongoing efforts towards enhancing public infrastructure for the collective betterment of the community.

L3 Training: Participants learn through practical demonstrations on Day 3

HT News Network



SAMBA, MARCH 13: The ongoing L3 Training Programme witnessed significant practical demonstrations and engaging sessions on the third day today. The training is aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills of the participants. At the newly completed Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Rampura, the trainees were shown the newly installed tube with a submersible motor, operated by electric power. This system efficiently pumps 75,000-gallon water to the overhead tank, benefiting the households of Rampura village. In the afternoon, under the chairmanship of ADCC Samba, Rajinder Singh, a virtual Pani Samiti meeting was held in the Conference Hall Samba. Attendees actively participated in discussions and received valuable insights into the workings of the Pani Samiti. The day events showcased the dedication and enthusiasm of all participants towards learning and improving community water management practices.

Supreme Court To Hear Case Over Appointment Of Election Commissioners On Friday

HT News Network

New Delhi: The Supreme Court today agreed to hear on March 15 a plea of an NGO challenging the exclusion of the Chief Justice of India from a panel meant for selecting the CEC and election commissioners on the grounds that the poll panel should be insulated from "political" and "executive interference" to maintain a healthy democracy.

A bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna took note of the submissions of lawyer Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO, Association for Democratic Reforms, seeking urgent listing of the plea and said it will be listed on Friday.



"I just got the message from the CJ that it will be listed on Friday," Justice Khanna said.

The NGO challenges the validity and seeks a stay on the operation of Section 7 of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023 which excludes the CJ from the panel meant to select the CEC and ECs.

Under the new law, the selection panel includes the prime minister as the chairperson and the leader of opposition and a union minister nominated by the PM are the two members of it. The NGO has moved the top court after Election Commissioner Arun Goel put in his papers recently. "Direct the Union of India to appoint the vacant posi-

tions of Election Commissioners till the pendency of the writ petition, in accordance with the Selection Committee laid down by this Hon'ble Court in Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India (Supra) in 2023.

"Democracy is a facet of the basic structure of the Constitution and in order to ensure free and fair elections and to maintain healthy democracy in our country, the Election Commission should be insulated from political and/or executive interference," the plea, filed in the disposed of PIL, said. A five-judge Constitution bench, on March 2, 2023, had ruled that the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and ECs will be done by the President.

Food Deptt starts sampling amid concerns over early-ripened fruits

HT News Network



Srinagar, Mar 13 (KNO): Food and Drugs Department J&K has started sampling of fresh fruits, vegetables and other food items following social media reports about early-ripened fruits, particularly watermelons, in markets.

Commissioner of Food Safety & Controller, Drugs & Food Control Organisation, Hashmat Ali Yatoo, speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said social media is an "uncontrolled" platform where people post whatever they like. "We have a role in ensuring food safety, whether these are packed goods, milk, meat, chicken, fruits or vegetables. We collect samples for analysis and only make statements after conducting tests in labs. We are collecting samples from every district of the Union territory," he said. The Commissioner added, "Our staff has been working on this for the past few days, and we have collected samples. Mobile testing labs are also operational. We will only provide information after the results of the samples are available."

ACD initiates action against absentees

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MARCH 13: Assistant Commissioner Development, Phulail Singh Bandral has taken decisive action by issuing show cause notices to 11 Rural Development Department (RDD) employees of Block Bonjwah.

The notices have been served to 11 absentee employees, comprising 5 Gram Rozgar Sewaks (GRSs), 2 Management Information System (MIS) operators, 1 Community Information and Coordination Officer (CICO), and 3 National Youth Corps (NYCs) personnel. Ten of these employees are subject to potential termination, while one contractual staff member has been warned of suspension.

ACD emphasized the administration's zero-tolerance policy towards habitual absenteeism, affirming that appropriate disciplinary measures, including termination, will be enforced in accordance with established regulations. He underscored the prior issuance of a circular, directing all RDD employees in the district to obtain prior permission before leaving their designated stations.

Machinery involved in illegal mining seized in Reasi District

HT News Network

REASI, MARCH 11: To combat illegal mining activities, the District Mining Department Reasi, in collaboration with the police department, conducted a day-long drive under the guidance of District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan. The operation resulted in the seizure of three heavy excavators and two dumpers found to be engaged in unauthorized extraction and transportation of Minor Minerals in Chinkah, Arnas, and Talwara areas of the District. During the drive, two heavy excavators were confiscated in Chinkah and Arnas areas, where they were operating in block numbers 11 and 14, situated in the Chinkah area of Thakrakote tehsil. Additionally, one excavator and two dumpers were seized in the Talwara area, where they were work-

New Haryana Chief Minister Clears Floor Test Day After BJP-JJP Alliance Ends

HT News Network

New Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini cleared a floor test aimed at proving that BJP had majority status in the assembly even after breaking ties with Dushyant Chautala's JJP.

"I come from a humble family background, no one is in politics in my family. I am just a party worker of

the BJP and today I have been given such a big opportunity. I must say that this can be possible only in a party like the BJP," Mr Saini said in the State Assembly.

"I have learnt everything from scratch from former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. I have learnt even the minutest things from him and how to maintain them," he added.



Haryana witnessed a swift change of government over the past 48 hours, with senior BJP

leader Manohar Lal Khattar and the entire cabinet, which included three from the JJP, quitting Tuesday.

The proximate cause of the break-up of Mr Khattar's government was the failure of the BJP-JJP alliance, which was formed after the 2019 Assembly election, in which the former emerged as the single-largest party but fell six seats short of an outright

majority. Mr Saini was chosen as the new chief minister after the surprise resignation.

Speaking in the assembly today, Mr Saini said, "Manohar Lal is a 'saint' and he has given a lot to Haryana, strengthened it and it was his thinking that weaker sections and poor should get benefits at their doorsteps."

Electoral participation awareness programme held at Udhampur

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MARCH 13: To sensitize and create awareness among the general public, especially new voters, the District Election Authority Udhampur, in collaboration with SVEEP Cell GDC Boys, today organised a Public Voters Awareness cum Cultural Programme here under SVEEP.

The event, supervised by District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai and Deputy District Election Officer, Dr. Anirudh Rai, took place at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park, Gole Market.

District Panchayat Officer, Dr. Preeti Sharma, Chief Education Officer Geetu Bangotra, Election Icons and other officers, along with a large number of youth and general public

participated in the programme. Addressing the participants, District Panchayat Officer Dr. Preeti Sharma, who is also the Nodal Officer SVEEP, highlighted the aim and objectives of SVEEP, emphasizing the importance of voter participation. She appealed to the participants to turn up in greater numbers for the electoral process, stressing the significance of youth involvement in strengthening democracy. Encouraging the enrollment and registration of all eligible voters in the district, she urged participants to generate awareness among their communities, emphasizing that the future of the nation depends on youth participation in voting. The programme featured various activities including dance, cultural performances by local artists, and poetry speeches, aimed at motivating people to participate in the electoral process.

GDC Kathua hosts live streaming of India Semiconductor Mission and India Techade Program

HT News Network

KATHUA, MARCH 13: Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua, under the patronage of the College Principal Prof. Seema Mir, hosted a special program to provide a platform to the teachers, students, and volunteers to witness the live streaming of the India Semiconductor Mission and India Techade program. The event took place in the smart classroom of the Arts Block. The India Semiconductor Mission aims to establish an end-to-end semiconductor ecosystem, propelling the nation to become a significant player in the global semiconductor

industry. NSS volunteers, students, and both teaching and non-teaching staff of the College had the opportunity to witness this groundbreaking program live in the smart classroom. The program, graced by the presence of senior faculty members including Prof. Sanjay Karulupia, Prof. R.K. Pandit, Prof. Shiwani Kotwal, Dr. Yashpaul Sharma, Dr. Ram Singh, Dr. Rupinder Kour, Dr. Kulbir Singh, Dr. Arvind Kumar, Dr. Pinki, Dr. Jogbinder Singh, Prof. Manmohan Singh, Dr. Heena, Dr. Divya, and Miss Monika. The proceedings were expertly coordinated by Dr. Gotam Singh, Assistant Professor in the Department.



ASHWIN ON RAJKOT ORDEAL: 'I JUST BLANKED OUT ... I WAS CRYING'

NEW DELHI: An emotional R Ashwin has expressed his immense gratitude towards India's "outstanding" captain Rohit Sharma for his leadership and "heart of gold" during last month's Rajkot Test against England.

Ashwin, who took his 500th wicket and played his 100th Test during the series against England, had to temporarily withdraw from the third Test in Rajkot because of a health emergency concerning his mother. He left his team-mates after play on the second day and rejoined them late on the fourth day.

"It all kicked off on the second day, though it's a bit blurry now," Ashwin said

on his Youtube channel. "I was on 499 wickets I think, and was hoping to reach the milestone in the second Test in Vizag, but it wasn't to be. But on day two in Rajkot, I finally got Zak Crawley. It wasn't a particularly great ball, but I finally got to the landmark."

"After the end of play, I had agreed to do some interviews and went to the press area. I'd just got my 500th wicket, so was expecting a call from my wife or father. I was a bit surprised not to hear from them, since it was almost 7 PM. But I figured they must be busy with interviews and responding to congratulatory messages, so didn't think much of it.

"After being unable to reach my parents, I finally got hold of my wife on the phone. Her voice was breaking. I told her I was just about to get into the shower, and she asked me to go somewhere alone, away from my team-mates. She said that my mother had collapsed after a severe headache."

Ashwin said he couldn't immediately process the news, particularly with the Test, and series, in the balance. England had ended the second day on 207 for 2 in response to India's 445, with the series tied 1-1. "I just blanked out. I don't remember what I did, but I was crying," Ashwin said. "I didn't know what to ask her. I

didn't want anyone to see me cry - it was an instinctive reaction. I just sat alone in my room, not knowing what to do.

"On one hand, I knew I had to go back home, but there was also the thinking of how can I let my team-mates down. I couldn't strike that balance. I didn't know what to tell the coach or captain. I was in the XI, and if I go home now, we'd be left with only 10 players, giving England the advantage.

"But I was also just thinking about my mother. And when was the last time I spoke to her. In my mind, I knew I had to go back home and see her, but the doctors were informing us that nobody was

allowed in to meet her."

It was at this point of time, Ashwin said, that Rohit and head coach Rahul Dravid came into the dressing room, and made his decision a straightforward one.

"I think since I wasn't answering my phone, my wife must have called Rohit and Dravid to tell them the news. Rohit came in, saw me thinking, and just said, 'what are you doing? You need to leave right away. Please just pack your bags and go'. The next challenge was finding a quick way back home, but with no flights to Chennai scheduled till the next morning, Ashwin got help from an unexpected source.

Ellyse Perry: 'We're lucky to play in front of such big and fanatical crowds'

CHRISTCHURCH: Ellyse Perry is not one to go overboard with celebrations and indulgences. She boasts of an enviable CV across sports - having played World Cups in football as well as cricket for Australia - and has seen the highest of highs and the lowest of lows the sport has to offer. But after her T20 best figures of 6 for 15 against Mumbai Indians in Delhi, the Royal Challengers Bangalore allrounder let her hair down a bit.

"Last night I had a chocolate brownie with the girls and some ice cream," Perry laughed in a media interaction on Wednesday. "I then went to my room, put my red light glasses and read a few chapters of a book and fell asleep."

But she was quick to put the performance in perspective - she had bowled only six overs in WPL 2024 before Tuesday and was wicketless. She started with a two-run over before picking up two wickets each in the last three overs to become only the second Australian after Rhiannon Dick to return six wickets in women's T20s.

"It's easy to get really carried away when things go well," Perry said. "But I feel like a lot of time you don't have that much control over things panning well or not. You certainly work hard to put yourself in pretty good positions but there's so many other factors that go into any game, and the outcome."

"Especially as I have got older, I don't really want to react either way - whether it's a good night or a bad night. The sun comes up the next day. Fortunately, in this competition, there is always another opportunity to play games quickly. Whether it goes well or not, we are so lucky to be in the middle with these ridiculously big crowd who are so fanatical about it."

"It's a far-cry from what it was like when I first started playing some years



ago. There wasn't really anyone coming to our games, and certainly no interest in the sport like there is now. When it does go well it doesn't feel like you have got too much control over it, other than the hard work you have put into it. It's easy to kind of just enjoy it for the moment when it lasts and life goes on quickly after that."

Given the plethora of allrounders at Australia's disposal, Perry has had a reduced bowling workload in recent times. In Australia's tour of India at the turn of the year, she did not bowl at all in the white-ball games and sent down only four overs in the one-off Test. She then sent down 16 overs in the Test and four overs each in the ODIs and T20s in the multi-format series at home against South Africa. But that does not change the way Perry trains ahead of a game.

"I have played for a long period of time now, so I have got a bit of a handle on how I need to prepare. There is always opportunity before a match to bowl overs out in the middle while warming up. I do that keeping in mind that you are available if the opportunity presents itself to bowl in a game. [I have] been playing solidly for the

last 18 months now, I don't feel like I am short on cricket or overs. Whenever there is a chance to contribute to the team, it's being ready for that."

Soon after the WPL ends, Perry will link up with Australia for their first women's tour of Bangladesh. They play three ODIs and as many T20s - all in Mirpur - in conditions where the Women's T20 World Cup will be played later this year. Has Perry made a compelling case for her national captain Alyssa Healy to utilise her more with the ball in those competitions?

"I don't think there is a case for anything," she said. "I have played a lot of cricket over a number of years. We have been pretty fortunate in the Australian team that we have a lot of options. Here we have got a lot of bowling options with RCB."

"From my perspective, what I love doing as a player and something that keeps me motivated is to keep working on things and try to get better. I spent a lot of time last couple of years working on that. I feel like there's been bits and pieces that have helped me feel confident that at times I can contribute when needed.

Increasing business profitability by reducing printing cost

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

LUBAAB Printing services means I get my job back on time, always accurate and of the highest quality



When you need a Company that can handle a complex workload, save your money and deliver on time..... leave it to

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

Also visit us for: Newspapers & News Magazines

Specialists in: Non Woven & Paper Bags

Mobile: 9999038812, 9419008414
Tel: 0194-2496287
Email: jahangirbukhari@gmail.com
Radio Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora Srinagar 190017



- Prepress
- Sheet Fed
- Bindery
- Finishing
- Promotions

Our Printing Services

- Flyers
- Posters
- Business Cards
- Envelopes
- Brochures
- Booklets
- Catalogues
- Post Cards
- Presentation folders
- Letterheads
- Magazines
- Newsletters
- Raised printing
- Wedding Cards
- Invoices
- Note pad
- Forms
- Labels
- Scratch coupon
- Signs/Banners
- Pen/Caps
- T-Shirts
- Calendars
- Embroidery
- Door Hangers