



Women Will Have Decisive Say In J&K's Lok Sabha Elections

Erstwhile State Has 42.58 Lakh Women Voters, 9.02 Lakh In Anantnag Alone

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 14: Women this time will have a decisive role to play during the forthcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir with their electorate comprising 49 percent of total vote count.

Details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), out of the total 86.93 lakh voters in Jammu and Kashmir, women make up 42.58 lakh voters. Anantnag leads in women's participation among the five parliamentary constituencies, with 9.02 lakh



women voters.

Other constituencies also exhibit considerable female voter presence, with 8.52 lakh

in Jammu, 8.44 lakh in Udhampur, 8.70 lakh in Srinagar, and 8.56 lakh in Baramulla. Over the years, the voting percentage

of women in Lok Sabha elections has shown an increasing trend, albeit with slight fluctuations.

The recent enactment of the Nari Shakti Vandan Act and the provision of 33 percent reservation for women in the Legislative Assembly have bolstered enthusiasm among women, providing them with a golden opportunity to showcase their potential in politics. Efforts are underway at the party level to further enhance women's participation in politics, recognizing their longstanding contributions.

As the announcement of Lok

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Modi Govt Changed Face Of Udhampur: Jitendra

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 15: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday said that the Modi government has changed the face of Udhampur which has emerged as one of the most developed constituencies of the country in the last 10 years.

"There are certain critics and cynics who say they cannot see any development in 10 years but at the same time shamelessly avail the utility of all the new projects set up in the last 10 years," Dr Singh said addressing a public rally in Udhampur district.

Dr Singh took a dig at the Opposition, saying that if according to them there has been no development in this constituency, they should neither send their wards to the Medical Colleges established here nor should they use the Mukerjee tunnel from Chenani to Nashri to shorten their travel time by road nor draw benefits of numerous development schemes and initiatives undertaken by the Modi government in the last decade.

The Minister said that earlier, Udhampur was known to be a "place of pedestrians" and there were Dogri folk songs written on "Udhampure diyan Takkiyan", but under the Modi government,



Udhampur has emerged as country's top three districts in PMGSY road construction even in remotest areas.

He said, "Among over 700 districts in the country, Udhampur has become one of the top three districts which has the most number of roads built under PMGSY".

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NEWS BRIEF

Jammu SIA Raids In Five Districts Across Jammu Division

JAMMU, MAR 15: The State Investigation Agency Jammu on Friday conducted searches at seven locations in five districts across Jammu division in connection with probe in a case related to deep rooted larger criminal conspiracy hatched for carrying out terrorists and subversive activities hatched by an active terror ecosystem.

Official sources said that the raids were conducted to nab terrorist sympathisers comprising of the Over Ground Workers (OGWs), supporters in connivance with active terrorists of various prescribed terrorist

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348 Stranded Passengers Airlifted Between J&K And Ladakh By IAF Aircraft

JAMMU, MAR 15: The Indian Air Force (IAF) carried 348 passengers in its aircraft between Ladakh and the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir in view of the closure of the Srinagar-Leh national highway owing to heavy snowfall, an official said.

The IAF's AN-32 aircraft, also known as Kargil Courier, was operated to airlift 171 passengers between Jammu and Kargil and 177 more between Srinagar and Kargil, officials said.

He said 152 passengers were airlifted from Jammu to Kargil and 19 from Kargil to Jammu, while 141 passengers were airlifted from

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Excavator Among 11 Vehicles Involved In Illegal Mining Seized In Kathua

KATHUA, MAR 15: An excavator and 10 other Vehicles involved in illegal mining were today seized by District Mineral Officer (DMO) Rajinder Singh Rana from different locations of the district.

The surprise raids were conducted at Lakhampur, Taraf Tajawal, Keerian Gandial, Bhagtali and Nagri areas by the team of Geology and Mining with the assistance of police officials. A total of 10 vehicles and one JCB machine were seized and

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Centre Appoints 22 Joint Secretaries In Different Depts

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, MAR 15: Twenty-two joint secretaries have been appointed in different central government departments as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle



effected on Friday by the Centre.

These officers are from Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Revenue Service (IRS) and India Postal Service (IPoS) among others.

Senior bureaucrat Deepankar Aron has been named joint

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Residents Up In Arms Against Railway Line Expansion Plans

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 15: Locals in several parts of Kashmir are up in arms against the railway line expansion plans.

While villagers in south Kashmir's Shopian district have objected to the land-marking for the railway line in the area, the residents in north Kashmir's claim that railway authorities earmarked the ground of degree



college Baramulla for the rail-road track.

The Railways Ministry has approved the final location survey of five lines, all of which fall under the Kashmir division. The lines include the Baramulla-Banihal section (135.5 kilometers), Baramulla-Uri (50 kilometers), Sopore-Kupwara (33.7 kilometers), Awantipora-Shopian (27.6 kilometers), and

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Formula-4 Car Run To Be Held In Srinagar On Sunday

This race will be major attraction for youth & instill passion for Formula-4 sport: V K Bidhuri

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 15: In a first, a roaring show of Formula-4 Car run from Lalit Ghat to Nehru Park shall be held in Srinagar on Sunday in which renowned Formula drivers will enthral spectators.

This would be a thrilling show

to witness on the boulevard road while drivers shall engage in the race and stunts over a distance of 1.7Km route from 10:00Am to 2:00Pm.

In this regard, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today chaired a meeting to ensure the arrange-



ments for the successful conduct of the event.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com stated that this first of its kind event will be a major attraction for youth and will instill passion among them for Formula-4 sport.

Terming the hosting of

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CS Reviews Key Developmental Projects Of Housing Deptt



■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 15: In a significant step towards addressing the burgeoning issues of

Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD) in the UT, a high-level meeting was today chaired by Chief

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CS CHAIRS UT LEVEL ECM TO APPROVE PLANS FOR RDD SCHEMES

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 15: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired the UT level Empowered Committee Meeting on the schemes of Rural Development Department (RDD) to discuss their annual plans for 2024-25 besides

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KU VC Appears In-Person Before HC Bench In Contempt Case

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 15: Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kashmir (KU) Professor Neelofer Khan on Friday appeared in-person before a division bench of the High Court which is hearing a contempt petition against the top Varsity officers.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), petitioner Zahoor Hussain has moved the court seeking regularisation of his services as Junior Professional Assistant (JPA) in the Kashmir University,

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Govt Intensifies Efforts To Combat Substance Abuse Among Youth Through Sports Initiatives

■ Ishtiyaq Kar

SRINAGAR, MAR 15: In a proactive move aimed at curbing the alarming rise of substance abuse among the youth in the Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory government, led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has embarked on a series of initiatives focusing on promoting sports and youth engagement.

Recognizing the critical role sports can play in steering the youth away

from harmful activities, the government is implementing various schemes and policies to foster a culture of athleticism and healthy living.

A senior official involved in the matter highlighted the government's commitment to leveraging sports as a powerful tool in combating the drug menace. "Sports can serve as a potent antidote to the destructive influence of drugs on our youth. Through these initiatives, we aim to encourage

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Arms License Scam:

Court Miffed Over The Absence Of Government Counsels

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 15: The High Court has expressed displeasure and anguish over the non-representation of the government in arms license scam.



While hearing the arms license case, a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice M.A. Chowdhary expressed deep anguish and displeasure over the non-representation of the JK Government and Union of India as their Counsels were not present.

"Neither the UT Government is represented by any Counsel nor there is any representation on behalf of the Union of India when the matter is taken up because of which this court is unable to pass any order," observed the court.

Advocate Rahul Raina appearing for the

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Doctors’ warning about artificial ripened fruits leads to 50 pc drop in watermelon sales

SAMPLES TAKEN, RESULTS TOMORROW: OFFICIAL

SRINAGAR, MAR 15: The Kashmir Valley has witnessed a 50% decrease in watermelon sales following concerns raised on social media regarding the safety of consuming artificially ripened watermelons.

Dr Wajahat, a clinical oncologist at a premier hospital, recently cautioned against consuming artificially ripened watermelons during the off-season, citing potential cancer risks.

"This Ramzan, say NO to artificially ripened watermelons. Protect yourself from harmful chemicals and potential chemotherapy," Dr Wajahat posted on a social media site X on March 08, which garnered support from several other doctors.

Ghulam Nabi Bhat, a vendor, expressed concern over economic losses incurred since the beginning of Ramadan. He said that despite bringing watermelons

to the market, nobody is buying them due to claims made by doctors. Bhat urged the government to investigate the matter to help vendors like him avoid further economic losses.

Bashir Ahmad Bashir, chairman of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said there has been a 50% drop in watermelon sales in the valley due to the current situa-



tion. "Previously, the valley used to receive twelve trucks of watermelons daily, but now there has been a 50% decrease in sales," he said.

Bashir said the food department has taken samples of watermelons, and he hopes for clarity soon. "Health is a priority, but economic losses are also concerning. The government should share the test samples as soon as possible," he added.

Deputy Commissioner of

Food Safety in Kashmir, Shagufta Jalal, said the department has collected hundreds of samples from various districts of the valley for testing.

"The test reports will be available tomorrow," she said.

Once the report is available, it will be shared with the public to address any concerns, Shagufta said, adding that there have been no adverse findings so far in the surveillance sampling

Sagar calls for effective arrangements on Navroz-e-Aalam

SRINAGAR MAR 15: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar Friday urged the administration to ensure all basic civic amenities to people on Navroz.

In a statement released from the party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha, Sagar urged the administration to ensure all basic civic amenities to people on Navroz. "All essential services and supplies should be supervised so that people do not face any problem on the auspicious occasion."



"All wings of the administration should work in sync with each other so that no inconvenience is caused to the people on Navroz. It is expected that the divisional administration will dole out the added consignments of ration that includes sugar, wheat, and rice to the people following ahead of the auspicious occasion," he said.

Sagar impressed upon the municipal authorities to ensure proper parking, sanitation, and ample lighting arrangements at all Imam Bargahs.

He urged the concerned departments to ensure round-the-clock water and electric supply and transport facility to people on the auspicious occasion.

NC MPs Muhammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi, senior leaders Shameema Firdous, Irfan Shah, and Tanvir Sadiq also sought effective and basic civic amenities to the people on Navroz across Kashmir and sought uninterrupted supply of drinking water and electricity.

Srinagar brothers blend technology & tradition in sheep farming venture

Uzair is developing software to streamline sheep farming by tracking birth cycles, lineage

SRINAGAR, MAR 15: In the outskirts of Srinagar's HMT Zainakote area, two brothers, Uzair and Umair Shafi Dar, are crafting a unique blend of technology with sheep farming.

Uzair, a software engineer with a fervent passion for innovation, and Umair, a dedicated student and part-time electrician, have embarked on an inspiring journey of sheep farming.

Speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Uzair said, "What started as a modest venture with just a handful of sheep has now blossomed into a thriving farm boasting over 40 sheep of diverse breeds."

We started with just a few sheep and today without any governmental support, we have managed and nurtured the farm with a range of diverse sheep breeds, he said.

At the heart of Uzair's vision along with his younger brother lies an ambition to tap technology with traditional farming practices. He said that with his expertise in software development, he is diligently crafting specialised software aimed at streamlining sheep farming.

Uzair claimed his novel innovative tool will revolutionise record-keeping by tracking the birth cycles and lineage of each sheep, providing invaluable insights for efficient



management.

"I have already begun laying the groundwork for the software, focusing on developing robust

algorithms and sophisticated analytics," he said.

Beyond technological prowess lies his brother Umair's hands-on

approach to farm management, from monitoring fodder supplies to ensuring timely vaccinations.

Umar said, "Our sheep are exclusively farm-raised, receiving top-tier care and attention. We prioritise their nutrition and health, ensuring they thrive in their natural habitat."

For the Dar brothers, their farm represents more than just a livelihood as it embodies a vision of sustainable prosperity. With their eyes set on the upcoming Eid-UI-Adha festival, they are gearing up to showcase their reared sheep, confident in their ability to provide quality produce and fetch good sales.

Simultaneous Assembly Polls crucial to restoring democracy in J&K: G.A.Mir tells EC

Urges the Commission to announce dates for both LS, Assembly polls

NEW DELHI, MAR 15: Apart from Lok Sabha elections, simultaneous Assembly elections are crucial to restoring democracy in Jammu and Kashmir. It is paramount to ensure that democratic rights in the UT are restored, for that matter Election Commission of India (ECI) should announce dates for simultaneous assembly elections.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary & Former J&K Pradesh Congress Committee President Ghulam Ahmad Mir said this on Saturday.

AICC General Secretary said that conducting simultaneous assembly



elections in J&K is paramount, crucial to restoring democracy and democratic rights of people in the UT, for

that it is essential that EC should announce dates for both Lok Sabha and Assembly Elections. J&K has not witnessed Elections for the last ten years, so it is definitely a high time when the simultaneous Assembly Polls should be conducted in the UT.

People of J&K have no expectations from the BJP Govt, which is fully responsible for assaulting the democracy and democratic rights of people. The much-awaited Assembly polls must be announced forthwith, Mir added and reiterated that EC should announce dates for simultaneous Assembly elections ensuring that democracy is restored in the UT.

First Friday of Ramadhan: Hundreds of devotees throng Jamia Masjid, Hazratbal shrine

MIRWAIZ UMAR HIGHLIGHTS SIGNIFICANCE OF SACRED MONTH, SAYS INADEQUATE ELECTRICITY INCREASE HARDSHIPS OF PEOPLE; MARKETS WEAR FESTIVE LOOK ACROSS CITY

SRINAGAR, MAR 15: On the first Friday of Ramadhan, the historic Jamia Masjid in Old city here and Dargah Hazratbal shrine witnessed a massive rush of devotees as the people from different parts of thronged the religious places today to participate in the mandatory congregational prayers.

Emotional scenes were witnessed during the prayers as the devotees were seen seeking mercy from Almighty during the sacred month of Ramadhan.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the biggest congregational prayers were witnessed at the two religious places where special arrangements were made by the authorities to ensure better facilities to the devotees.

Special prayers were made on the occasion at both the places.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who delivered sermons for the first time in the month of Ramadhan

after the scrapping of Article 370 on August 05, 2019, highlighted the teachings of Islam and also the significance of the sacred month of Ramadhan.

Mirwaiz appealed to all sects and organisations -religious, social or political to rise above personal and sectarian interests and ensure unity and brotherhood among the people of Jammu and Kashmir to preserve and protect its collective identity. He said that the best way to ensure collectivism is by following basic human, moral and religious principles and values. Otherwise in fighting and one upmanship will make us perish.

Addressing the youth, Mirwaiz said that they are the future of this place and through pursuance of education and awareness that will bring out their inner capabilities and consciousness they can help shape a just and prosperous community.

Appealing to the authorities



Mirwaiz said that they should listen to the voice of peoples collective conscience and unconditionally release prisoners who are in jails in Jammu and Kashmir and all over India, as a gesture of good will in the holy month of Ramzan.

Mirwaiz said that it is incumbent upon authorities to address the issues of people including the lack of electricity, that has increased the hardships for people especially in the holy month of Ramzan, particularly for the

poor who don't have alternative means.

Mirwaiz said that authorities should address this issue at the earliest, as they have the means to do so. He said the condition of roads is pathetic making commuting a nightmare.

Meanwhile, the devotees sought forgiveness from the Almighty.

Moreover, the markets in and around the twin religious places wore festive looks today as the devotees after participating in the prayers, were seen buying essentials, clothes and other stuff.

At Jamia Masjid as well as at Dargah Hazratbal, the markets remained abuzz with the shoppers throughout the day.

Pertinently, Waqf Board and Anjuman-e-Auqaf Jamia Masjid had made elaborate arrangements for the holy month of Ramadhan to ensure that the devotees visiting the places will not face any hardships.

Young para-cricketer Aamir Hussain thanks Gol, Sachin Tendulkar for opportunity in ISPL

‘LOSING A PART OF BODY IS NOT THE END OF LIFE’

ANANTNAG, MAR 15: Aamir Hussain, a young para-cricketer from south Kashmir's Anantnag district, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Government of India and legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar for granting him the opportunity to play in the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL).

Speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Aamir, hailing from Waghama Bijbehara, said that playing alongside legends like Sachin Tendulkar was a lifelong dream come true. He expressed



his joy in spending time with Bollywood superstars like Amitabh Bachchan and Akshay Kumar, who appreciated his journey through life's challenges and encouraged him to continue inspiring others.

Aamir recounted a childhood accident at his family's sawmill that resulted in the loss of both his hands. Despite facing discouragement from relatives and others who believed his life was over, he remained steadfast in his determination.

"Today, those same relatives and other people acknowledge my remarkable achievements, resilience and spirit," he said.

Aamir has honed his skills to bowl with his leg and bat by holding the bat between his neck and shoulder.

"One should never lose hope," he stressed. "Under all circumstances, one must keep going and make efforts to do better so as to become independent. Losing a part of the body isn't the end of life." Praising Aamir's remarkable feats, Sachin Tendulkar lauded him for making the impossible possible.

The Adani Foundation also announced its commitment to support Aamir Hussain Lone in his journey by offering him all possible assistance.

DC Baramulla kick starts a mega Chinar Plantation Drive at Uri Urges for collective action from all for protection of our environment

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MARCH 15: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, in presence of Director Floriculture Kashmir, Farooq Ahmad Rather Friday kick-started a mega Chinar plantation drive at Uri, here.

SDM Uri, Javid Ahmad Rather; Commander 12 Infantry, Brigade Kuldeep Singh Dyha and District Floriculture Officer

Baramulla were present at the event.

The plantation drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, local community members, and volunteers, all joining hands to contribute to the greening of their surroundings.

The event kicked off with a ceremonial planting of Chinar sapling, symbolizing the commitment of the authorities and the community towards a greener and healthier environ-



ment. The Floriculture Department's initiative represents a significant stride in the conservation of Chinar trees, the population of which has been steadily declining. Over 100 Chinar plants were planted during this event, emphasizing the importance of preserving this iconic species.

Minga Sherpa commended the efforts of the Floriculture Department for organizing such initiatives with an aim to preserve biodiversity and combat

climate change. The DC further emphasized the need for collective action and urged everyone to take responsibility for nurturing and protecting nature for future generations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director, Floriculture department, Kashmir said that the department will be distributing over 10,000 Chinar saplings free of charge to enhance the region's green cover and environmental sustainability.

ADC Handwara kick-starts Plantation drive at Handwara, Langate

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MARCH 15: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather today kick-started plantation drive at Children Park Handwara and Public Park Langate by planting Chinar saplings.

The Plantation drive was conducted by the Floriculture department under the theme of Saving Chinar Trees. It was informed that the plantation drive was carried out in the entire valley and a set target of 10,000 chinar saplings has to be achieved.

On the occasion, the ADC impressed upon the concerned officers to encourage the people to plant more and more trees in their surroundings for a healthy and clean environment.

Later, the ADC inspected various examination centres established in different schools of Handwara sub-division including Government Higher Secondary School Qalamabad.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Son's name in DATE OF BIRTH certificate has been wrongly written as ABDUL HANNAN TELI while his correct name is ZIYAN ALTAF TELI bearing registration No B- 2023 -1-05261-000184 which needs to be corrected...if anybody has any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the (B D O) office WAGOORA within a period of seven days from the date publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAMED...MOHD ALTAF TELI
S/O ...ABDUL RASHID TELI
F/O...ZIYAN ALTAF TELI
R/O...SHEIKHPORA
TEHSIL...KREERI

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

This office is in receipt of representation from: MOHAMMAD RAFIQ GOJER CHOHAN S/O MIRYA GOJER CHOHAN R/O, LEHANDAGAM Tehsil PAHALGAM District ANANTNAG for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of my daughter namely ULFAT JAN D/O MOHAMMAD RAFIQ GOJER CHOHAN R/O LEHANDAGAM D.O.B as per documents is 01 /03/2011& event shown to be occurred at home In this connection if anyone have any objection in the registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office /BDO office PAHALGAM within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

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عنوان درخواست از جانب سروہ بیگم زویر غلام رسول وانی ساکنہ لاری پورہ نسبت اجرائی نیلگیر ہیر سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتہار ہمارا آگاہی

ماملہ مندرجہ الصدمہ میں درخواست سال ہے کہ اس کا خوش غلام رسول وانی ولد کو فوب ہو چکا ہے اس نسبت 19/12/2023 محمد عبداللہ وانی مورثہ سال خواہاں ہے کہ اس کے حق میں نیلگیر ہیر سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کی جائے اور اسے رپورٹ پٹواری علاقہ متوفی کنیرہ بڑیل

1... سروہ بیگم زویر غلام رسول وانی

2... جمیدہ بانو دختر غلام رسول وانی

3.... نقیرہ بانو دختر غلام رسول وانی

4... فردوسہ بانو دختر غلام رسول وانی

5... عظمی جان دختر غلام رسول وانی

اس ٹورگہ کل (5) افراد پر مشتمل ہے اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کم نہیں بتلا یا بھیجے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی یکے اندر پیش کرے معاوضہ کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار پھلگام

آفیس آف دی ایجوکیشنل مجسٹریٹ

درجہ اول تحصیل واگورہ

عبدل مجید خان ولد فیروز احمد خان ساکنہ چندرہ تحصیل واگورہ ضلع ہارہولہ کے فرزند عدم مجید خان کی تاریخ پیدائش 10/09/2014 ہے، اب اس سے اپنے فرزند کی پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ کا فی طلب ہے اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی بھی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایکٹو کیٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول تحصیل واگورہ یا بی۔ڈی۔ڈی۔اوش واگورہ میں پیش کرے۔ یہ یاد گار کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ایجنٹ مجسٹریٹ

درجہ اول تحصیل دار واگورہ

آفیس آف دی ایجوکیشنل مجسٹریٹ

درجہ اول تحصیل واگورہ

نظیر احمد بٹ ولد غلام محمد بٹ ساکنہ چیمپا چندرہ تحصیل واگورہ ضلع ہارہولہ کے اولاد 1. فرحت نظیر کی تاریخ پیدائش 22-09-2013 ۲. فکرت نظیر کی تاریخ پیدائش 08-10-2018 ۳. محسن نظیر کی تاریخ پیدائش 08-12-2015 ہے، اب اس سے اپنے اولاد کی پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ کا فی طلب ہے اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی بھی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایکٹو کیٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول تحصیل واگورہ یا بی۔ڈی۔ڈی۔اوش واگورہ میں پیش کرے۔ یہ یاد گار کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ایجنٹ مجسٹریٹ

درجہ اول تحصیل دار واگورہ

ازنیات پھلگام

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار پھلگام یا اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار پھلگام درخواست منجانب محمد وقاس وانی ولد عبدال قدوس وانی ساکنہ بکلوٹ پھلگام بمراہ وصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتہار ہمارا آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان میں درخواست سال دفتر مذکور میں زیر کار وانی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری علاقہ سے رپورٹ جنموں مطلوبہ تقوالت ریکارڈ طلب کے گ جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے سال موقع بکلوٹ پھلگام میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ بذیل افراد متصل ہے

1... عبدال قدوس وانی 84 سال سرکاری کام

2... بیغفرہ زویر عبدال قدوس 80 سال گھریلو کام

3.... بیلمہ بیوہ محمد مقبول وانی 55 سال //

4... محمد وقاس 35 سال سرکاری ملازم

5... رشاد اختر زویر محمد وقاس 30 سال گھریلو کام

6... باسم 2 سال شیر چار

7... عیبت دختر محمد مقبول وانی 22 سال زیر تعلیم اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد نہیں بتلا یا بھیجے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر اندر پیش کریں معاوضہ کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار پھلگام

DC Budgam inaugurates Children's Park & Open Gym facility at Migrant Pandit Colony, Sheikhpura



HT News Network

BUDGAM, MARCH 15: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo today inaugurated a children's park, a senior citizen's park and open gym facility at Migrant Pandit Colony, Sheikhpura.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the District Administration Budgam, under the directions of Hon'ble LG Administration has contributed

and developed twin Parks within the Sheikhpura colony to ensure better facilities to the residents here.

The DC said that the same was demanded by the members during the last interaction with them.

He complimented officers of the concerned executing agency for completing the development of these parks in a short span of time and dedicating the same to the families residing at the Migrant Pandit Colony.

He said that under the directions of Hon'ble LG Administration, the District Administration is focusing on creation of various other infrastructure projects to provide better facilities to the Kashmiri pandits, Kashmiri migrants and PM-package employees at Sheikhpura.

During his visit to Kashmiri Pandit Colony, the DC met members of the Pandit community and listened to them.

He said the parks with the open gym facility,

swings for the kids, benches, have the best possible recreational infrastructure available for the children and senior citizens of the colony.

He said that he was happy to inaugurate these parks, which he said were constructed and thrown open in a very short span of time.

The DC was accompanied by SE R&B, CPO, Executive Engineers of R&B, Tehsildar, DMO and other concerned officers and officials.

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: SUMEE JEHN W/O PARVEZ AHMAD WANI R/O, DOLIPORA KREERI Tehsil KREERI District Baramulla for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of my daughters namely MAIRA PARVEZ D/O PARVEZ AHMAD WANI R/O DOLIPORA KREERI D.O.B as per documents is 03/08/2019 & event shown to be occurred at (SDH) kreeri 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 entertained.

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH
(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

آرسی کی گمشدگی

میری گاڑی زیر نمبر JK03H4025 کی آرسی گم ہوئی ہے اب اس کی ڈبلکیٹ کا فی طلب ہے اس بارے اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ARTO انت ناگ کے دفتر میں پیش کرے یہ یاد از معاوضہ کوئی اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

المشتر

عبدل حمید گنابی ولد غلام نبی گنابی ساکن نائل آنگ انت ناگ

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

This office is in receipt of representation from: GHULAM RASOOL WANI R/O, LIDROO PAHALGAM Tehsil PAHALGAM District ANANTNAG for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of daughter namely AUFPA RASOOL D/O GHULAM RASOOL WANI R/O LIDROO D.O.B as per documents is 18/10/2010 & event shown to be occurred at home In this connection if anyone have any objection in the registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office BDO office PAHALGAM within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH
(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE PAHALGAM)

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: MEENA BEGUM W/O GHULAM MOHI UD DIN BHAT R/O, WAGOORA Tehsil wagoora District Baramulla for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of my son namely KAISER AHMAD BHAT S/O GHULAM MOHI UD DIN BHAT R/O WAGOORA D.O.B as per documents is 22 /03/2009 & event shown to be occurred at home 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 entertained.

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: GHULAM MOHI UD DIN RATHER R/O, WALRAMAN Tehsil wagoora District Baramulla for issuance of DEATH Certificate in favour of my wife namely JANA BEGUM W/O GHULAM MOHI UD - DIN RATHER D/O LATE GHULAM QADIR DAR R/O WALRAMAN D.O.B as per documents is 24/ 12/2015 & event has been o to be occurred at home 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 entertained.

REGISTRATION BIRTH & DEATH
(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAGOORA)

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Govt plans Pilgrimage Rejuvenation, Spiritual Augmentation of Purmandal Uttarbehni Circuit

Director Tourism & DC Samba conduct on spot assessment

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, MARCH 15: Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma and other officials conducted a joint tour of Purmandal Uttarbehni Circuit to initiate the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme in the region.

The initiative aims to transform Purmandal/ Utterbehni into an unparalleled spiritual destination, offering pilgrims a journey imbued with tranquility and reverence. Discussions focused on infrastructure enhancements, landscape architecture, and cultural



preservation, ensuring a holistic pilgrimage experience.

The efforts will be made to preserve the region's natural and spiritual value.

Deputy Commissioner directed sanitation efforts in Devika and Purmandal,

emphasizing a commitment to maintaining a pristine environment for pilgrims and visitors.

The PRASAD scheme sets forth a transformative journey, inviting pilgrims and travelers to rediscover spirituality and culture at

Purmandal/Utterbehni. Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma and other officials conducted a joint tour of Purmandal Uttarbehni Circuit to initiate the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme in the region.

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Kathua Admin discusses preparations for Lok Sabha Elections-2024

Key officials briefed about Role, responsibilities

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, MARCH 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kathua, Dr. Rahul Minhas who is also District Election Officer (DEO) today convened a meeting of Nodal Officers responsible for overseeing the forthcoming Lok Sabha General Elections 2024.

The meeting held here in the VC Room of the DC office complex, focused on ensuring the readiness and efficiency of all officers involved in the electoral process.

Crucial aspects of the elections were addressed, and the Nodal Officers were briefed comprehensively about their role and responsibilities within their respective jurisdictions. Discussions encompassed operational, logistical, and administrative



matters essential for the smooth conduct of the electoral process.

The DC emphasized the need for Nodal Officers to remain well-equipped and proactive in their roles, highlighting the importance of adhering strictly to electoral laws, regulations, and ethical standards. The integrity and fairness of the electoral process were underlined as key priorities.

Furthermore, strategies for conducting voter awareness campaigns and initiatives to boost voter participation were discussed to ensure inclusivity and democracy in the elections. The DC reiterated the significance of the Nodal Officers' roles in upholding democratic values and principles, stressing their proactive engagement and commitment to transparency, impartiality, and efficiency in the electoral process.

The meeting was attended in person by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ranjit Singh, ACR Vishav Partap Singh, SDM Rakesh Kumar, and all appointed Nodal Officers, with virtual participation from ADCs and SDM from other regions, highlighting the collaborative effort to ensure a successful electoral process in Kathua district.

Reasi: Political representatives briefed about MCC, ethics of election campaigning

■ HT News Network

REASI, MARCH 15: District Election Officer Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, today met with representatives of the political parties to brief them about the Model Code of Conduct and discuss the prescribed procedure for conduct of smooth and transparent electoral process.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kul Bhushan Khajuria, Nodal officer for Model Code of Conduct, briefed the participants about the Model Code of Conduct, emphasizing the need to adhere to ethical campaigning practices. The District Treasury Officer Qamar Rehman, Nodal officer expenditure monitoring, highlighted the importance of financial transparency in election campaigns. Additionally, District Information Officer Nasir Ahmed, Nodal officer media briefed the political party representatives about the media certification process, emphasizing the role of media in ensuring fair and unbiased coverage of the election process.

The DEO urged the political parties to cooperate with the administration to facilitate free, fair and peaceful elections. He emphasized the need to adhere to the Model Code of Conduct and urged parties to uphold democratic values during the election process.

The meeting was attended by representatives of several political parties and assured their full cooperation in adhering to the guidelines of the MCC and all other norms / guidelines set by the ECI. PO Poshan Mohd Anwar Bandy, ACR Anshumali Sharma, Dy. DEO Rakesh Kumar, BDO Reasi and representatives of political parties also present in the meeting.

Director Agriculture Jammu unveils Innovative Grain Safe Bag for Enhanced Grain Storage



■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 15: Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen today unveiled the cutting edge Grain Safe Bag for improved and chemical free grain storage.

The inauguration ceremony included a demonstration of the Grain Safe Bag, showcasing its superior capabilities and benefits to attendees. The demonstration programme

showcased the efficacy and potential of this revolutionary storage solution for mitigating post-harvest losses and ensuring food security. The attendees witnessed firsthand the practical application of storage bags in preserving various types of grains, including wheat, rice and maize.

The Grain Safe Bag represents a paradigm shift in grain storage, offering unparalleled benefits to farmers and agricultural

stakeholders. It ensures the preservation of grains without the need for harmful chemicals. The Grain Safe Bag offers a novel approach to grain storage, particularly in regions prone to environmental challenges such as pests, moisture, and mold. Its durable, hermetic design creates an airtight environment, effectively safeguarding grains against spoilage and maintaining their quality over extended periods.

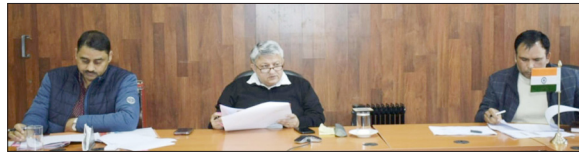
Director expressed

enthusiasm about the potential of the Grain Safe Bag to revolutionize grain storage practices and enhance the livelihoods of farmers. He emphasized the importance of adopting innovative solutions to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability. He stated, "The Grain Safe Bag represents a significant advancement in grain storage technology, offering our farmers a reliable means to protect their harvests and maximize their yields."

The demonstration programme drew participation from agricultural extension officers, key officials from the Department of Agriculture, field staff and representatives from various stakeholders in the agriculture sector. Attendees expressed enthusiasm for the Grain Safe Bag and expressed their eagerness to incorporate it into the farming practices

DDC reviews performance of departments under District Capex Budget in Reasi

■ HT News Network



REASI, MARCH 15: District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan today reviewed the physical and financial progress under various schemes of the district capex budget here at a meeting of stakeholder departments. The meeting, held in the DDC office, assessed the progress of the RDD, Jal Shakti, JPDCL, PWD, and PMGSY departments. The DDC emphasized the need to complete the pending works in the next 10 days. He directed the concerned departments to identify bottlenecks and take necessary measures to ensure timely completion of projects. Detailed discussions were held on the status of ongoing projects, allocation of funds and measures to ensure achievement of the targets. He urged officials to maintain transparency and accountability in the implementation of schemes and projects. DDC directed the officers for regular field visits to ensure works are executed on time and under set quality parameters. He urged all stakeholders to redouble their efforts and work with dedication towards realizing the vision of a prosperous and vibrant district. SE Romesh Kumar, Joint Director Planning Narinder Kumar, ACD Pardeep Kumar, Xen PWD and PMGSY, CEO, BDO's and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Parliamentary Elections DM, SSP discuss action plan with sectoral officers

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, MARCH 15: District Magistrate, Sachin Kumar Vaishya and Senior Superintendent of Police Dr. Vinod Kumar today convened a comprehensive meeting, here in the Teachers' Bhawan, to discuss action plan Sector Officers and Police Sector Officers in anticipation of the Parliamentary Elections.

The DM urged officers to exhibit proactive measures and foster seamless coordination in their duties. He emphasised the paramount importance of sensitivity mapping of polling stations and advocated for preemptive categorisation to ensure optimal security measures and the unhindered progress of the polling process.

In the meeting held the other day, officers were diligently briefed on their respective responsibilities. They were briefed about Model Code of Conduct and the crucial role they play in maintaining the integrity of the electoral process.

SSP, Dr. Vinod Kumar reiterated the vital role of the police officers in ensuring the smooth conduct of elections, instilling motivation and determination among the attendees. Other officers present in the meeting were Additional District Magistrate, Shishir Gupta and SP North Jammu, Shivam Siddharth besides others.

SSP, Dr. Vinod Kumar reiterated the vital role of the police officers in ensuring the smooth conduct of elections, instilling motivation and determination among the attendees. Other officers present in the meeting were Additional District Magistrate, Shishir Gupta and SP North Jammu, Shivam Siddharth besides others.

Swachhta Ki Pathshala Initiative launched to foster clean, garbage free Jammu City

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 15: To promote cleanliness awareness and propel Jammu towards becoming a garbage-free city, a pioneering initiative titled "Swachhta Ki Pathshala" was inaugurated here today. Spearheaded by Big FM's RJ Juhi, in collaboration with the Jammu Municipal Corporation's (JMC) IEC Team, the event witnessed the participation of Swachhta Brand



Ambassador, Arnavi Sharma, alongside the dedicated health officers and staff of JMC.

The launch event took place at Gandhi Nagar's bustling Gole Market, where citizens, shop-

keepers, and hoteliers congregated to lend their support to this noble cause. The occasion was marked by an interactive session facilitated by RJ Juhi and the IEC team, encourag-

ing active engagement from all stakeholders.

One of the highlights of the event was the involvement of the citizens themselves, who shared their thoughts and commitments on a whiteboard prominently displayed at the Pathshala. Through this gesture, they pledged to conscientiously spread awareness and uphold cleanliness standards, thereby contributing to the transformation of Jammu into a pristine and garbage-free city.

Public Park inaugurated at Gulabgarh-Paddar, work in progress on several RDD projects

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MARCH 15: A public park developed by the Rural Development Department was inaugurated today at Gulabgarh by local DDC Councillor Hari Krishan Chauhan in presence of Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Phulail Singh. After the inauguration, a comprehensive review meeting was convened in the Block Development Office (BDO) Gulabgarh, where office staff members briefed about the progress and challenges encountered in the execution of these projects. DDC Chauhan and ADC

actively engaged with the local populace to gauge their feedback and address any concerns they may have regarding the ongoing developmental endeavors. This interactive session underscored the commitment of the district administration towards fostering inclusive development and ensuring that the aspirations of the local community are duly met. The inspection and subsequent engagements underscore the relentless efforts of the administration towards the holistic development of rural areas, with a focus on enhancing infrastructure, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and fostering.

Exhibition cum Workshop on promotion of Beekeeping begins at Samba

District Development Commissioner welcomes ground-breaking initiative

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, MARCH 15: District Development Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma today led the inauguration of a one-day Exhibition, Conference, and Workshop aimed at promoting beekeeping organised under the HADP. The event, graced by the presence of District Development Council Chairman Keshav Dutt, Chief Agriculture Officer Samba Madan Gopal Singh, and other esteemed senior officers of the Department, marked a significant milestone in the agricultural landscape of the region.

District Development Commissioner Abhishek Sharma commended the Department of Agriculture Samba for its proactive initiative in organizing such a pivotal event. He underscored the importance of such gatherings in empowering farmers and beekeepers, highlighting their role in fostering innovation and growth in the farming sector. Sharma's active engagement with the exhibition stalls showcased his commitment to gaining firsthand



knowledge of the latest advancements in agriculture. In his address, Sharma urged officers from various

departments to follow suit in organizing similar events, emphasizing their potential to deliver tangible benefits to the farming community. His call for collaborative efforts resonated with the audience, reflecting a shared commitment to agricultural development.

District Development Council Chairman, Keshav Dutt lauded the efforts of the Department of Agriculture Samba in orchestrating the event. He underscored the importance of showcasing cutting-edge technology to farmers, emphasizing its transformative potential in enhancing productivity and sustainability in agriculture.

The event also featured a technical session, providing attendees with an enriching platform to delve into the intricacies of beekeeping under the ambient of HADP. Participants gleaned invaluable insights from experts, fostering knowledge exchange and capacity building in the sector.

As the day concluded, the palpable enthusiasm and camaraderie among participants underscored the success of the event in fostering collaboration and driving innovation in the agriculture sector.

EDITORIAL

Ramadan and Kashmir's Power Crisis

As the holy month of Ramadan dawns upon Kashmir, a region already burdened with myriad challenges, its people find themselves grappling with an additional ordeal - a severe power crisis. The specter of prolonged power outages during Iftar and Sehri time casts a shadow over the auspicious month, leaving families and communities in distress.

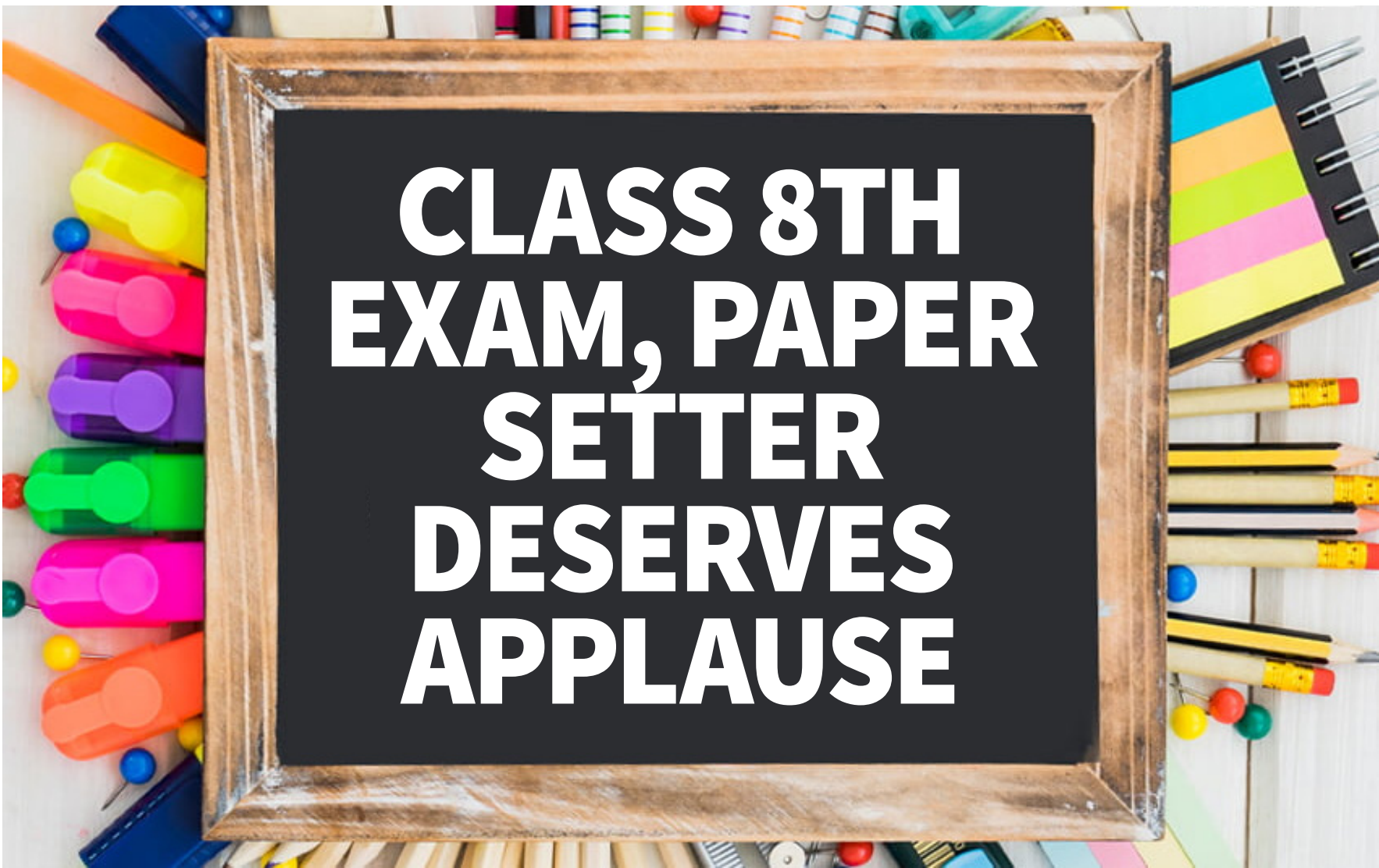
The situation is particularly dire as the daily rhythm of fasting, prayers, and communal meals is disrupted by frequent power cuts. For many, Iftar, the breaking of the fast at sunset, and Sehri, the pre-dawn meal before the fast begins, are moments of spiritual reflection and communal gathering. However, with the uncertainty of electricity supply, these cherished traditions are marred by frustration and inconvenience.

The Power Development Department (PDD) has offered assurances of reduced curtailment during Ramadan, offering a glimmer of hope to the beleaguered populace. Yet, skepticism looms large as past promises have often failed to materialize into tangible relief. The recurring power crisis underscores systemic inefficiencies and infrastructural deficiencies that continue to plague the region.

Beyond the inconvenience, the power crisis exacerbates socio-economic disparities, disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities who struggle to afford alternative sources of energy. Students preparing for exams, businesses striving to operate amidst power cuts, and healthcare facilities reliant on uninterrupted electricity face heightened challenges during this critical period.

While the authorities pledge remedial measures, the enduring power crisis demands a comprehensive and sustainable solution. Investments in infrastructure, renewable energy initiatives, and effective governance are imperative to mitigate the recurring plight of power shortages in Kashmir.

As Kashmiris navigate through the sacred month of Ramadan, they do so with resilience and solidarity, steadfast in their hope for a brighter, more empowered future. It is incumbent upon the authorities to honor their commitment, alleviate the suffering of the people, and ensure that the radiance of Ramadan is not dimmed by the darkness of power shortages.



■ Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Schools in the Kashmir valley reopened after a hiatus of more than two months of winter vacations. With the introduction of March session last year to make it uniform all over the country, students of all classes had already geared up to face the yearly annual exams. District Institute of Education and Trainings (DIETs) of all the districts of valley had finalized the datesheet of primary and upper primary classes well before the school Reopening. State Council for Education Research and Training (SCERT) Srinagar, also made the datesheet of class 8th public couple of weeks ago.

Accordingly the examination of class 8th of Kashmir division commenced on 13th of March. Students faced the first paper of Urdu amid a pleasing smile on their faces, as the paper Setter had taken into account not only the cognitive abilities of students but also their aspirations into his mind. The question paper was prepared so nicely that it recieved applause from both teachers and students. Parents too expressed their satisfaction over the standard and level of the question paper.

It was divided into four parts comprising of eleven questions in all. The first part to assess the reading com-

prehension of students, comprised of a brief paragraph on Himalayas mountain range, followed by a set of five questions which the students had to answer. The paragraph was so comprehensive and easy to understand that students wrote the answers with ease. It was loaded with crucial information and students learned a lot about Himalayas alongside sitting in the exam.

They got the knowledge about different mountain peaks, main rivers originating from the Himalayas and the percentage of people dwelling in different countries beneath the mountain ranges while going through this question paper. Students felt like being in learning labs while turning the pages of question paper. Question no 2 was based on some poetic couplets, it's five parts were multiple choice questions, students without encountering any difficulty chose the right answer.

It was a poem written about the beauty and resources of poet's homeland. Question no 3 was again asked to check the learning ability of the students in the form of a brief paragraph but this one chosen from the textbook. It was a nicely written paragraph about saffron and saffron fields of Pampore Kashmir. It also had five part questions which were comfortably answered by students. Part second of the question paper was from the grammar portion. Five different sentences were written on the paper and students had to choose a noun, adjective, verb, subject and predicate from these sentences just to check their linguistic skills.

Two more questions from part second, were designed to check religious knowledge and plurals of some words. In part third of the paper, students were given two choices to write an essay about 100-150 words just to check their

They got the knowledge about different mountain peaks, main rivers originating from the Himalayas and the percentage of people

dwelling in different countries beneath the mountain ranges while going through this question paper. Students felt like being in learning labs while turning the pages of question paper. Question no 2 was based on some poetic couplets, it's five parts were multiple choice questions, students without encountering any difficulty chose the right answer.

writing ability and skill. In it's other two questions, students were asked to write an application or letter and to use some phrasal words in their own sentences.

The Last and fourth part of the question paper, dealt with some questions from prose and poetry lessons of the book which the students were asked to give answers with a wide range of

choice. After many years I have gone through a question paper that was not just designed to check the learning comprehension and a vast amount of knowledge students had acquired during the academic session but they were this time relieved off the stress which they would usually accompany to their exam halls.

Besides being easy to understand, the question paper provided them what they needed at the right moment. Alongside writing the answers to the questions in the exam hall, examinees acquired extra amount of information which they previously lacked while going through the pages of the paper. The question paper seemed an outcome of extensive consultations with stakeholders, experts and research work of months together.

Persons from SCERT, associated with the formulation of such question papers need to be appreciated and they deserve special recognition for discovering the latest scale of measuring students abilities without drowning them in the well of exam-phobia. If the trend goes on, not only the enrollment in public schools will see a surge but the entire educational scenario will be transformed.

Need of the hour is to embrace such paper setup both at SCERT and BOSE level, so that our coming generations would ingest a bulk of information while sitting in the examination hall and examophobia will no longer haunt them. It will definitely have positive repercussions and students will enjoy to sit in the examination rather to get in melancholy. It will pave the way for their easy cracking of recruitment exams through various recruiting agencies like JK SSRB, JK PSC and SSC etc

Writer is a columnist hailing from Qazigund Kashmir.

Teaching Weak Students

■ By Mool Raj

Parents should pay close attention to their children's learning difficulties so that they can acquire reading skills with full understanding and not be disadvantaged in the future based on lack of familiarity with reading skills.

Due to the lack of familiarity with the correct teaching method, children may have difficulty learning and especially reading. Like weakness and hesitation in reading, weakness in spelling and poor retention.

According to Renowned Educationists the biggest difficulty a student faces in reading is matching the letter and its sound. Then it becomes difficult to make a word out of the words. Similarly, there is difficulty in remembering and understand-

ing words that have a slight difference in form. How to overcome reading difficulties?

This can be controlled by following the points given below.

1. The sooner a child's condition is diagnosed, the more likely it is to overcome reading difficulties. When you find out where the child is having difficulty, You will avoid many problems later on.

2. Parents should understand the nature of their children's problems and cooperate with the school in solving them.

3. To provide an environment conducive to learning and understanding that is free from all distractions and stress. The school should collaborate in this matter on the basis of a special Remedial Teaching Programme in the School suitable for each



child according to the type of reading difficulty.

4. Similarly, training to dis-

tinguish between adjacent sounds of letters, such as distinguishing between long and

short vowels, and then training to combine letters to form sentences.

5. Training to connect letters to form words and then sentences, then reading the word and matching it to the meaning on the notebook or on the board, made clear and readable by the teacher.

5. Giving the child exercises at home or in the classroom that focus on engaging the mind during the reading process, also activities that depend on visual perception, visual memory, auditory perception and auditory memory.

6. Trying to practice speed reading, where a text can be chosen to read in a certain amount of time.

Treatment of reading difficulties

To provide an environment suitable for learning and to keep children away from anything that may cause confusion and spoil

their concentration. Speaking clearly and loudly in front of the students, avoiding any wrong words in the language. Adopting a curriculum that engages children and makes them interested in reading. Asking direct questions away from complications. Encouraging and encouraging children to participate and read aloud.

Writing clear vocabulary and readable texts for students.

Stay in touch with the parents of the children. Educating them about the vulnerability of children, communicating with parents. In teaching weak children, it is not good to be patient, shout or scold and wait for quick results as it may take time.

The author is a columnist and freelance writer

The Land-Locked Kashmir



By Mool Raj

Historically, Kashmir has always been known as a land-locked country in the high Himalayan Mountains. In the earliest Chinese records Kashmir is described as, "a country enveloped on all sides like a precious jewel by the snowy mountains, with a valley in the south which leads up to it and serves as a gate of the Kingdom". Famous Chinese traveller, Hsien Tsang describes Kashmir which he calls Kia-shi-mi-lo as a country surrounded on all sides by very high mountains which have very narrow and contracted passes for entry. According to him these natural bulwarks have protected the country from its neighbours who have never succeeded in subduing it. The Greek chronicles also mention Kashmir as Kaspeira, a country surrounded by high mountains whose inhabitants are great foot-walkers! In fact, this isolation of Kashmir in the high mountains allowed it to remain unmolested for a long time. In ancient Kashmir there used to be an official called the "Dawara Pati", the guardian of the passes whose job was to keep an eye on all passes which were guarded by garrisons of soldiers.

The conquest of Kashmir by Mughals, even though through treachery, ended Kashmir's isolation. However, even with the passing of the country from Mughals to Afghans, to Sikhs and finally to Dogras, the physical isolation continued. The only access was through the Jhelum Valley road along the River Jhelum. After the events of 1947, even though Kashmir got disconnected from its Central Asian neighbours in the North, yet access became easier towards South. Finally, with the advent of civil aviation, Kashmir is no longer a land-locked and isolated "country". The valley of Kashmir has become a global tourist destination and millions of tourists have been coming here from all over the globe.

Unfortunately, in spite of year-round global access to the Kashmir valley, there are still some parts which remind one of the ancient land-locked Kashmir. These places get totally land-locked in winter, in some cases



almost for six months or so. These include Gurez and Tielel Valleys; Karnah; Wadwan Valley of Kishtwar. The other areas in the State which remain land-locked in winter are Ladakh where totally land-locked is the remote valley of Zaskar. In this modern age it is unthinkable of people getting totally isolated for months on end. They have no access either by road or by air. The people in these areas face not only a physical trauma but also a psychological one. Unfortunately, most of the rulers in recent times have totally neglected this aspect of winter inaccessibility of these remote areas.

After a wait of decades, the government has finally started work on the Zoji La tunnel to ensure year-round access to Ladakh by road. This is a welcome step and one hopes the work would be completed on a fast track. It would have been ideal if notice of inaccessibility of other areas had also been taken. The long-term accessibility of these areas would also require construction of tunnels below the passes which get closed in winter due to heavy snowfall. These include the Sadhna Pass, the Razdani Pass, the Simthan Pass, the Margan Pass and so on. These passes would need much shorter tunnels which may be cheaper and easier to construct. Let us hope the government keeps the requirements of these people living in remote areas in view and formulates a plan to

make these accessible in winter also.

Pending construction of tunnels, the government could explore connecting these remote areas by short-haul turbo-prop aircraft. These aircraft do not need long and concrete runways and can land on small strips and in some cases even in plain fields. Air Asia and the Indigo Airlines do have these small turbo-prop aircraft and are operating services to some areas. The government needs to explore the possibility of inviting these airlines to survey the areas and start such short-haul air services. Even these services could be subsidised to allow reasonable pricing of these flights. At the moment, some of these areas in the state are serviced by MI-17 helicopters of IAF for which the government makes payments to the Ministry of Defence. Similar treatment needs to be given to the Zaskar area also which too remains totally cut off during winter. Here again sometime IAF courier services are operated. The worst part is the assistance to sick people during winter. Sometimes the concerned Deputy Commissioners do requisition helicopters from the Air Force. However, providing of a regular short-haul air service can ameliorate the suffering of these people till these are made accessible on a round-the-year basis.

The author is a columnist and freelance writer



Drug Addiction

Mir Aunisa

In 2023, a study conducted by (Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Kashmir) revealed that the prevalence of Hepatitis C among drug abusers in Kashmir is 72%. The institute received 150 drug addiction cases per day.

the punishment of those who participate in spreading this scourge in the society. In the Hadith, the Jibril came to the Prophet (PBUH) and said "O Mohammad, indeed Allah cursed the wine, it's owner, its worker, its processor, its covener, its drinker, its seller, its buyer, its giver and its taker".

SOCIAL VIEW

Firstly, they provide them drugs free of cost and when the youth become addicted, then they take from them double the cost of their spending. They are like investing in this. There is an alarming situation in our valley. Situation is getting worse day after day. It is destroying their career, their families, their working capacity thus over time it is having a negative spill-over effect on the whole society. I myself am cogitating what should we do to come out from this cage of worries. There are enormous real-life examples in front of our eyes. The heart aches after hearing about their situation. I myself am perplexed by this. This

RELIGIOUS VIEW

In Islam, it is clearly mentioned that any usage of such substance is a sin and there is punishment for it. Prophet (PBUH) clearly explained

menace is ruining the future of our valley. The valley which is known as Paradise on earth has now become the hub of drug peddlers. Their conscience is dead. The valley is at high risk. With each passing day the number of youth indulging in these activities is increasing. This is going to lead to a dreadful situation in our valley.

Youth is considering it as a short-cut to forget about the real-life problems. It is a growing concern nowadays. Not only youth but there are other age groups also who are not behind in this race but youth is the most affected section. It has put everyone in Topsy and Turvy.

There are many reasons for spreading this menace most important one is growing unemployment rate. The ratio of educated unemployed youth is huge but the number of job availability is somewhere at the bottom.

Recently a heartwrenching incident happened at Sopore (a town in J&K's Baramulla District) where youth murdered his own Mother after taking the dose of drugs. This is the worst incident which has ever happened here. This incident shocked the whole nation. There are many other incidents which totally pushed the humanity back.

If the whole society will work collectively against this menace then some good outcomes may come in the future. Parents can play such an important role in abolishing this menace. They should keep their eyes on their wards.

Authorities should take strict actions regarding the abolition of this menace. Collectively we can do much better. Inclusively we can cut down its roots.

EXCESSIVE TREND OF SOCIAL MEDIA IS HAVING A BAD EFFECT ON EDUCATION



Vijay Garg

Social media plays a huge role in human life. It is such a platform from which we can get any information and youth can get various opportunities. It is a tool of knowledge for students. It is such a platform, which is used for dissemination of education in new ways. Today's students get a lot of knowledge through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc., which gives them an opportunity to learn something new. Lives Parents are concerned about children. Also read this Science fiction to inspire children's minds to learn Science fiction to inspire chil-

dren's minds to learn. Many students use social media for several hours every day.

Many parents are also worried that their children are glued to mobile phones all day and pay less attention to studies. If we talk about the effects of social media then our first question is that why do students like social media so much? Why students are so crazy behind this? A live? Can they not live without it, then in answer to this we can say that social media is the identity of today's students, through which they can do whatever they want. Through this they make new friends.

Some people they don't even know well, but still they come close to them through Facebook or Instagram. Employment opportunities are available 95 percent of the youth are using social media because today technology has progressed so much that the means of communication have become very developed.

Through these we can talk and discuss at any time. If seen, of course, social media is having a great impact on the youth and many people are

also getting employment opportunities through it. Our speaking skills are also developing and we can easily express ourselves to someone else. Anyone can express their opinion to others.

Today it seems impossible for us to stay away from it. Children suffering from depression. Many students are suffering from depression due to excessive use of it. After watching various videos here, you start thinking of making yourself like them. Many children use it before going to bed, due to which they do not get a full sleep.

This is the reason that they are suffering from many diseases. Being on the mobile all the time, they are not ready to talk to another person, due to which they become irritated. This is the reason that our mutual relations are also ending. The writing ability of the students is decreasing because they get all the information from social media received, they listen to it. Distracted from studies. There is no doubt that it has its positive aspects.

Students can use it for their educa-



tion. The art of speaking is developed in them. Online jobs can be provided to youth. On the other hand, through a study it was also proved that it has negative effects. Students are getting very attracted towards it and social

media has become their habit. Without it, they feel incomplete. Due to this habit, they are careless from studies, which is indeed a cause of concern for us.

Bad effect on education. It is also

having a bad effect on education. Education is an essential part of everyone's life. First of all, education is necessary for every student, through which we can move ahead in life. If we don't study, there will be no employment opportunities and we will be left behind in life. Technology has evolved for our convenience but overuse can also be dangerous. Today's students are getting more influenced by Facebook-Instagram. Bad effect on health. It has a bad effect on the health of children.

They don't eat on time. Many hours are spent on this. They become lethargic due to not eating on time. Their physical activity is decreasing. Finally, we can say that social media is undoubtedly a very good tool for the youth, if it is used only for necessity. There should not be so much dependence on it that we get caught up in it and do not try to work hard ourselves. So use it but don't let it overwhelm you.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal
Educational Columnist Malout
Punjab

PM's Coimbatore Roadshow Cleared By Court After Police Deny Permission

■ HT News Network

Chennai: The Madras High Court has ordered Tamil Nadu Police to permit Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 4 km roadshow in Coimbatore Monday, albeit with certain conditions.

Police Friday morning had refused permission, citing law-and-order concerns and the conduct of a public exam. The cops also said permission had been refused to other political parties as well, so there was no question of targeting any side.

The court pointed out state apparatus had a minimal role in securing rallies or events attended by the Prime Minister, who is guarded by the Special Protection Group. The police, though, said insisted they assume "equal responsibility". The Prime Minister this weekend is spearheading a mega outreach to the southern states - which have traditionally rejected the BJP - weeks ahead of



the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The PM, who has set the BJP a target of 370 seats in this election - is on his fifth Tamil Nadu visit, and has taken on the ruling DMK and its INDIA allies, including the Congress, criticising their involvement in scams and pitching himself as an icon of development.

The BJP has a negligible presence in Tamil Nadu. But it has a

relatively stronger presence in Coimbatore, a region that has seen communally sensitive law-and-order developments, particularly the serial bomb blasts in the city in 1998, which targeted senior BJP leader LK Advani. Nearly 60 people died in those blasts.

In the last general election the BJP got a less than three per cent vote-share and, this time around,

is without a major ally after the AIADMK's acrimonious exit. The broken BJP-AIADMK relationship has not, however, stopped the PM from reaching out to his ex-allies; earlier this week he praised AIADMK icon and ex-Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa. The AIADMK, though, has shown no signs of thawing and is insistent it will fight for Tamil Nadu's 39 Lok Sabha seats on its own. The BJP-AIADMK tie-up has not had good results for the state party, which has lost to fierce rivals DMK in the last two major polls.

The BJP has also reached out to smaller Tamil parties, including S Ramadoss' PMK and DMDK of late actor-politician Vijayakanth. The saffron party has seen some success, with S Vijayadharani, the sitting MLA from Vilavancode in Kanyakumari district switching sides. In the last general election the BJP got a less than three per cent vote-share and, this time around, is without a major ally after the AIADMK's acrimonious exit.

Mamata Banerjee's Condition "Stable" After Fall At Home, Say Doctors

■ HT News Network

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's health condition is "stable", a senior official of the state administration said on Friday.

The 69-year-old Banerjee, who suffered a major injury on her forehead and nose during a fall inside her Kalighat residence in South Kolkata on Thursday evening, also "slept well", he said. "The CM's health condition is stable. She had a good sleep in the night as senior doctors kept a close watch on her throughout the period. This morning there will be another assessment of her condition," the official told PTI on Friday morning.

The Bengal CM underwent three stitches on her forehead and one on her nose and was discharged following necessary medical tests at the hospital.

"She had a cerebral concussion and had a sharp cut on her forehead and nose which was bleeding profusely. Initially, she was assessed by senior doctors of the neurosurgery, medicine, and cardiology departments of our institute and her vitals were stabilised. Three stitches were applied on her forehead, and one on her nose and the required dressing was done. Investigations like ECG, echocardiogram, CT-Scan, and Doppler were done," SSKM hospital director Manimoy Bandyopadhyay said. Meanwhile, police are yet to lodge a complaint in connection with the fall of the chief minister though they have upped the



security arrangements in and around Banerjee's residence in the Kalighat area, an officer said. Referring to SSKM Hospital's bulletin that the CM had a fall "due to some push", the police officer, however, declined to comment on whether they were planning to record the CM's statement or lodge any suo moto complaint in this regard. "As of now, there has been no complaint lodged in connection with the fall of the CM. We have increased the security around the CM's residence," he told PTI, adding that they were looking whether there was any security lapse or not.

Banerjee gets a "Z category" cover and has a special team of officers looking after her security and even at her residence.

The TMC on Thursday evening posted pictures of Banerjee bleeding from her forehead.

Party national general secretary and Banerjee's nephew Abhishek took her to the hospital in his vehicle and got her admitted to the hospital.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Expands Bihar Cabinet, Inducts 21 Ministers

■ HT News Network

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday expanded his cabinet, which is less than two months old, by inducting 21 ministers.

The new inductees, including senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Renu Devi, were administered the oath of office by Governor Rajendra Arlekar at a ceremony in the Raj Bhavan.

Other notable persons who were sworn in include Mangal Pandey and Neeraj Kumar Singh 'Bablu', both former ministers, belonging to BJP. Besides, Md Zama Khan, who became the lone Muslim in the cabinet, and the chief minister's confidant Ashok Chaudhary, who held cabinet berths earlier, were back as ministers.



The fresh induction raises to 30 the total strength of the cabinet formed after the return of Kumar, who heads the JD(U), to the BJP-led NDA less than two months ago. Chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' by leaders of the BJP, which has returned to power, reverberated through the Raj Bhavan during the ceremony.

Centre Launches Mobile App For Applicants Seeking Citizenship Under CAA

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The Union Home Ministry on Friday launched a mobile app that will allow eligible people to apply for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, officials said.

According to a Home Ministry spokesperson, the application can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or the website

--indiancitizenshiponline.nic.in."The 'CAA-2019' Mobile App for making applications under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 becomes operational," the spokesperson said.

Earlier, the Home Ministry launched a portal for eligible people to apply for Indian citizenship under the CAA. The rules for implementation of the CAA were notified on Monday, paving the way for granting

citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

After the CAA rules were issued, the Narendra Modi government will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants from the three countries who came to India till December 31, 2014. These include Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians.

Supreme Court Raps SBI For Not Sharing "Complete Data" On Electoral Bonds

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The Supreme Court today came down hard on the State Bank of India for not sharing the complete data on electoral bonds, a scheme that allowed individuals and businesses to donate anonymously to political parties. The court had struck down the scheme and directed the bank to share all details on the donations made in the last 5 years. Hearing a petition by the Election Commission, the Supreme Court said that the data provided by the SBI was incomplete. The five-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, directed SBI to disclose electoral bond numbers as well, in addition to the details it has already shared. "Who is appearing for the State Bank of India? They have not



disclosed the bond numbers. It has to be disclosed by the State Bank of India," Chief Justice Chandrachud said right at the outset of the hearing. In its notice to SBI, the Supreme Court bench has asked the bank to explain the lapse during the next hearing on March

18. The electoral bond numbers would help establish the link between donors and political parties. Electoral bonds allowed individuals and businesses to donate money to political parties without declaring it. They were introduced by the BJP government in 2018 as

an alternative to cash donations and had been pitched as an initiative to bring transparency in political funding. The Supreme Court struck down the scheme last month, terming it unconstitutional and over concerns that this could lead to a quid pro quo. The court also urged SBI to share all details about the purchase and redemption of the bonds with the Election Commission. In its petition, the poll panel said the March 11 order had noted that the copies of the documents submitted by it to the court in a sealed cover during the course of the hearing be maintained at the office of the EC.

The EC said it did not keep any copy of the documents and added that those may be returned so that it can comply with the court's directions.

Supreme Court Refuses To Put On Hold Appointment Of Election Commissioners



■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The Supreme Court refused to put a hold on the appointment of two Election Commissioners - Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu - under a 2023 law that excluded the Chief Justice of India from the selection panel. The court will hear the matter on Thursday.

Refusing to stay the appointments, the bench said, "Normally and generally, we do not stay a law by way of an interim order." It deferred the hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the appointment of two ECs under the 2023 law. A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna, Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih told the petitioners, who pointed out that a meeting for the selection of ECs was pre-poned, to file a separate application.

Former IAS officers Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu had been picked by a selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Gyanesh Kumar retired as secretary

of the cooperation ministry in February, while Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, was former Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand. Mr Sandhu, a 1988 batch IAS officer, retired from the post of Chief Secretary on January 31, 2024.

Samajwadi Party Declares Candidates For 6 Lok Sabha Seats From UP

The vacancies had come up in the Election Commission (EC) after the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey on February 14 and the sudden resignation of Arun Goel on March 8.

The poll panel is headed by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.

The dates for the 2024 general elections for the Lok Sabha, along with four state assemblies, will be announced at 3pm tomorrow.

The term of the present Lok Sabha ends on June 16 and a new House has to be constituted before that.

Last time the Lok Sabha polls were announced on March 10 and held in seven phases beginning April 11. Votes were counted on May 23.

BRS' K Kavitha Arrested After Raids Over Delhi Liquor Policy Case

■ HT News Network

Hyderabad/New Delhi: In a major development in the Delhi liquor policy case, BRS leader K Kavitha has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in Hyderabad and is being taken to Delhi, top officials have told NDTV.

Ms Kavitha is a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) in Telangana and the daughter of Bharat Rashtia Samithi chief and former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao. She was questioned in the case last year, but had skipped two summons this year.

The arrest, hours after her house was raided by the agency, comes weeks ahead of the Lok Sabha polls and on a day that the Congress government in Telangana completes 100 days. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also held a roadshow in the Hyderabad suburb of Malkajgiri on Friday. The Supreme Court, which had granted the BRS leader immunity from interrogation till Wednesday, also heard her petition against the agency's summons in the case on Friday. The next hearing in the case will be on Tuesday.

In a video, Ms Kavitha's brother and former Telangana minister KT Rama Rao can be seen confronting ED officials after he was asked how family members had entered the house. Speaking to the camera, he names an official of the agency, holds up a document, and says, "Search is over and an arrest warrant is produced, and now she says family cannot come in. She also says that she has no transit warrant, she cannot produce before a magistrate but she wants to make the case (sic)."

Mr Rao goes on to accuse the officials of violating an undertaking the agency had given to the Supreme Court and says, "You are in serious trouble". An ED official is heard telling him that legal remedies are available.

ED sources told NDTV that Mr Rao and other BRS members were obstructing the agency and videos also showed the agency's cars being surrounded when they were leaving with Ms Kavitha.

Mr Rao has, however, claimed the family is cooperating with the agency. Terming the protest illegal, he said he and other senior leaders have asked party workers to remain peaceful and not prevent the arrest.

World Consumer Rights Day

DLSA, FCS&CA Kishtwar organise awareness program

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MARCH 15: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in Collaboration with the Department of Food Civil Services & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) today organized an awareness program on "WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY 2024" here in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Mini Secretariat Kishtwar.

As per the calendar of activities envisaged for March 2024, the program was conducted under able guidance of Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) and the supervision of Secretary District Legal Services Authority Kishtwar, Ramesh Lal.

Assistant Director FCS & CA Shafat Keen was the key speaker, while Sanveer Singh (Assistant LADC) Kishtwar; Sajjad Hussain, Food Safety Officer Kishtwar; Anil Gupta, Assistant Legal Metrological Officer; Sandeep Kumar (Panel lawyer) and Iram Sabha (Panel Lawyer) were the Resource Persons.



The resource persons highlighted the significance and importance of World Consumer Rights Day, observed on the 15th of March every year. The theme for 2024 is "Fair and Responsible for AI Consumers," as AI has taken the digital world by storm. Technology is set to have an enormous impact on people's lives, affect-

ing the way they work, communicate; gather information, and much more.

The Key speaker, AD FCS&CA, emphasised that the need of the hour is to protect consumers from such serious implications and to promote fair and responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Furthermore, the resource persons

highlighted the rights of consumers, such as the right to be protected, right to be informed, right to choose, right to be heard, right to redressal, and right to consumer education.

They also discussed the legal mechanism of consumer disputes for redressal commissions at the national, state, and district levels. Later, the queries were raised by participants and the resource persons responded positively.

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Conducting extended sermon in Urdu Department of "Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University"

■ Sharaz Ah Mir

Rajouri/ A wonderful extended sermon was organized in the Urdu Department of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University. Dean School of Islamic Studies and Languages Dr. Shams Kamal Anjum was invited as a speaker who remembered the valuable services of Nisar Ahmad Farooqi. Remember that Dr. Shams Kamal Anjum has deep excellence in various sciences and arts. His eloquent and insightful sermon was well appreciated by the audience. Dr. Musuf in his sermon shed light on Nisar Ahmad Farooqi's great understanding and Mir knowledge. He also delivered a beautiful presidential speech and urged Urdu lovers to adopt pure Urdu script. In this regard, he also presented the examples of



Turkey Where once people lost their identity. Dr. Mushtaq Siddiqui and Dr. Kausar Jafari were invited as guests of honor. With hard work, dedication and wisdom, the department of Urdu made a significant mark in a short time. Today, the department of Urdu occupies a special place among other departments of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University. Who is not familiar with the name of Dr. Liaqat Nair, the President of the Urdu Department? He has many talents and is also a good poet. Dr. Asif Malik Alimi performed

the duties of Nizam. He is an excellent moderator and a scholar as well. Dr. Rizwana Shamsi thanked all the guests. Musufa has a special recognition in the Urdu world due to her ability and intelligence. Thanked the guests of knowledge and literature and the participants of the event in the best way. A large number of male and female students and scholars of Arabic and Urdu departments also participated. And Dr. Muhammad Younis etc. made the program lively.

DLTFC meeting:DDC reviews minor mineral mining scenario in Reasi district

■ HT News Network

REASI, MARCH 15: District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, chaired a meeting of the multi-departmental District Level Task Force Committee focusing on the Geology and Mining activities in the district.

The District Mining Officer provided an update, stating that there are a total of 25 mining blocks in the district, out of which 8 are operational while the rest are either closed or seized.

The DDC emphasized the importance of streamlining the extraction of minerals in the district. He instructed the DMO to ensure that mine owners install CCTV cameras at the exit gates of their mines within one week, with the feed to be submitted daily to the SHO Reasi. This measure aims



to enhance monitoring and curb any illegal activities. Furthermore, DDC stressed the importance of functional weight bridges at all mining sites. Calling for zero tolerance against illegal mining in the district, he urged the authorities to take strict action against individuals or entities involved in such practices. It was informed that notices have been issued to mine owners who have not yet paid fines. DDC Mahajan

directed the ACR Reasi to form a dedicated team to monitor and crack down on illegal mining activities. He also tasked Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars, and other officials to inspect all mine vehicles in the evening to ensure compliance with regulations.

Additionally, he instructed the MVD and traffic police to conduct regular checks on documents and licenses of mine vehicles to uphold legal standards.

Village Cheki - Sodal in Handwara Still Awaits Mobile Connectivity

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Handwara, Mar, 15: HT- Despite two decades passing since the launch of mobile telephony, Checki-Sodal village in Jammu and Kashmir continues to be devoid of any network connectivity. Residents of this village in North Kashmir's Kupwara district are still grappling with the absence of mobile connectivity, which has hindered their daily lives and educational pursuits. Local residents expressed their frustration, highlighting the disparity between their village and the rest of the country in terms of phone connectivity. They emphasized the challenges they face due to slow internet speed and frequent call drops, undermining the claims of telecom companies operat-



ing in the region. Students from the village lamented the impact on their studies, particularly during night hours, as they lack access to the internet and basic mobile connectivity. The inconvenience forces them to travel kilometers away to connect with the outside world, affecting their academic progress. Despite numerous appeals to telecom companies and district administration,

the issue remains unresolved. Promises made during election campaigns have not been fulfilled, leaving residents disillusioned. In response to these concerns, the telecommunications North head assured that the matter would be escalated to higher authorities. A meeting and on-site visit to the affected area are planned to address the network problem promptly. The telecommunications company acknowledges that Checki-Sodal village is not the only area facing this issue, and efforts will be made to improve connectivity in other affected villages as well. The residents of Checki-Sodal village and surrounding areas urge all concerned parties to prioritize the resolution of this long-standing issue and ensure equitable access to mobile connectivity for all. HT-NEWS-NETEORK

Excavator among 11 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized in Kathua

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, MARCH 15: An excavator and 10 other Vehicles involved in illegal mining were today seized by District Mineral Officer (DMO) Rajinder Singh Rana from different locations of the district. The surprise raids were conducted at Lakhampur, Taraf Tajawal, Keerian Gandial, Bhagtal and Nagri areas by the team of Geology and Mining with the assistance of police officials. A total of 10 vehicles and one JCB machine were seized and kept in the custody of police. During the seizure it was found that 7 dumpers, 2 tractor trolleys and a truck were transporting crushed minerals from stone crushers without e-challans and other documents required as per the rules of the geology and mining department. Meanwhile, over Rs. 2 lakh penalty was imposed on JCB machine for excavating raw mineral for dumping at stone crusher from unauthorized location at Gandyal without any valid permission from the department. The DMO informed that there are 19 mineral leases in the district for supplying material at prescribed rates and over 30 stone crushers for providing crushed mineral like sand, aggregate, dust etc.

Training-cum-Awareness Camp on Lavender, Marigold Cultivation organised at GDC Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, MARCH 14: The District Administration Bandipora has issued clarification regarding a news item titled "Locals outraged as Contractor blocks Key Pedestrian Road in Bandipora" published in a local newspaper on 13th March, 2024.

In a statement issued here, the District Administration Bandipora has clarified that the pedestrian road mentioned in the news item has been temporarily closed in view of ongoing construction work of Multi-Storied car parking and in the interest of safety and well-being of the pedestrians and general public at large, as the executing agency has reported apprehension of any untoward accident due to the ongoing construction activities involving heavy construction material.

Moreover, Municipal Council, Bandipora has reported that no municipal asset/space is used, as such; no user charges can be levied.

It is further clarified that there are multiple adjacent pedestrian/ motorable link roads connecting the DC office road with the main market Bandipora, read the statement.

In this backdrop, District Administration, Bandipora has sought kind cooperation from the general public and requested to use other alternative pedestrian/ motorable roads until the time advisory from the executing agency is reviewed.

Kendriya Vidyalaya to come up in Gandoh Subdivision soon District Admin

■ HT News Network

DODA, MARCH 15: District Administration Doda has facilitated Establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya in Gandoh Subdivision with the execution of the Lease Deed. Under the directive of Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh, the Chief Education Officer Parkash Lal Thapa, alongside District Education Planning Officer, Anis Ahmed, and Sub Divisional Magistrate Gandoh, facilitated the execution of the lease deed between the Chief Education Officer Doda and the Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya, marking a significant step towards establishing the KV School in Sub Division Gandoh. Later, the CEO and DEPO also inspected KGBV Changa Bhalessa, directing completion of pending works within 15 days for the building's handover to the department. Additionally, a comprehensive inspection of examination centers at High School Thathri and HSS Thathri was conducted to ensure the integrity and fairness of ongoing examinations.

Students meet Dr. Jatinder Singh at Delhi during Bharat Darshan Tour

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 15: Students from various schools of District Doda, who are currently on Bharat Darshan tour-2024 sponsored 33 BN CRPF under Civic Action Plan, met Union Minister, Dr. Jatinder Singh at the Institute of Civil Service Office Delhi.

Under the Civic Action Program, 33 Battalion CRPF based at Sarna Bhadarwah has organised Bharat Darshan tour-2024 for the under-privileged students of district Doda.

Dr. Jatinder Singh interacted with students and also arranged lunch for them at PMO's Civil Service Office Institute, Delhi.

The students are being escorted by two teachers from the school education department namely Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul-Teacher & Associate NCC Officer (PM Shri GHSS Bhalra, Bhaderwah) and Umesh Kumar-Teacher (GHS Pranoo).

It may be recalled that the tour has been organised to expose the students from underprivileged sections of the society to the external world and also acquaint them with the Socio-Historical perspective of the country.

GDC Kathua & JKEDI collaborate to promote entrepreneurship among students

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, MARCH 15: The Department of Business Administration Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), on Friday organized an Awareness Programme on the New Jammu and Kashmir Start-Up Policy 2024-27.

The event aimed to inspire students towards entrepreneurship, innovation, and self-starting initiatives. Under the guidance of the College Principal Prof. Seema Mir, the program was designed to encourage young minds to explore the realm of entrepreneurship and innovation. She appreciated the organizing team for their efforts in promoting such initiatives for the holistic development of the students.

The chief guest of the event Dr. Sanjay Kurlupia, highlighted the crucial role of startups in job creation and emphasized the need for raising awareness about entrepreneurship among the youth.

Speaking at the event, Dr. R. K Pandita motivated the students to transform their innovative ideas into viable ventures with the support of JKEDI, which plays a pivotal role in the implementation of the new start-up policy.

District Level Seminar on Scope, Development, Promotion of Medicinal Plants held at Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MARCH 15: The AYUSH Department today organised a District Level Seminar on 'Scope, Development and Promotion of Medicinal Plants as Alternative Source of Employment here in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

On the Directions of the Directorate of Ayush UT of J&K, J&K Medicinal Plants Board, District Nodal Office Ayush Kishtwar organized the Seminar.

The seminar was attended by progres-

sive farmers from across the District. The event was graced with the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal, as the Chief Guest.

District Treasury Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Wani, Assistant Director, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Shafkat Lone, Chief Agriculture Officer, Amjad Hussain Malik & Divisional Forest Officer, Vijay Kumar were among the special guests.

Dr. Wahid ul Hassan Technical Officer, J&K Medicinal Plants Board was invited as Resource Person.

The seminar started with a bouquet

presentation and followed by the welcome address and a brief outlay of Ayush Department by District Nodal Officer Ayush Dr Vikram Singh Jamwal.

The Chief Guest emphasised the importance of rallying farmers towards cultivating and promoting alternative medicinal plants as a viable income source. He highlighted the potential of AYUSH as an alternative medicine system and urged stakeholders to seize entrepreneurial opportunities in the medicinal plant cultivation sector. Chief Agriculture Officer and DFO praised the event and assured full cooperation of their Departments in

establishing Herbs Gardens and conserving Medicinal Plants. The Resource Person gave the participants detailed information regarding Cultivation and Marketing of Medicinal Plants such as Ashwagandha, Kutki, Kuth, Pooshkarmool, etc as alternative sources of income for farmers.

A Progressive farmer, Jabir Singh while promoting the importance of Medicinal Plants stated that he has expanded the cultivation of some medicinal plants like Burberry in about 600 Kanals in three Districts -Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban. He urged the other farmers to start cultivation of Medicinal Plants.

DC Rajouri chairs Nodal Officers meeting to review preparedness for Lok Sabha Elections

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, MARCH 15: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, today presided over a pivotal meeting of nodal officers to meticulously review the preparedness ahead of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The meeting served as a platform to disseminate vital information regarding the roles and responsibilities incumbent upon each officer during the electoral process. Deputy Commissioner underscored the critical

ity of the officers' contributions, directing them to execute their duties with unwavering dedication and a profound sense of responsibility.

Addressing the officers, the DC emphasized the paramount importance of meticulous planning and flawless execution in ensuring the smooth conduct of the electoral process. He stressed the need for heightened vigilance, transparency, and adherence to electoral guidelines to uphold the sanctity of the democratic process.

During the comprehensive review, Deputy Commissioner meticulously



outlined the various tasks and duties assigned to the nodal officers, encompassing a wide array of responsibilities of all election work management to security arrangements and logistical coordination. He directed the officers to exhibit exemplary commitment and diligence in discharging their duties, recognizing their pivotal role in facilitating free, fair, and peaceful elections.

Deputy Commissioner expressed confidence in the collective resolve and capability of the nodal officers to fulfill their roles effectively, thereby contributing to the successful

conduct of the Lok Sabha elections in Rajouri district. He reiterated the administration's commitment to upholding the integrity of the electoral process and fostering conducive environment for democratic participation.

The meeting was attended by the ADC Rajouri, Rajeev Kumar Khajuria; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; ACP, Sheraz Chowhan; Dy DEO, Shakeel Ahmed; DPO, Mohd Nawaz Choudhary; CAO, Sohan Singh; DIO NIC Muzaffar Mir; EXEN PWD (R&B), Sardar Khan and other concerned officers.

Police organizes 05-day crash course on new criminal laws in Shopian

■ HT News Network

Shopian March 15: Police in Shopian organised a comprehensive five-day crash course on the new Criminal Laws (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam) at Recreation Hall DPL Shopian. The course, initiated with an aim to equip officers/officials with the essential understanding of the recently promulgated laws by the Central Government. The inauguration of the course was graced by the presence of DySP DAR Shri Javaid Ahmad-JKPS, Sr. PO Shri Sarfaraz Ahmad, Insp. Showkat Ahmad, Insp. Altaf Rashid and PSI Iqbal Razak who delivered an enlightening inaugural Lecturers. During the session, Officers emphasised on the understanding of the theme behind the new criminal laws with a view on the significant Changes. Police Shopian is committed to foster continuous learning and professional development among its personnel to ensure the highest standards of service delivery and community policing.

DDMA Kupwara approves 46 Relief Cases under SDRF Norms

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, MARCH 15: District Disaster Management Committee, (DDMA) Kupwara today approved 46 relief cases in favour of the disaster affected persons of the district. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan who is also Chairperson of District Disaster Management Authority, chaired the meeting and took a case wise review of all the claims pertaining to loss of lives, property and livestock damages. During the meeting, a total of 49 cases, relating to the damage of residential houses and loss of livestock, and DDM death cases, were put forth for discussion, out of which 46 cases amounting to Rs 34.24 lakh were approved for grant of relief under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms and the committee also cleared 2 death cases. 3 cases were deferred by the committee for re-verification. ADC Kupwara, Muhammad Rouf Rehman; ACR Kupwara, SDM Lolab, ACD Kupwara, ACP Kupwara, CMO, CAHO, Executive Engineers, Tehsildars and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

DC Shopian chairs DLIC meeting for implementation of PM Vishwakarma scheme

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MARCH 15: A meeting of District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for implementation of PM Vishwakarma Scheme was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb at Mini-Secretariat, here.

It is worth mentioning here that the PM Vishwakarma Scheme was launched to uplift traditional Artisans and Craftspeople.

At the outset, the DC took a first-hand appraisal of the progress made so far with regard to registration of artisans (Vishwakarmas). He emphasized the importance of concerted efforts and urged officers to promptly identify and register the targeted beneficiaries.

Stressing the scheme's significance in uplifting traditional artisans and



craftspeople, the DC instructed officers to conduct an extensive information, education and communication (IEC) campaign to cover eligible beneficiaries across the district in all identified trades.

The DC directed officers to achieve the targets for registration of beneficiaries under the scheme immediately.

The meeting was informed that 7800 registrations have been made so far in the District.

The DC also reviewed the ongoing training program for artisans and reviewed progress of tool kits registrations.

Handwara Police Takes Decisive Action Against Illegal Mineral Extraction

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Handwara, Mar, 15: In a resolute move against illicit mineral activities, Handwara Police has executed a significant crackdown resulting in the seizure and fining of multiple vehicles and equipment involved in illegal mineral extraction and transportation.

Under the authority of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, Handwara Police seized six vehicles, identified by registration numbers JK 13 E - 2804, JK01AJ-0543, JK1AH-2552, JK09C-7853, and two others, alongside a tractor chassis numbered AZU-DR1046001S3, and one with Ch. No. 0013. This operation underscores the



unwavering commitment of law enforcement to upholding environmental sustainability and enforcing the rule of law. Illegal mineral extraction and transportation not only pose a grave threat to the environment but also undermine the economic

and social fabric of the region. Handwara Police's decisive action sends a strong message that such activities will not be tolerated, and perpetrators will face stringent consequences. Briefed on the operation, a spokesperson for Handwara Police emphasized

the importance of community collaboration in combating illegal mineral activities. "The public plays a crucial role in identifying and reporting suspicious activities related to illegal mineral extraction and transportation," the spokesperson stated. "Together, we can ensure the protection of our natural resources for present and future generations." Handwara Police urges citizens to remain vigilant and report any instances of illegal mineral extraction or transportation to the authorities promptly. By working together, law enforcement and the community can effectively safeguard the environment and uphold the principles of justice and sustainability.

Orientation/ Training for selected Haj pilgrims of Baramulla to be held on March-17 & 19

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MARCH 15: The orientation/training programme scheduled for the selected Hajj pilgrims hailing from different tehsils of Baramulla District has been fixed by the Hajj committee on March 17 and 19.

For pilgrims from Tehsil Baramulla, Uri, Boniyar, Dangiwa, Rohama, Sopore, Watergam, Zangier and Dangerpora, the training shall be provided on 17th March, 2024 at Masjid Baitul-Mukarram, Baramulla from 10:00 AM.

Similarly, for pilgrims from Tehsil Pattan, Khoi, Wag-oora, Kreeri, Singhpora, Tangmarg, Kunzer and Kowar-hama, the training shall be provided on 19th March, 2024 at Jamia Hamdania Masjid Sharief Kunzer from 10:00 AM.

All the selected Haj Pilgrims of the District Baramulla are as such informed to ensure their presence in the said Orientation Training Program at the aforementioned venues on the scheduled date and time.

Financial support to 14110 B&OCWs paid at Kupwara

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, MARCH 15: In an unwavering dedication towards the welfare of workers, the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan was Friday presented a cheque to the tune of Rs. 6,14,36,000 covering 14110 beneficiaries by Assistant Commissioner Labour Kupwara.

The cheque was specifically earmarked for registered beneficiaries of the Jammu And Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOC-WWB), aimed at providing essential financial support for educational assistance.

This initiative mirrors the resolute commitment of the Kupwara administration, under the leadership of the Assistant Labour Commissioner, to stand by and uplift those grappling with challenging circumstances.

The distribution of the amount will offer much-needed relief to individuals facing diverse hardships, ensuring they have access to the necessary resources to navigate through these trying times.

The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara expressed deep appreciation for the collaborative efforts between the Assistant Labour Commissioner and the JKBOC-WWB. This joint initiative underscores a shared commitment to safeguarding the well-being of workers and their families, recognizing the indispensable role they play in the progress and prosperity of the community.

Police organises awareness programme on new criminal laws in Budgam

■ HT News Network

Budgam March 15: Police in Budgam organised an awareness Programme on New Criminal Laws at Girls High School Khanshaib and Higher Secondary School Waterhail.

SDPO Khanshaib Shri Gh Mohi Ud-din-JKPS accompanied by SHO PS Khanshaib and Incharge PP Waterhail were present during the said program.

The event witnessed significant participation from renowned educationists, prominent individuals and Students. They were given a basic awareness of the 03 Criminal Laws, namely Bharatiya Naya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Surksha Sanhita and Bhartiya Sakshya Abhiyaan. The new laws include provisions that ensure justice for the victims of crime and the society at large. Modernization of the investigation process through the use of technology has been included and the new laws also sets timelines for trials.

The participants appreciated the role of the Police in organising such an important program. The new laws include provisions that ensure justice for the victims of crime and the society at large. Modernization of the investigation process through the use of technology has been included and the new laws also sets timelines for trials.

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NEP-2020 will foster creativity and innovation: CUKashmir VC Deptt of English holds workshop for educators

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal, Mar 15: Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath Friday said the National Education Policy-2020 represents a bold vision for transforming the country's education system, by focusing on fostering creativity, knowledge creation, innovation, and excellence to meet the challenges of the 21st century. "NEP-2020 seeks to empower learners with adequate knowledge, skills, and values necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing global landscape and contribute to the socio-economic development of the nation," Prof. A Ravinder Nath said, while inaugurating a one-day National Level workshop on "NEP-2020: A Workshop for Educators", organised by the Department of English at varsity's Tullmulla campus. Head Deptt of Management Studies and former Dean (I/c), School of



Languages, Prof. Abdul Gani, Dean School of Legal Studies and Registrar I/c, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, Dean School of Business Studies, Prof. Fayaz Ahmad Nikka, Dean School of Physical and Chemical Sciences, Prof. Mohammad Yousuf, Dean, School of Languages, Head, Deptt. of Eng-

lish, and workshop Convenor, Prof. Sandhya Tiwari, Heads of departments, faculty members, research scholars and students were present. CUK Vice-Chancellor further advocated for a curriculum that integrates international, national, and regional dimensions and aspirations,

emphasising the adoption of these three distinct approaches to ensure that students do not remain confined to a single direction in their educational journey. Addressing the participants, Prof. Abdul Gani, described NEP-2020 as a landmark reform in the field of education, emphasizing holistic development, flexible learning pathways, and integration of technology in education. He underscored the significance of adopting multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches in education, positioning the NEP as a medium towards achieving the goal of a developed India (Viksit Bharat). He highlighted the pivotal role of educators in realising the objectives of the NEP. I/c Registrar, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir gave insights into the shortcomings of the previous education system, particularly the Choice Based Credit System, attributing its failure to factors such as lack of awareness among both faculty and students.



What India need from the Indian Premier League

There are around eight spots to fill in India's squad for the T20 World Cup, and the IPL is the best place to identify the right men

NEW DELHI: Whatever you say about prioritising domestic cricket (or not), the IPL will be far more important for international selection than the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. And arguably even T20Is, given how little international T20 cricket India have played since this team management was hurriedly given an extension following the ODI World Cup. So this IPL is huge for contenders for places because there isn't even a week between the IPL and the T20 World Cup in the USA and the West Indies.

Let's firstly look at the players that can be considered reasonable certainties. Any such list should always start with Jasprit Bumrah. Then comes the captain, Rohit Sharma. His opening partner is more or less locked in: Yashasvi Jaiswal. And once you bring back Rohit, there is no way you don't bring back Virat Kohli. There is the added selectorial merit of experience and Kohli's efficiency against high pace. The only other batter who can confidently start putting together his

paperwork for visas is Suryakumar Yadav. Kuldeep Yadav has more or less booked his place as the wristspinner, and Ravindra Jadeja is more or less a given as the fingerspinning allrounder. That's seven spots out of 15.

Keeping that in mind, here is what the selectors will be looking at keenly during the IPL.

If, for whatever reason, the selectors and the team management have decided to stick with the core of Rohit and Kohli, opposition spinners will fancy them. Even Suryakumar, a much more effective T20 batter, goes considerably slower against spin than against pace. Left-arm spin, especially, becomes an effective defensive tool against India.

To counter exactly this, India have been backing Shivam Dube, who played the exact same role for Chennai Super Kings in last year's IPL. However, there is one big difference: CSK could do it because of the Impact Player rule, which allowed them to use Dube in that super specialist

role.

Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad have good numbers against spin, but that's because they start against the new ball and are in by the time they face spin in the middle overs.

If fully fit and in form, new Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya is a definite starter. That seems a formality now, but the selectors will want to see what kind of role he plays for his IPL team. The other question for the selectors will be: is the selection of Dube, whom the team management has been trying to give some bowling, independent of Hardik's availability?

Not a specialist position anymore. He is a hitter who can keep wicket. Jitesh Sharma is the closest to sealing that spot, but the decision-makers would ideally have liked to see him a little more against international attacks. If there is a slight doubt around him, it is probably because the BCCI had no coach or captain for the T20 World Cup when the recent set of

T20Is began, and the interim team management kept playing Ishan Kishan, which not only deprived a more suitable candidate game time but also gave false hope to Kishan.

One of the great stories of this IPL is going to be the return of Rishabh Pant from the life-threatening accident a year and a quarter ago, but the national selectors might exercise some caution when it comes to rushing him back and that too at a World Cup.

If KL Rahul chooses to bat in the middle order in the IPL and can recreate the effectiveness he displayed for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the middle order in 2016, he can be an interesting option to look at. Especially because he is versatile and can be one back-up batter for more than one role.

Not exactly a separate head count but when they pick players for the aforementioned roles, they will have to consider at least two who can hit high pace in overs 17 to 20. Rinku Singh has been doing that

role; there is no pressing reason to keep him out of the 15, but the final XI will be a challenge once everyone is back.

Bumrah is there for sure, but India need at least two more quicks for the starting XI. At the moment, no one is closer to sealing the place than the other. Ideally, they should be able to hit a six or two, but the selectors are not exactly spoilt for choices. The last squad had Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan and Mukesh Kumar. Mohammed Siraj, who was key in the Tests against England, will definitely be back in the mix. If Mohsin Khan, who has had his fitness issues, is bowling for Lucknow Super Giants, he is someone the selectors will want to look at.

You can have four of them. The selectors will have to choose among a fourth fast bowler, another wristspinner in Ravi Bishnoi, a spin-bowling allrounder in Axar Patel, an extra wicketkeeper-hitter who can possibly be batting back-up, a top-order back-up in the mode of Gill, and a pure middle-order hitter.

ICC makes between-overs stop clock a permanent feature in ODIs, T20Is

At the 2024 T20 World Cup, 10-overs-a-side needed to constitute a completed knockout game instead of the usual five

NEW DELHI: The stop clock to help speed up over rates will become a permanent feature in men's ODIs and T20Is between Full Members from June 1, the ICC announced after its board meetings in Dubai this week.

According to the rule, which has been trialled in international cricket since December last year, the fielding side must be ready to start an over within a minute of the previous one ending. If they fail to do so, they will be allowed two warnings by the umpires, after which a five-run penalty will be imposed for the third offence and every subsequent one.

"The results of the stop-clock trial were presented to the Chief Executives' Committee (CEC), which demonstrated that around 20 minutes per ODI match had been saved in time," an ICC said in a statement laying out the reasons for making the rule permanent. During the trial period, no team was found to have exceeded the one-minute limit between overs three times in an innings, and so the five-run penalty has not yet been imposed for this offence.

In addition to the stop clock, there are two other penalties that can be imposed to police over-rates in limited-overs cricket - a fielding penalty and monetary fines.

The fielding penalty is laid out as follows: if the fielding side fails to begin the final over of the innings by the stipulated cut-off time, after accounting for delays, they will have to bring an extra fielder into the 30-yard circle for however many overs are remaining in the innings. So they will be allowed only four fielders outside the circle, instead of five, for



the duration of the penalty. This rule, introduced in early 2022, applies to both men's and women's limited-overs games.

The monetary fine includes a 5% cut in the team's match fee for every over they are short of the minimum required over rate, after the umpires have taken into account allowances for unavoidable delays. The fine for the captain is double that of his team-mates, and the fines are capped at 50% of the match fee.

The 2024 T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies in June will have reserve days in place for the semi-finals and final, in case of delays and interruptions. And each of those knockout games will require a minimum of 10 overs per innings to con-

stitute a completed game. For the group stages, the minimum requirement remains five-overs-per-side to constitute a match, as is the norm for T20 cricket.

The 2026 Men's T20 World Cup, like the upcoming edition, will comprise 20 teams, with 12 automatic qualifiers: the two hosts India and Sri Lanka as well as the other teams that make the Super Eights at the 2024 T20 World Cup. Then, two to four teams (it will be fewer than four if India or Sri Lanka finish outside the top eight in 2024) are decided by who are the next highest-ranked teams in the ICC's T20I rankings on June 30, 2024. The remaining eight spots for 2026 will be decided through the usual regional qualifiers pathway.

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