

Hardik Pandya Arrives In Ahmedabad, Away Captain At Home Away From Home P|12

DEO Baramulla flags off Vibrant Shikara Rally to promote Voter Awareness under SVEEP P|3



# ECI Notifies Scheme For Kashmir Migrants To Vote During Lok Sabha Elections 2024

Physical Voting at 26 Special Polling Stations, Online submission of M-Form and 12C from anywhere in the country, and 4 Assistant Returning Officers (Migrants) notified

**HT News Network**

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Continuing the past practice of facilitating the Kashmiri Migrant to vote through Postal ballots and Special Polling Stations set at Jammu, Udhampur, and New Delhi, the Election Commission of India announced a comprehensive scheme for the Kashmiri Migrants. The scheme is meant for all those electors of 1-Baramulla, 2-Srinagar, and 3-Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency in the Kashmir valley of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir who had migrated because of compelling circumstances and

have been temporarily residing in various places outside their place of ordinary residence.

The Election Commission has issued two notifications categorizing the Kashmiri Migrants as the 'specified' and 'notified' elector. The first notification has been issued under the powers vested in the Commission under Article 324 of the Constitution read along with Section 25 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which specifies the migrant electors of Kashmir Valley who are enrolled in any of the Parliamentary Constituencies of 1-Baramulla, 2-Srinagar and 3-Anantnag-Rajouri, but residing outside their place of ordinary residence, (other than those who opt for a postal ballot under clause (c) of Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951) as the class of persons for whom special polling stations shall be provided outside the territorial limits of the Parliamentary Constituencies mentioned above during the General Election to the House of the People for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, to be held in 2024.

The other Notification similarly has been issued under Section 60(c) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, notifying the aforesaid migrant electors of Kashmir valley enrolled in any of the Parliamentary Constituencies of 1-Baramulla, 2-Srinagar, and 3-Anantnag-Rajouri, but residing outside their place of ordinary residence, (other than those who opt for a postal ballot under clause (c) of Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951) as the class of persons for whom special polling stations shall be provided outside the territorial limits of the Parliamentary Constituencies mentioned above during the General Election to the House of the People for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, to be held in 2024.

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## VOTERS RELIEF CAMPS JAMMU

1	Women's College, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.
2	Indian Institute of Management, Canal Road, Jammu.
3	Directorate School Education, Muthi, Jammu.
4	Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Janipur, Jammu.
5	Migrant School, Purkhoo, Jammu.
6	Agriculture Complex, Talab Tillo, Jammu.
7	Govt. Mixed Higher Secondary School, Muthi
8	Migrant School, Nagrota, Jammu.
9	Govt. Higher Secondary School, (Migrants) Jagti-A, Jammu.
10	Govt. Higher Secondary School, (Migrants) Jagti-B, Jammu.
11	Anuradha Higher Sec. School, Barnai, Jammu.
12	Agriculture University Complex, Udhaiyawa, Jamma
13	J&K Board of School Education, Rehari, Jammu-A.
14	Govt. Middle School, (Migrants), Jagti
15	Community Hall Jagti
16	Govt. Girls Middle School Chak Changerwan Chinore Chowk, Jammu.
17	Govt. Girls Primary School Gangyal, Jammu.
18	Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Poni Chak.
19	J&K Board of School Education, Rehari, Jammu-B
20	Govt. High School Sagoon, Miran Sahib.
21	Govt. Higher Secondary School Channi.

### The Dates Of Poll In The Three Parliamentary Constituencies Are As Under:

Phase	No. and Name of PCs/Name of Districts	Date of Poll
Schedule - III	3-Anantnag-Rajouri	07.05.2024
Schedule - IV	2-Srinagar	13.05.2024
Schedule - V	1-Baramulla	20.05.2024

## NEWS BRIEF

### Rajnath Singh To Visit Siachen Today, Celebrate Holi With Military Personnel

**NEW DELHI, MAR 23:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that he will visit Siachen area — the world's highest battlefield — on March 24 and celebrate Holi with the armed forces personnel deployed there. The festival of colour will be celebrated from March 24-25. "Tomorrow, 24th March, I shall be in Siachen, the world's highest battlefield. Looking forward to celebrate Holi with the Armed Forces personnel deployed there," Singh posted on X. The Siachen Glacier at the height of around 20,000 ft in the Karakoram

### Gurez Valley Awaits Tourist Wave As BRO Clears Snow-Covered Roads

**BANDIPORA, MAR 23:** The Gurez Valley, nestled in the northern reaches of Kashmir in North Kashmir's Bandipora district is on the cusp of a tourism renaissance with the Border Roads Organization (BRO) is nearing completion of a Herculean task: clearing the snow from the vital Bandipora-Gurez road, which promises to double the influx of tourists compared to the previous year. The border valley, which remains cut off due to the heavy snowfall on Razdan Pass for six months, has been a significant barrier, isolating the

### Physically Handicapped Seek Govt Job Age Relaxation

**SRINAGAR, MAR 23:** In a heartfelt plea addressed to the administration of Jammu and Kashmir, physically handicapped individuals from the region have requested an increase in the age relaxation for government job applications. Currently, the age limit stands at 42 years for this category, unlike in other states where it is extended up to 48 years. Expressing their desire to contribute to the workforce and alleviate any burden on their families, these candidates highlight the necessity of equal opportunities in government employment. They emphasise that by extending the age relaxation, they would

### Weather Improves In Kashmir After Wet Spell

**SRINAGAR, MAR 23:** After two days of rain and light snow over upper reaches, the weather improved in Kashmir on Saturday. The Meteorological (MeT) department in Srinagar said for the next



24 hours, mainly dry weather with the possibility of very light rain, snow, or thunderstorms is likely to occur at one or two places in Jammu and Kashmir. The weather is likely to remain dry in Kashmir on March 25 and 26. The MeT predicted another phase of wet spells for two days starting on March 27. Jammu and Kashmir witnessed

## Jal Shakti Dept Urge Consumers For Timely Settlement Of Water Bills, Warns Of Legal Action For 'Unregistered Connections'

**SRINAGAR, MAR 23:** As the impending deadline of March 31 for water bill payments draws closer, the Jal Shakti Department, formerly known as the Public Health Engineering Department, is intensifying efforts to remind consumers to settle their dues promptly, aiming to avoid any potential inconvenience. Officials aware of the matter said that the Jal Shakti Department



has issued a stern warning to consumers, urging them to settle their water bills promptly as the March 31 deadline approaches. Emphasizing the importance of timely payments, the department has cautioned that failure to do so could result in legal repercussions. Furthermore, the department has specifically highlighted the necessity for consumers to register their water connections with the department without delay. "Those with unregistered con-

nections face the prospect of legal actions being taken against them," the Jal Shakti department officials told KNS. This directive underscores the department's commitment to ensuring compliance with regulatory measures and maintaining accountability within the water management system. A Jal Shakti Department official underscored the urgency of measures to reduce non-revenue

## BSF SDG Asks Jawans To Thwart Any Attempts To Disrupt Peace In Valley

**SRINAGAR, MAR 23:** Border Security Force Western Command Special Director General (SDG) Y B Khurania has urged the Jawans to maintain high vigil to thwart any attempts to disrupt peace and harmony in the valley.



## Central Directive Allows States To Act Against JKNF

**SRINAGAR, MAR 23:** The central government authorised states and the Union Territories (UTs) to wield the powers outlined in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, in relation to the proscribed Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF), an outfit which was banned for next five years earlier this month. As per a notification, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued a directive in

## Referral Judges Have Huge Responsibility To Make Mediation Successful: Justice Tashi

**JAMMU, MAR 23:** Mediation & Conciliation Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh in collaboration with J&K Judicial Academy and J&K Legal Services Authority today organized one day sensitization programme for nomi-



nated Referral Judges of Jammu province of Jammu and Kashmir on the topic "Mediation and Role of Referral Judges in the Process of Mediation" at J&K Judicial Academy, Jammu. Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K

## MeetPaper: Canadian Organisation Establishes Direct-To-Consumer Chain For Kashmir's Papier Mâché Artists

**SRINAGAR, MAR 23:** Papier Mâché artists have a reason to smile as a Canadian organisation has established a direct-to-consumer chain to end the middleman menace and push exports. MeetPaper showcases the



## Army Cancels Seminar On UCC After Backlash From Political Parties In J&K

**SRINAGAR, MAR 23:** The Army in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday cancelled a seminar, which was aimed to raise awareness about the Uniform Civil Code and other topics after a backlash from the political parties here. The Army late Friday sent invitations to the media houses for a seminar on the subject "Navigating legal frontiers: Understanding Indian Penal Code 2023 and the quest for Uniform Civil Code". The seminar was scheduled for March 26 at the Kashmir University Auditorium. However, there was a backlash from the

## Tulip Garden Thrown Open For Visitors



**SRINAGAR, MAR 23:** The Tulip Garden located in the foothills of the Zabarwan range overlooking the Dal Lake was thrown open to visitors on Saturday.

## Moscow Terror Attack Toll Continues To Rise; Modi, Other Leaders Express Condemnation

**MOSCOW, MAR 23:** The toll in the Moscow City Hall concert shooting has risen to 143 lives while over 100 were left injured in the worst terror attack in Russia which received messages of condolences and solidarity from several foreign leaders, including India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The law enforcement authorities have arrested 11 people, including the 4 attackers who stormed the Crocus City Hall concert venue at Krasnogorsk on the outskirts of Moscow last night and indiscriminately showered bullets and other deadly ammunition on the common people present there for enjoyment. The four men in army camouflage were caught on camera firing at people randomly, even from point-



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

**ECI Notices.....**

3-Anantnag-Rajouri, who are residing outside their place of ordinary residence, (other than those who opt to vote in person at special polling stations), as the class of persons to give their votes by postal ballots.

Additionally, the Commission has also notified four Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) to assist the Returning Officers of these three Parliamentary Constituencies in the work concerning the 'Specified' and 'Notified' class of electors. These four AROs are (1) Assistant Commissioner, Relief (Migrant), Jammu, (2) Assistant Commissioner, Panchayat, Udhampur (3) Deputy Director, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing, Delhi and (4) Deputy Secretary, in the office of Resident Commissioner, New Delhi.

Functionally, the Assistant Commissioner, Relief (Migrant), Jammu in the Office of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Jammu is made responsible for the receipt of applications from the electors who wish to vote at the special polling stations at Jammu. He shall also be the ARO responsible for the issuance of a Postal Ballot to all those who opt for the same.

Likewise, the Deputy Director, Horticulture, Planning & Marketing, Delhi and Deputy Secretary, office of Resident Commissioner, New Delhi, are appointed as the ARO for the receipt of applications, conduct of poll, etc., at the special polling station(s) to be provided in Delhi. Collector, Northern Railways, Udhampur is appointed as ARO in respect of the special polling station(s) at Udhampur.

For the General Elections to Lok Sabha - 2024, the Election Commission has advised the migrant voters to send their forms, Form M for voting in person at any of the 'Special Polling Stations' or Form 12 C for using the postal ballot to the concerned Assistant Returning Officers to reach them on or 10 days before the date of poll separately for each phase of the polling.

Kashmiri migrant voters, who are residing at various relief camps in Delhi, Jammu, and Udhampur and who opt to cast their votes in person through Electronic Voting Machines at the forthcoming General Elections to the Lok Sabha, 2024 can do so at any one of the following polling stations:

**Voters Relief Camps Jammu See On Front Page Udhampur**

1. Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Udhampur New Delhi
1. J&K House, 5, Prithiviraj Road, New Delhi.
2. O/o the Deputy Director, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.
3. Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Paprawat, New Delhi.
4. Arwachin International School, F-Block, Dilshad Garden, Delhi.

Applications in Form M and Form 12C for all phases can be submitted immediately after the notification of this scheme.

Those who wish to exercise their franchise in person at Special Polling Stations should intimate details of the electors in their families to the Assistant Returning Officers mentioned below, in prescribed Form 'M', which is available free of cost at the office of these Assistant Returning Officers, as well as can be downloaded from Commission's website (www.eci.gov.in) or Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir's Web site (www.ceojk.nic.in). These Forms must reach the Assistant Returning Officers at least ten days before the date of poll in the respective Constituency. The Option once given shall be final.

1. Assistant Commissioner, Relief (Migrant), Jammu,
2. Assistant Commissioner, Panchayat, Udhampur,
3. Deputy Director, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing, Delhi, and
4. Deputy Secretary, office of Resident Commissioner, New Delhi.

Any migrant elector, other than those who opted to vote in person can avail the option to vote through postal ballot papers. For this, an application in Form 12C has to be made and copies of these forms are also available in the offices of the Assistant Returning Officers mentioned above as well as can be downloaded from the Commission's website (www.eci.gov.in) or Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir's Web site (www.ceojk.nic.in). All the application forms (Form 12 C) duly filled in, requesting for the Postal Ballot must reach the Assistant Returning Officer at Jammu so as to reach him 10 days before the date of poll for each phase. To facilitate the attestation of forms, a sufficient number of Gazetted Officers will be available at these centers and will attest the same.

They can also drop their application forms, and later on, their marked postal ballot papers in the special letter-boxes, which will also be available at the offices of all the Assistant Returning Officers mentioned above.

In addition to the above, instructions, the Commission has also extended an online facility for the Migrant electors residing at various places other than Jammu, Udhampur, and Delhi to download Form 'M' and Form '12C' from the ECI website or Voter Services Portal. After filling, such Forms the migrant electors shall approach the office of the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) of the constituency in which they are residing at present, anywhere in the country. The Electoral Registration Officers can have access to the details of migrant electors enrolled in different Parliamentary Constituencies (Assembly segment-wise) in Kashmir through ERO-Net. The ERO concerned, after verifying details in the Form 'M' will scan and upload the same to electronically transmit to the AROs/Migrants at Delhi, Jammu, and Udhampur for further necessary action. Hard copies so uploaded shall also be sent to AROs/Migrant Delhi, Jammu, and Udhampur as the case may be.

Similarly, the ERO concerned will verify the details in Form 12-C and sign the certificate in Part- II of the Form and scan and upload it to electronically transmit the same to the ARO Migrant at Jammu who will take further necessary action to send Postal Ballot to the elector concerned. Hard copies so uploaded are to be sent to ARO Migrant at Jammu.

The postal Ballot will be sent through Speed Post to the elector concerned by the ARO Migrant, Jammu. The elector can send polled Postal Ballot through Speed post (free of cost) to the Returning Officer concerned of the Parliamentary Constituency to which he/she belongs so

that the same can reach the RO concerned in time. The cost of Speed Post will be paid by the R.O. concerned.

In case of any grievances, the Kashmiri migrants can approach the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir (ceo-jk@nic.in) or the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, J&K (relief-ceomm@jk.gov.in, 0191-2586218, 9622189330) or use the toll-free facility of the Commission (1950).

**Weather Improves.....**

widespread rains from Thursday evening till Friday afternoon. The upper reaches, including ski resort Gulmarg, received snowfall during this period.

Meanwhile, except for the two tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam, the night temperature settled above sub-zero in all weather stations across Kashmir.

MeT said Srinagar had 6.5, Pahalgam minus 1.1, and Gulmarg minus 2.5 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature. (UNI)

**Jal Shakti Dept.....**

water losses, emphasizing the department's dual focus on enhancing access to potable water under the Jal Jeevan Mission and implementing systemic improvements.

While acknowledging past delays in bill generation and distribution, the official assured consumers that mechanisms were now in place to facilitate the clearing of dues through manageable monthly installments, thereby easing financial burdens for households and businesses alike.

Additionally, the official reiterated the department's commitment to deploying water meters, highlighting their pivotal role in promoting responsible water consumption and enabling consumers to monitor their daily usage closely.

The Jal Shakti Department remains steadfast in its mission to enhance water management practices and ensure timely bill payments, thereby fostering sustainable utilization of water resources for the collective benefit of all stakeholders.

In a recent directive, Anbreen Anjum, the Executive Engineer for Water Works Division in Srinagar, emphasized that consumers in the Srinagar district must settle their pending water bills by March 31, 2024. Payment options include online platforms such as www.jkphed-waterbilling.com, the MobilKwik app, or Paytm. Consumers unable to pay online can visit the office to settle their bills offline. Additionally, consumers with substantial bills have the option to pay in three installments before the deadline but will incur a late fee if they fail to comply. Furthermore, the circular issued by the department explicitly directs consumers who have yet to register their water connections to do so without delay.

Failure to register water tap connections promptly will result in legal actions being taken against them, reinforcing the department's commitment to accountability and compliance with regulatory measures.

**BSF SDG Asks.....**

Khurania said this while interacting with senior BSF officers, subordinate officers, and Jawans through a "Prahari Sammelan" which was held at Humhama on Srinagar outskirts during his five-day visit to the Kashmir Frontier that ended on March 22 last.

The visit was aimed at assessing the security situation and operational preparedness along the Line of Control (LoC) and reaffirming the commitment of the Force to safeguard India's borders.

The visit commenced with a detailed briefing by Ashok Yadav, Inspector General, BSF Kashmir Frontier on the security situation on the LoC and hinterland, a spokesman of the Force said.

The visit included an aerial reconnaissance and visits to forward-defended localities, as well as to the sector headquarters (SHQ) BSF in Kupwara and Srinagar. "At each location, the SDG engaged with local BSF Commanders and troops gaining firsthand insights into the security scenario and operational readiness along the LoC," the spokesman said.

SDG Khurania also called on the Army's 15 Corps Commander Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai and discuss the collaborative efforts between BSF and the Army and underscored the paramount importance of synergy for achieving peace, prosperity, and development in the valley.

Additionally, Khurania visited the Composite Hospital and STC BSF, Kashmir, where he reviewed the ongoing physical and professional skill training of recruits.

He commended the professionalism and expertise of the training team at STC BSF, Kashmir, highlighting their role in shaping the future of BSF personnel.

Concluding his visit, Khurania, interacted with senior officers, subordinate officers, and Jawans through a "Prahari Sammelan."

He lauded the high level of professionalism exhibited by BSF personnel and urged them to maintain high vigil to thwart any attempts to disrupt peace and harmony in the valley. (UNI)

**Central Directive.....**

which the states and the UTs can use section 7 and section 8 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 against the banned terror outfit JKNF.

The notification was issued days after the MHA declared the JKNF an unlawful association. "Whereas, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and (3) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), the Central Government declared the Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF), as an unlawful association vide notification number S.O. 1296(E) dated March 12, 2024, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii), dated the 12th March, 2024," the notification said.

"Now, therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 42 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government hereby directs that all the powers exercisable by it under section 7 and section 8 of the said Act shall also be exercised by the State Governments and the Union territory administrations in relation to the above said unlawful association," reads the notification.

On March 12, the MHA banned the JKNF by declaring it as an 'unlawful association' with immediate effect

under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for a period of five years," it added.

The Ministry issued a notification pointing out that the JKNF, chaired by Nayeem Ahmad Khan, is indulging in "unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty, and security of the country."

**Referral Judges.....**

and Ladakh and Chairman, Mediation & Conciliation Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh inaugurated the event.

Vinay Kumar Gupta, Former Principal District & Session Judge, a trained Mediator from MCPC, Supreme Court of India, Yash Paul Bourney, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Rajinder Saproo, Coordinator, Mediation & Conciliation Committee, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Prem Sagar, Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee were the Resource Persons for the programme.

While delivering the inaugural address, Justice Tashi highlighted that the mediation embodies principles of cooperation and consensus-building. He said that by prioritizing relationships and collaboration, mediation transcends the limitations of the courtroom and offers a more holistic approach to conflict resolution. He added that mediation empowers individuals to resolve their conflicts swiftly, amicably, and on their own terms. He underlined that the referral judges must possess a thorough understanding of the principles and practices of mediation, as an effective alternative dispute resolution tool in their hands.

Justice Tashi stressed that referral judges play a pivotal role in promoting the use of mediation as an alternative to traditional litigation and huge responsibility lies on their shoulder to make mediation successful. Referring to the dismal figures of cases referred for mediation by the District Judiciary in the UT of J&K during the year 2023, Justice Tashi observed that we are lagging far behind than other States.

He strongly urged upon all the participating referral judges as also the trial judges as a whole to embrace the principles of mediation to foster a legal system that is not only efficient and equitable but also conducive in nurturing harmonious relationships and promoting social cohesion.

Yash Paul Bourney, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, in his welcome address, gave an overview of the programme. Quoting Chief Justice of India, Justice Dr. D. Y. Chandrachud, he said that Mediation offers citizens a forum to not only determines the outcome of their disputes, but also to determine the criteria and standards by which those outcomes are evaluated. He highlighted that mediation as an Alternate or Additional Dispute Resolution mechanism, is not new to India and has been existing as part of dispute resolution mechanism since times immemorial.

Headed that mediation in its present form is a much refined and structured concept for effective resolution of disputes with the help of a third neutral person who assists the disputant parties to resolve their differences amicably. He reflected that benefits of mediation are manifold. Firstly, it offers a cost-effective and time-efficient alternative to traditional litigation, sparing parties from protracted court battles and exorbitant legal fees. Secondly, mediation promotes flexibility and autonomy, allowing parties to retain control over the outcome of their dispute rather than surrendering it to a judge and moreover, mediation promotes confidentiality, preserving the privacy of sensitive information and mitigating reputational risks.

Rajinder Saproo, Coordinator, Mediation & Conciliation Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, proposed vote of thanks and also conducted the proceedings of the day-long programme.

The inaugural session was followed by working sessions during which Vinay Kumar Gupta, Former Principal District & Session Judge, Delhi deliberated on the topics of ADR, Code of Civil Procedure 1908, and Mediation Act 2023. The learned resource person also highlighted the role of referral judges and discussed various guidelines for referral judges.

All the sessions were highly interactive during which the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the worthy resource person.

**MeetPaper: Canadian.....**

exquisite craftsmanship of Kashmiri artists to international audiences and ensures that the profits are returned to the creators themselves.

MeetPaper's founders, Sanjay Suri, Prateeksha Pathak, and Shrawan Suri, visited the valley recently to distribute the first profit tranche to the local artists.

This gesture marked a significant step in supporting the artists and preserving the dying art of Papier Mâché. During their visit, the MeetPaper team met Syed Aijaz and Akhtar Mir, two ace artisans of Kashmir.

Aijaz, a President's Award-winning artist, had faced financial hardships during the pandemic, compelling him to drive an autorickshaw to support his family.

"This is a great initiative by MeetPaper to revive the dying craft," said Aijaz.

Papier Mâché is a unique Kashmiri craft that involves the use of paper pulp to create beautiful artefacts. While the artefacts elicit amazement from buyers locally and outside, the centuries-old craft is dying a slow death due to various reasons.

Sanjay Suri said MeetPaper's initiative is the first of its kind to address this disparity, ensuring that the artists receive the true worth of their art.

"During our visit, the artists shared their struggles, revealing how their creations were often sold at inflated prices without them receiving fair compensation," he said.

MeetPaper's visit also included discussions on further support for the artists, including optical medical assistance, highlighting the organisation's commitment to the well-being of the artisans beyond financial aid.

"As MeetPaper continues to bridge the gap between Kashmiri artists and the global market, it stands as a testament to the power of ethical entrepreneurship and the impact it can have on preserving cultural heritage

and uplifting communities," Suri said.

"By buying directly from the artists and managing the export, shipping, and selling processes, MeetPaper creates a sustainable ecosystem that benefits the artists and promotes their livelihood," he added.

Prateeksha said they started this social enterprise after reading news stories about how artisans struggled to make ends meet, particularly during and after COVID-19.

"We learned that artisans who had been bestowed with national and state awards for their craft were not able to engage in alternate labour, including driving autorickshaws, to survive. These episodes inspired us to create a platform where we purchase paper mache handicrafts directly from artisans, sell them at different venues, and return profits to the artisans. Recently, we completed a year and returned to the Valley to distribute all our profits among artisans who joined us and supported us when we began," she said.

"We have started with a few artisans. We hope to gradually increase our network by collaborating with more artists and creating new avenues to promote Kashmiri art. We resolve to keep our efforts going to ensure our artisans are supported and these art forms receive their due attention internationally," she added. (UNI)

**Army Cancels.....**

regional political parties with former chief minister and National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah questioning the Army's involvement in a "divisive" issue like the Uniform Civil Code in a "sensitive" place like Kashmir.

"Is it appropriate for the Indian Army to get involved in the divisive issue of the uniform civil code & that too in a sensitive area like Kashmir? There is a reason the Indian Army has remained apolitical & a religious. This ill-advised UCC seminar is a threat to both these basic tenets," Abdullah said in a post on X.

He said going ahead with the seminar risks opening up the Army to charges of getting involved in the "murky world" of politics coupled with "interfering" in religious matters.

His party colleague and NC's chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to "assess the appropriateness" of the Army discussing an issue that figures prominently in the BJP's manifesto while the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is in effect.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) also criticised the Army for conducting the seminar.

"What we are seeing is the continuation of the trend of 'Naya Kashmir' and Akhir Kab Tak campaigns in which the Army as an institution was seen as playing a partisan role and directly interfering in the political affairs of J-K," PDP's spokesperson Najmus Saqib said.

"Post backlash, we had seen some systemic changes, but unfortunately the seminar by the India Army as an institution depicts how far the lines between politics and security apparatus have blurred in J-K," he added.

Saqib said this is a "very dangerous trend" and is a "manifestation of larger systemic erosion of the Constitution".

After the backlash, the Army cancelled the event "due to implementation of the Model Code of Conduct".

"The Legal Awareness Seminar on March 26 by Kashmir Jurist in Kashmir University has been cancelled due to implementation of the Model Code of Conduct," Srinagar-based Defence Spokesman Lt Col Manoj Sahu said.

The invite for the seminar to the media persons was sent by Srinagar-based PRO Defence on behalf of General Officer Commanding HQ 31 Sub Area, Major General PBS Lamba. (AGENCIES)

**Tulip Garden.....**

"The tulip garden has been thrown open to the visitors and the general public today," said an official of the Floriculture department. "The opening of the garden means that spring has arrived and it is time to celebrate."

The garden not only boasts a splendid collection of tulips but also serves as a haven for a myriad of flower species. Delicate daffodils, fragrant hyacinths, resplendent roses, charming ranunculi, vibrant mscara, and enchanting Iris blooms flourish alongside the iconic tulips, creating an enchanting tapestry of colors and fragrances.

Last year more than 3.77 lakh domestic and foreign tourists visited the garden and officials are hopeful that this year will be record-breaking.

The official said five new varieties of tulips have been added to the existing 68 this year.

The average lifespan of the tulip flower is three to four weeks but heavy rains or too much heat can destroy them.

The tourists who visited the garden on the first day said it will remain etched in their memory for a long time.

"Me and my family will remember this visit for a long time. We will visit here again before concluding the Kashmir trip next week," said a tourist. (UNI)

**Moscow Terror.....**

blank range and throwing explosives around, even as the citizens were seen trying to escape being targeted.

The terrorists also set the building on fire, using some inflammable material, and this caused its collapse. The firing, blaze and the building collapse caused many deaths and injuries.

According to the latest media reports, the death toll has risen to 143 and is expected to go up further as over 100 are still hospitalised in injured condition and the debris of the building is being cleared.

ISIS has already claimed responsibility for the horrific attack.

The Federal Security Service (FSB) of Russia has said 11 people, including the 4 attackers, have been arrested in connection with the assault.

A video on social media showed one of the four arrested terrorists telling his interrogators that the attackers hailed from Tajikistan and had arrived from Turkey.

The terrorist, born in September, 1998, is seen telling the interrogators that he carried out the horrendous attack for money.

He was promised 500,000 Rubles by some "unknown" people and he had already received one-half of the amount, according to the terrorist.

The weapons were also provided by those "unknown" people who approached him when he was "listening" to Islamic verses on Telegram, the terrorist claims.

The gruesome attack was condemned by many leaders and countries across the world.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while condemning the "heinous terrorist attack", said India stands in solidarity with the government and the people of the Russian Federation in this hour of grief.

"We strongly condemn the heinous terrorist attack in Moscow. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims. India stands in solidarity with the government and the people of the Russian Federation in this hour of grief," PM Modi wrote on X.

Chinese President Xi Jinping extended condolences to Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying he was shocked to learn that a serious terrorist attack occurred at a concert hall in Russia's Moscow Oblast, causing heavy casualties.

Xi, on behalf of the Chinese government and the Chinese people, expressed his deep condolences to the victims, and extended his sincere sympathy to the injured and the bereaved families, according to State-run Xinhua News Agency.

He emphasized that China opposes all forms of terrorism, strongly condemns terrorist attacks, and firmly supports the Russian government's efforts to maintain national security and stability.

Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud also sent messages of condolences to the Russian leaders.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also condemned the heinous attack.

"I strongly condemn the heinous attack in Moscow last night that has resulted in the loss of many precious lives. My heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. Pakistan stands with Russia at this difficult time," Sharif posted on X. (UNI)

**Rajnath Singh.....**

range is known as the highest militarised zone in the world where the soldiers have to battle frostbite and high winds

Avalanches and landslides are common at the glacier during the winters and temperatures can drop to as low as minus 60 degrees Celsius. (AGENCIES)

**Gurez Valley.....**

valley and stymieing its tourism potential. However, the BRO's diligent efforts are about to change that narrative with its minimum closure.

"We have been working tirelessly since last week. Despite an avalanche, we are hopeful the roads will be opened in a week if the weather permits," said a BRO official to Kashmir News Service (KNS).

The development is a boon for the valley, known for its picturesque landscapes and pristine beauty with once a part of the ancient Silk Route, is rich in history and culture and offers a tranquil escape from the bustle of city life.

Local residents are optimistic about the economic upliftment that increased tourism can bring. "The opening of the road is like a lifeline for us. It will not only bring tourists but also prosperity to our valley," shared a local shopkeeper with KNS.

The tourism industry in Gurez is still in its infancy, with the potential to grow exponentially. Hotels and local businesses are gearing up to accommodate the expected surge of visitors, eager to explore the untouched beauty of the border valley.

"The Gurez Valley is a hidden gem. With the BRO's efforts to keep the roads open, we are looking forward to welcoming more tourists than ever before," said a local youth.

The improved accessibility is set to revive the valley's economy, which has been heavily reliant on the seasonal movement of people and goods. The local administration is also preparing to ensure that the influx of tourists does not disturb the ecological balance of the region.

**Physically Handicapped.....**

have a better chance to secure stable positions within the public sector. They assert that facilitating their integration into the workforce on fair terms aligns with fundamental principles of equality and social justice.

"We, representing physically handicapped candidates from Jammu and Kashmir, earnestly urge the LG, Chief Secretary, and Social Welfare Department to consider and approve our request to raise the age limit for government job applications to 48 years. It is imperative that our concerns regarding equitable opportunities for physically challenged applicants are addressed through appropriate channels, including the State Administration Council," they said.

Addressing their plea to key stakeholders including the Lieutenant Governor, Chief Secretary, Secretariat Commissioner, and the Social Welfare Department of Jammu and Kashmir, the physically handicapped community stresses the significance of inclusivity and accessibility in governmental policies.



# DEO Baramulla flags off Vibrant Shikara Rally to promote Voter Awareness under SVEEP

## HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MARCH 23: In an endeavour to raise awareness about various election-related activities as part of SVEEP (Systematic Voter Education Electoral Participation), the District Election Officer, Baramulla, Minga Sherpa in presence of Chief Education Officer, Balbir Singh Raina, flagged off a vibrant Shikara Rally in Jhelum River at Baramulla.

from Dewan Bagh witnessed a diverse participation, notably from energetic young individuals and first-time voters whose enthusiasm showcased a strong desire to actively engage in the democratic process.

The rally culminated at Eco Park Baramulla, and was received by the ARO, Baramulla Constituency, Arshid Ahmad Khan, Nodal officer SVEEP Balbir Singh Raina and Tehsildar Baramulla Safiya Abdullah where a comprehensive awareness session related to election process was held



for the participants of the rally.

The rally is part of a series of impactful events including snow festival at Ladoo Ladoora, Boat Racing at Watlab, Snow Sporting Event at Tangmarg, organized by the District Administration Baramulla under the SVEEP initiative, aimed at promoting awareness about the electoral process throughout the district. During the event, the DEO emphasized that the objective of such events is to enhance electoral literacy and raise awareness about the election procedures in order

to empower the electorates, especially first time voters to effectively participate in the elections. Minga Sherpa further highlighted that during these awareness events the electorates, especially young voters are educated by the election officials about various election procedures in place and the guidelines of the ECI they need to adhere to, for exercising their democratic right. The DEO urged the media representatives present at the event to actively contribute towards spreading awareness.

## ازنیات پھلگام

درخواست منجانب سائل سجاد احمد وانی ولد بشیر احمد وانی ساکنہ لردو پہلگام بمبرادصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

### اشتہار بمبراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان میں درخواست سال دفتر ذیل زیر کار وانی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گ جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے سال موضع سال لردو پہلگام میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ بذیل افراد منتقل ہے

1. بشیر احمد وانی ولد 55 سال، زمینداری مہاند آمدنی 60002..
2. رفیقہ بانو زوجہ بشیر احمد وانی 48 سال گھریلو کام
3. ... یاور بشیر پسر 27 سال ٹیٹر آمدنی 7000
4. ... مینو بشیر دختر 24 سال //
5. ... سجاد احمد پسر 26 سال // فوٹو گرافر
6. ... جمیل اختر چاچی 45 سال //

اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد میں بتلایا گیا ہے سال کی سال آمدنی 105600 تک ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو عور یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عور یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر اندر پیش کریں معاد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عور یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

### نائب تحصیلدار پہلگام

## ازنیات پھلگام

درخواست منجانب سائل سیرت منظور دختر منظور احمد وانی ساکنہ بگلوٹ پہلگام بمبرادصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

### اشتہار بمبراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان میں درخواست سال دفتر ذیل زیر کار وانی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گ جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے سال موضع سال بگلوٹ پہلگام میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ بذیل افراد منتقل ہے

1. محمد رمضان وانی ولد عبداللہ وانی 73 سال مزدوری
2. منظور احمد وانی ولد محمد رمضان وانی 43 سال دکانداری
3. ... تسلیمہ زوجہ منظور احمد 40 سال گھریلو کام
4. ... سیرت منظور دختر منظور احمد 15 سال زیر تعلیم
5. ... مصیب پسر 12 سال //

اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد میں بتلایا گیا ہے سال کے کم آمدنی سال آمدنی 197000 دہائی گئی ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو عور یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عور یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر اندر پیش کریں معاد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عور یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

### نائب تحصیلدار

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 HAFSA ALTAF CHAROO W/o SUHAIL BASHIR R/O KREERI Tehsil KREERI District Baramulla for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of MY DAUGHTER namely HANEEFA TRUMBOO D/O SUHAIL BASHIR R/O KREERI D.O.B as per documents is 10/05/2014 bearing registration no 577/15-A/PSK/16 & date of issue 09/11/2016 & date of registration 08/12/2016 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 TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class) Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate. PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMAD MURSALEEN S/O ROUF RASHID HAJAM R/O HILAL ABAD NESBAL Tehsil SONASWARI Distt. BANDIPORA having verified the date of Birth, as 06/05/2020 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH kreeri for issuance of delay order. In this connection if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS KREERI

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

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of INAM-UL-HAQ NAJAR D/O MOHAMMAD ASHRAF NAJAR R/O BANDI PAYEEN Tehsil wagoora Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 07/03/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH kreeri for issuance of delay order. In this connection if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS KREERI

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

This office is in receipt of representation from HANIYAH TRUMBOO D/O SUHAIL BASHIR R/O, KREERI Tehsil KREERI with DOB 05/04/2019 District Baramulla her fathers name on Birth Certificate wrongly written as SUHAIL AHMAD TRUMBOO and mothers name as HAFSA ALTAF while his correct fathers name is SUHAIL BASHIR & Mathers name HAFSA ALTAF CHAROO which needs to be corrected. 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)

Truefare (Kashmir First B2C online Application) WE ARE HIRING JOIN OUR TEAM SEND YOUR CV TO OUR EMAIL ADDRESS support@truefare.in / truefare247@gmail.com LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION 1 MARCH 2024 WHAT'S APP NUMBER 9906688481 PACKAGE CONSULTANT: Proven 1-2 years working experience as a tour operator, Bachelor's degree in any discipline. TICKETING: Expert in Air ticketing Like amending, Cancellation, Flight processing Refunds, Rescheduling and making new reservation. SOCIAL MEDIA /EMAIL: Must be aware of designing of Posts/Banners and expert in performing Emails, Expert in MS word, Excel. OFFICE ADDRESS: PEERBAGH MAIN CHOWK SRINAGAR KASHMIR OPPOSITE CITY MALL SHOPPING COMPLEX -190014 Branch Office: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Hibra Complex Main Road Ganderbal 191201 Note: Male and Females both can apply and preference will be given nearby areas. INTERVIEW WILL TAKE PLACE AT OUR BOTH OFFICES

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 HANIYAH TRUMBOO D/O SUHAIL BASHIR R/O, KREERI Tehsil KREERI with DOB 05/04/2019 District Baramulla i have lost the DOB certificate. Of my daughter on 08/03/2024 while traveling from Baramulla to wagoora and her fathers name on Birth Certificate wrongly written as SUHAIL AHMAD TRUMBOO and mothers name as HAFSA ALTAF while his correct fathers name is SUHAIL BASHIR & Mothers name HAFSA ALTAF CHAROO which needs to be corrected. 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 TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class) Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate. PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of FARHAN WASEEM DAR & ARHAN WASEEM DAR S/O WASEEM AHMAD DAR R/O DARWAFRAESTIWARI Tehsil kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 03/03/2017 & 17/08/2021 and event has been to be occurred at SDH Kreeri for issuance of delay order. In this connection if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS KREERI

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

This office is in receipt of representation from HANIYAH TRUMBOO D/O SUHAIL BASHIR R/O, KREERI Tehsil KREERI with DOB 05/04/2019 District Baramulla i have lost the DOB certificate. Of my daughter on 08/03/2024 while traveling from Baramulla to wagoora and her fathers name on Birth Certificate wrongly written as SUHAIL AHMAD TRUMBOO and mothers name as HAFSA ALTAF while his correct fathers name is SUHAIL BASHIR & Mathers name HAFSA ALTAF CHAROO which needs to be corrected. 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)

GOVT. RECOGNISED PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL CHOTTA BAZAR, KARAN NAGAR SRINAGAR Call: 0194-2456214 JOB OPPORTUNITY Applications are invited for the post of Teacher in the below mentioned subjects Science Urdu and Computer QUALIFICATION: M.Sc/B.Sc/B.Ed/M.A/BCA/MCA Applications Can Be Submitted In The School By Or Before 5th of March, 2024 (between 10:00AM to 12:00PM) Sd/- Principal

Lok Sabha Elections-2024 First randomization of EVMs & VVPATs successfully conducted in presence of Political Parties at Kulgam

### Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MARCH 23: Randomization of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) & VVPATs for the General Elections to the Lok Sabha 2024 was held in Kulgam on Friday in accordance with the Election Commission of India guidelines.

The process was conducted in presence of the District Election Officer (DEO), Athar Aamir Khan, AROs and representatives of recognized Political Parties were present during the 1st Randomization process.

The randomisation was done on the EMS Software/ Portal of ECI, to the satisfaction of the representatives of all the Political Parties present in the meeting. All the representatives of political parties expressed their satisfaction over the entire randomisation process.

The copies of lists of randomized CUs/BUs and VVPATs were handed over to the representatives of the political parties present in the meeting during the randomization. Videography of the entire process was done as per guidelines.

## از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کریری

با اعلان نائب تحصیلدار کریری درخواست منجانب سائل بشارت احمد و اعجاز احمد و محمد سلیم پسران عبداللہ آہنگر ساکنہ لردو کریری بمبرادصول OBC سرٹیفکیٹ

### اشتہار بمبراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان میں درخواست سال دفتر ذیل زیر کار وانی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گ جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے سال موضع سال کریری میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ بذیل افراد منتقل ہے

1. عبداللہ آہنگر ولد مصیب اللہ آہنگر 62 سال
2. جمیلہ بیگم زوجہ 50 سال گھریلو کام
3. ... بشارت احمد پسر 30 سال . مزدوری
4. اعجاز احمد پسر 28 سال //
5. ... محمد سلیم پسر 25 سال زیر تعلیم
6. ... رفیقہ اختر زوجہ بشارت احمد (بہو) 26 سال // گھریلو کام

اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد میں بتلایا گیا ہے سال کی سال آمدنی 150000 تک ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو عور یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عور یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر اندر پیش کریں معاد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عور یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

### نائب تحصیلدار کریری

## اطلاع عام

مجھے vally trakter travels کی رجسٹریشن محمد نور احمد پھلگام میں کرانی مطلوب ہے اگر کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اسٹریٹ نوٹس ڈیپارٹمنٹ پہلگام کے دفتر میں پیش کرے یا اس فون نمبر پر 01936243224 در رابطہ کرے بعد معاہدہ کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

### المشتر

سجاد احمد بیت ولد عیال احداث ساکن ننون پہلگام

## اطلاع عام

بہت سب ریاض احمد کھٹانہ و محمد الطاف کھٹانہ و عبدالجبار کھٹانہ و سمات مریم بیگم بیوہ غلام نبی کھٹانہ ساکن ننون دکن سلسلہ پہلگام حال اڈو محمد اقبال کھٹانہ ساکن سلسلہ حال اڈو پہلگام کے نایک فارسی لکھ دیتے ہیں کھڈ اقبال دوسرے دن سے قرض لیتا ہے جو بہت کم چکانا پڑتا ہے لہذا اگر ایسے کسی نے بھی محمد اقبال کے ساتھ کوئی بھی لین دین کیا اس کا وہ نڈر مدار ہوگا بہ لوگ اس سب سے بری ذمہ ہو گے

### المشتر

ریاض احمد و محمد الطاف و عبدال مجید اولادان غلام نبی کھٹانہ و مریم بیگم بیوہ غلام نبی کھٹانہ ساکن سلسلہ حال اڈو پہلگام انت ناگ کشمیر



EDITORIAL

**Kashmir's Tulip Garden Beckons Tourists Despite Weather Challenges**

Nestled amidst the picturesque landscape of Kashmir, Asia's largest tulip garden continues to mesmerize tourists with its vibrant display of colors despite the challenges posed by inclement weather. As the garden gears up for another spectacular season, the addition of five new tulip varieties promises to enhance its allure, setting the stage for an unforgettable experience for visitors.

Despite the late arrival of spring in Kashmir this year, with blooming expected to commence from March 21, the anticipation among tourists remains high. With a staggering 1.7 million tulips set to bloom, the expanded garden presents a sight to behold, showcasing nature's grandeur in all its glory.

The success of Kashmir's tulip garden in attracting tourism amid adverse weather conditions underscores the region's resilience and the timeless appeal of its natural beauty. Despite the challenges posed by inclement weather, tourists continue to flock to the garden, drawn by the promise of witnessing a spectacle unlike any other.

The decision to introduce new tulip varieties further enhances the garden's appeal, offering visitors a renewed sense of wonder and excitement. From traditional favorites to exotic blooms, the diverse array of tulips on display reflects the rich tapestry of Kashmir's floral heritage, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in its beauty.

Beyond its aesthetic appeal, the tulip garden serves as a symbol of hope and renewal for the people of Kashmir. In a region marked by turmoil and uncertainty, the blooming of the tulips heralds the arrival of spring and the promise of new beginnings.

As tourists prepare to embark on their journey to Kashmir's tulip garden, they are reminded not only of the region's natural splendor but also of the resilience and perseverance of its people. Despite the challenges posed by inclement weather, Kashmir's tulip garden stands as a testament to the enduring power of beauty to transcend adversity and capture the hearts of all who behold it.

**J&K can be the significant hub for religious tourism**

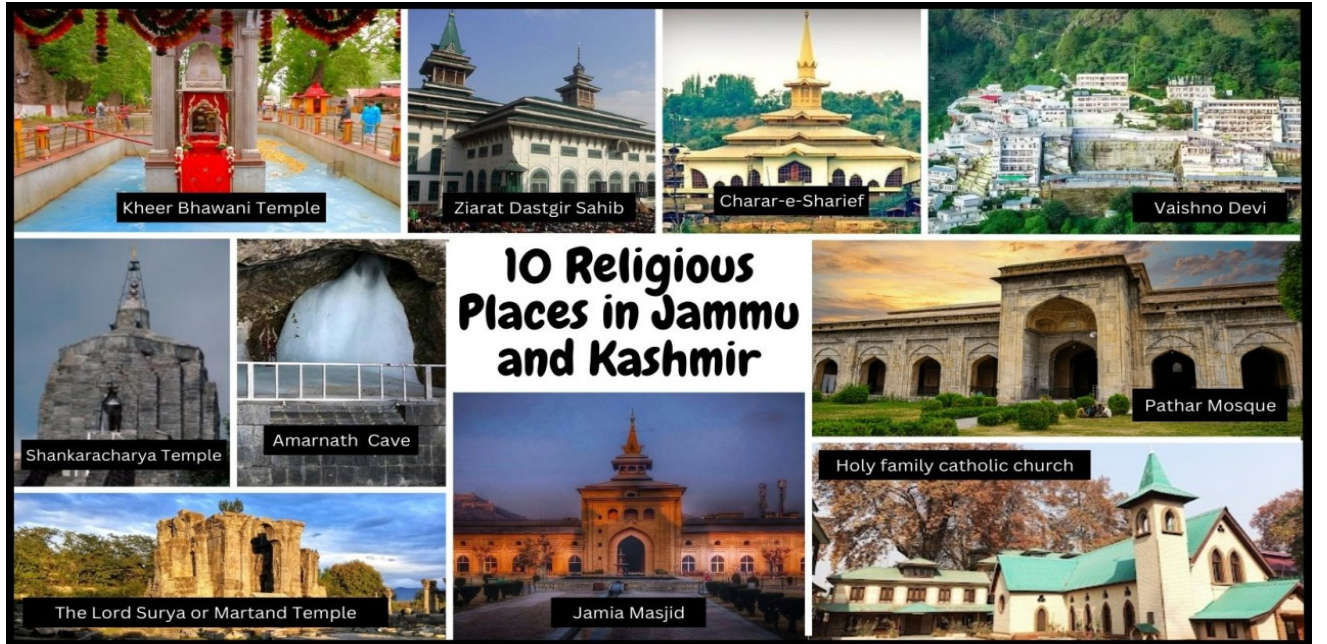


■ Syed Irfan Hashmi

Jammu and Kashmir, known for its diverse culture and religious heritage, has the potential to become a significant hub for religious tourism. The region is home to various religious sites that hold great historical and spiritual significance for different faiths. Jammu and Kashmir has been one of the major tourist attractions in the country for ages.

**Some of the popular religious destinations in Jammu and Kashmir include:**

- 1. **Vaishno Devi Temple:** A major Hindu pilgrimage site located in the Trikuta Mountains, attracting millions of devotees every year. Situated in Katra, Vaishno Devi is a famous temple of the Hindu community and dedicated to Goddess Vaishno Devi. You might have to stand in a long queue to have just a glimpse of the goddess. When you are in the temple, the songs devoted to the goddess and Mata ka jaikara will fill your heart and soul with peace. Pilgrims from far-away places visit this temple
- 1. **Amarnath Cave Temple:** A sacred Hindu shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, visited by thousands of pilgrims during the annual Amarnath Yatra. Located at an elevation of 3,888 meters, Amarnath Cave is one of the holiest places for the Hindu community in India. Upon reaching Srinagar, you have to travel 141 km more to reach this place. The cave temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple and its surrounding area remain covered under snow all through the year, and pilgrims can visit the temple only during the summer



**10 Religious Places in Jammu and Kashmir**

- 1. **Hazratbal Shrine:** A revered Muslim shrine in Srinagar. The Hazratbal Shrine popularly called Dargah Sharif ("the Holy Shrine"). It contains a relic, Moe-Muqqadas, believed to be the hair of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. It is situated on the northern bank of the Dal Lake in Srinagar, and is considered to be Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine
- 1. **Shankaracharya Temple:** An ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, offering panoramic views of Srinagar. One of the famous temples in Jammu and Kashmir is the Shankaracharya temple. The temple is perched at a height of 1000 feet above sea level, atop Shankaracharya hill on Kashmir's Zabarwan Mountain. Also known as the Temple of Jyeshtheshwara, this shrine is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- 1. **The Lord Surya or Martand Temple:** Built during the 8th century, the Martand Sun temple is a Kashmiri temple that is devoted to Lord Surya. The third ruler of the Karkota Dynasty, Lalitaditya Muktapada was the man behind the construction of this temple.

- 1. **Holy Family Catholic Church:** You can celebrate Christmas with great zeal at Holy Family Catholic Church in Srinagar. Established in 1896 by Msgr. WinkleyMHM, this is one of the oldest and main churches in the city of Srinagar.
- 1. **Jamia Masjid:** It is one of the most important religious places to visit in Jammu and Kashmir that is also considered one of the biggest mosques in the state. The architecture style of this mosque is Indo-Saracenic, and the mosque has a grand courtyard with 370 wooden pillars. The mosque is so big that it can accommodate around 1 lakh people at a time.
- 1. **Charar-e-Sharief:** It is one of the religious places around Jammu and Kashmir that is visited by pilgrims of the Muslim community. Also called Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali, devotees visit this shrine to thank Sufi Saint Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani for all the things he did for them. The

shrine is over 600 years old and frequented by Muslim pilgrims from all corners of the country. There are many unexplored religious sports which need to be developed one among is Sita Haram located in Budgam district. Which can be the biggest religious tourist sport in Kashmir. By promoting religious sites, Jammu and Kashmir can attract a broader range of religious tourists from different parts of the world, contributing to the region's tourism industry and fostering cultural exchange. However, it's essential to ensure infrastructure development, security, and preservation of the region's cultural and religious heritage to fully realize its potential as a hub for religious tourism. Introducing new sports activities with a religious or cultural theme can indeed help promote tourism in Kashmir and attract a different segment of travelers interested in unique experiences. However, it is important to strike a balance between promoting such activities and respecting the local culture and traditions of the region. It is essential to involve local communities, preserve the environment, and respect the religious sentiments of the people to ensure the success of such initiatives.

**Writer is Socio Political Activist / Freelancer Journalist**

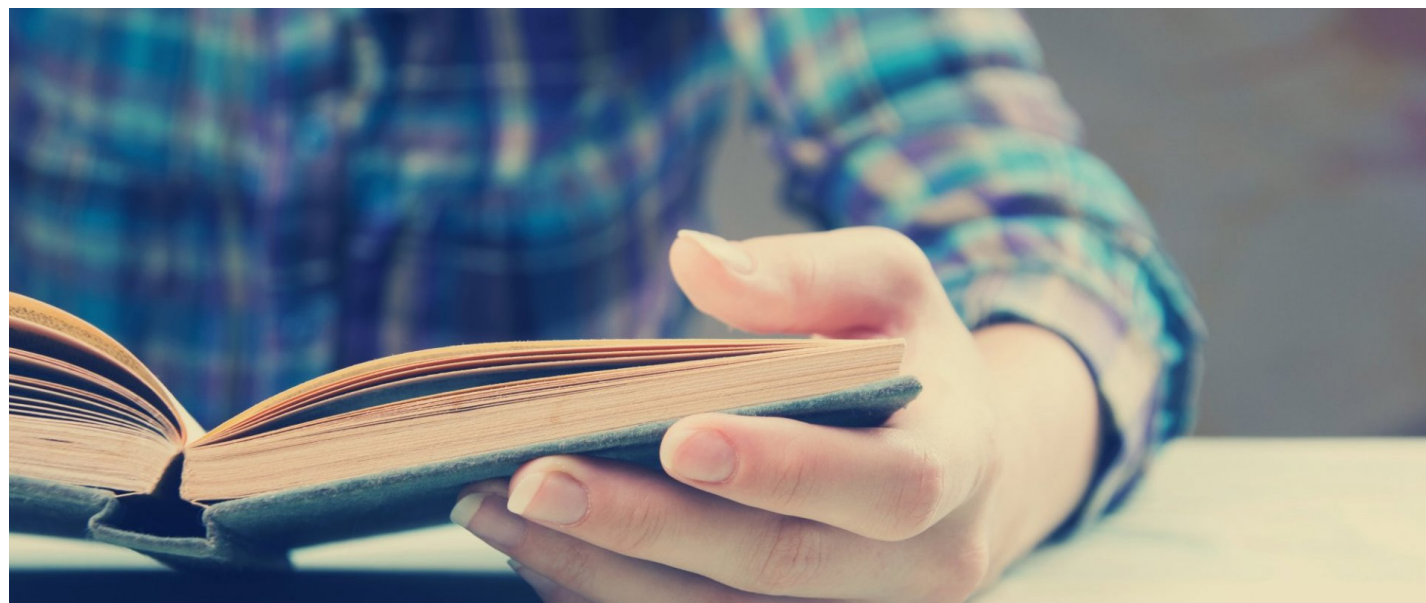
**BOOKS SHARPEN THE MIND AND HEARTS OF THE STUDENTS**



■ By Mool Raj

In today's digital age, where screens are everywhere and information is readily available, it is more important than ever for children to read books. While technology has undoubtedly brought significant benefits to our lives, such as improved communication, access to information, and entertainment, it has also raised concerns, particularly with regard to children's development and learning. One of the most significant worries is the possible impact of screen time on children's cognitive and language development. Numerous studies have shown that excessive screen time can cause a variety of problems, including poor attention span, decreased cognitive abilities, and delayed language development. This is particularly concerning for young children, who are still in the critical stages of developing these abilities.

In contrast, reading books has been shown to have numerous benefits for children's development. For starters, reading aids in the development of children's language and literacy abilities. It exposes them



to new words, concepts, and ideas, which helps to enhance their vocabulary and comprehension skills. Reading also assists children in developing their imagination, creativity, and critical thinking skills, as they are required to visualize and make sense of the text they are reading. Furthermore, reading books can help children develop empathy and social skills. By reading stories that feature characters from diverse backgrounds and experiences, children learn to understand and relate to others, which helps to enhance their empathy and social skills. Also, children acquire valuable lessons and values that they can use in their own life, such as kindness, compassion, and resilience. Additionally,

especially in today's fast-paced, screen-filled environment, reading aloud to children can be a wonderful way for them to rest and rejuvenate. They may unplug from technology and enter a world of their choosing thanks to it. This is crucial for children who might be experiencing stress or anxiety since reading can help them relax and provide them a much-needed break. Encouraging children to read books and providing them with the resources and support they need to develop a love of reading that will last a lifetime is critical. Parents and teachers should collaborate to ensure that children read books regularly. In doing so, they are helping to promote children's language and literacy abilities, imagination, creativity,

critical thinking, empathy, and social skills. One of the most significant advantages of reading books is that it aids in the development of language and literacy skills. Reading exposes children to a wide range of new words, concepts, and ideas that they may not encounter in everyday life. This exposure aids in the development of their vocabulary, comprehension, and other language skills, which are crucial for academic and social success. Furthermore, reading books can help children develop imagination, creativity, and critical thinking skills. When children read books, they are required to visualize and make sense of the text they are reading. This can help to improve their ability to think critically, reason, and prob-

lem-solve, as well as enhance their creativity and imagination.

Moreover, reading books can help children develop empathy and social skills. Children who read books that feature characters from different backgrounds and experiences can learn to understand and relate to others, which can help to enhance their empathy and social skills. Also, children acquire valuable lessons and values that they can use in their own life, such as kindness, compassion, and resilience. Reading books can be a great way for children to unwind and relax. In today's fast-paced, screen-filled world, it is critical that children have a chance to disconnect from technology and immerse themselves in a world of their own choosing. Reading can help to calm children's minds and provide a much-needed escape, particularly for children who may be dealing with stress or anxiety. Parents and teachers should work together to promote reading among children. Governments to recognize the importance of reading books for children's development and learning. As we move forward in the digital age, we must ensure that we are not neglecting the benefits that reading books can bring. There is an immense need to invest in resources to promote reading among children, such as public libraries, book clubs, and literacy programs. By prioritizing reading in our communities, we can help to ensure that our children are equipped with the language, literacy, and social skills they need to succeed in the future.

**The author is a columnist and freelance writer**



# NIT Srinagar inks MoU with NITTTR, Chennai to enhance technical education, research collaborations

HT News Network

Srinagar, Mar 23: National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chennai on March 21. This MoU is aimed to promote collaboration in areas including faculty exchange, joint research projects, and sharing of academic resources and also seeks to leverage the strengths of both institutions to enhance the quality of technical education and

research outcomes.

The MoU was signed by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, and Director NITTTR Chennai, Prof. Dr. Usha Natesan.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rahman, Dean Research & Consultancy Prof. Roohi Naaz Mir, Prof. G A Harmain, among other faculty members of both institutions were present on the occasion.

In his address, Director NIT, Prof. Ravinder Nath, highlighted the transformative potential of this collaborative venture, emphasizing its role in unlocking opportunities for joint research initiatives.



"The primary focus of this collaboration is to train the faculty members of NIT Srinagar seamlessly in the areas of Pedagogy, Curriculum Development, Question Paper Setting, Continuous Assessment Practices, Evaluation Methodology, Academic Audit, Accreditation, etc., Training, academic and research collaboration in the areas of mutual interest," he said. Prof. Ravinder Nath said that this collaboration will in due course lead to collaborative research projects, Internships, offering pedagogy courses, joint supervision of Masters Students, joint workshops and seminars, webinars, etc. He also extended his

gratitude to the Director NITTTR Chennai team led by Prof. Dr. Usha Natesan for their invaluable contributions to the signing of the MoU.

On the occasion, Director NITTTR Chennai Prof. Natesan stated that it is a historic collaboration as both institutions formally signed a vital collaboration aimed at advancing research, faculty exchange, training to staff members, academic audit etc.

She said that NIT Srinagar will depute faculty members for regular short-term programmes of NITTTR, Chennai. Tailor-made training programmes for the faculty members of NIT Srinagar shall also be conducted.

## Zonal, Sectoral Magistrates imparted Election training at Shopian

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MARCH 23: In view of the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections, Zonal and Sectoral Magistrates were today imparted training under the supervision of District Election Officer, Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb at Mini-Secretariat, here. The second round of training for Magistrates was aimed to acquaint them with necessary knowledge and skills for effectively carrying out their duties during the electoral process. Interacting with the participants, the Deputy District Election Officer briefed participants about their role and responsibilities in the fair and free conduct of elections. The District Election Officer while directing the Zonal and Sectoral Magistrates to visit the polling stations and ascertain the availability of assured minimum facilities sought their pro-active role in making smooth and accessible elections possible in the district.

The DEO emphasized the importance of maintaining law and order, overseeing polling stations and ensuring the safety and security of voters. He also stressed the significance of impartiality, transparency and strict adherence to the model code of conduct. On the occasion, training was imparted by Master Trainer, Bilal Ahmed. The training session focused on equipping the Magistrates with the skills to handle any potential issues or challenges that may arise on Election Day. The training covered a wide range of topics, including election laws, procedures and protocols that needed to be followed during polling. Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Shopian, Shakoor Ahmed Dar; Dy. DEO, Jahangir Ahmed; ACP, Dy. SP and other concerned civil and police magistrates were present.

## Mega Youth Voter Festival under SVEEP organized at Trehgam, Kupwara

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MARCH 23: On the directions of District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, a mega youth festival under SVEEP campaign was organized today at Government UPS Trehgam by the District Nodal Officer SVEEP Kupwara. As part of ongoing SVEEP activities, the general public, first time voters, community leaders, local Artists and student achievers, participated in the youth voter festival. The event started with keynote address by District Nodal Officer SVEEP/ CEO Kupwara, Abdul Majeed Dar, who emphasized that the purpose of the programme was to educate the students and youth regarding electoral literacy besides motivating them to participate effectively in the election process.

## General Elections 2024: DEO Bandipora chairs meeting of Mobile Service Providers

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, MARCH 23: In view of ongoing Lok Sabha Elections 2024, District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman today chaired a meeting of mobile service providers in his office chamber, here.

The meeting focused on ensuring robust communication infrastructure and uninterrupted mobile services during the electoral process.

The meeting discussed threadbare issues regarding Mobile network problems in some shadow polling stations of Gurez, besides discussions were also held to resolve the



issues regarding the installation of mobile towers in Gurez. The DEO, on the occasion, directed the concerned telecom operators to cover the uncovered areas of Gurez on priority for which NOCs have been issued. He directed the

mobile service providers to ensure uninterrupted internet connectivity during the election period for webcasting as per ECI Guidelines.

The DEO also directed Mobile Service Providers to fix the connectivity

issues faced by toll-free No.1950, which is notified for complaint monitoring during elections.

He underscored the indispensable role of mobile services in facilitating democratic processes and urged all stakeholders to work diligently to uphold the reliability and accessibility of communication channels throughout the electoral cycle.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mohammad Ashraf; Deputy District Election Officer, Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat; DySP DAR, Ahmad Shafi; Superintendent ITI and representatives of Mobile Service Providers and other concerned.

## Lok Sabha Election-2024: Training imparted to Female Poling staff at Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MARCH 23: The District Election Office Kulgam today organised a training session for Female polling staff to be deployed at all-women polling stations in Kulgam in connection with the Lok Sabha elections at mini-secretariat, here.

The training session included hands-on training on use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs)

The training session was presided over by the District Election Officer, Athar Aamir Khan.

During the training programme, the District Level Master Trainers presented detailed information regarding the preparation and conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections.

## Lok Sabha Elections-2024: Training imparted to Youth, NCC, NSS Volunteers at Kupwara

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MARCH 23: On the directions of District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, the District Nodal Officer SVEEP, Kupwara today organized a comprehensive training session for the Volunteers of NCC, NSS and youth groups at the Town Hall Kupwara.

The primary focus of the training session was to acquaint the Volunteers with detailed knowledge on essential election procedures.

District Level Master Trainers, (DLMTs), while imparting training to the Volunteers, made them aware about guidelines and norms of election process and their role in assistance for the smooth, free, fair and more inclusive election process.

The DLMTs highlighting the role of the volunteers said that they shall be tasked with assisting specially-abled persons, senior citizens, vulnerable and other special voters, and making their easy access into polling stations so that they can exercise their franchise with ease and comfort.

Officials of SVEEP and volunteers attended the training session.

## Mega SVEEP Festival held at GDC Tangdar

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MARCH 23: As part of the calendar of activities under SVEEP devised by District Nodal officer SVEEP (CEO Kupwara), a constituency level Mega SVEEP Festival was organized at GDC Tangdar.

General public, first time voters, community leaders, local Artists and student achievers participated in the festival.

On the occasion, various activities were conducted which include speeches, student competitions, awareness regarding electoral participation, felicitations and cultural shows.

It was informed that the Festival which is first of its kind will be held in other 5 constituencies of district Kupwara as per the schedule already issued.

SDM Karnah, Tehsildar, Principal GDC Tanghdar, Zonal Education Officer from Tanghdar and Chamkote Zone also attended the event.

On the directions of the District Election Officer, District Nodal Officer SVEEP organized a Mega SVEEP plantation drive cum awareness.

The drive was kick-started from Government Higher Secondary School Warnow by the cluster head Warnow. The students, civilians and senior citizens took part in the drive. Another such Plantation drive was also organized in High school Trich to raise awareness and mobilize the masses for greater electoral participation.

Awareness programmes under SVEEP and AVF were also organized in Chamkote, Mawar and Khumriyal. The drive was kick-started from Government Higher Secondary School Warnow by the cluster head Warnow. The students, civilians and senior citizens took part in the drive. Another such Plantation drive was also organized in High school Trich to raise awareness and mobilize the masses for greater electoral participation.

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## Special Lok Adalat held at Kulgam Awareness programme regarding ADR Mechanism & holding of Lok Adalats also held

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MARCH 24: A Special Lok Adalat for MACT Cases was today held in District Court Complex Kulgam under the chairmanship of Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Kulgam.

During the Lok Adalat, one bench was constituted that took up 10 cases related to Motor Accident Claims, out of which 01 case titled as Mst. Sareena Akhter Versus Shabir Ahmad Tantray was amicably settled, in which an



amount of Rs.78,00,000/- (Seventy Lakhs) was disbursed.

It is apt to note here that the deceased in the above

titled case was working in the Rural Development Department and is survived by an old aged father, three minor children and

a widow.

The remaining cases are also in process of settlement which would be taken up in due course.

Alongside the said Lok Adalat, an awareness programme regarding the ADR Mechanism and holding of Lok Adalats was held at District Court Complex Kulgam.

The programme was attended by Panel Lawyers, persons from media fraternity, PLVs and many litigants and common people. During the Lok Adalat, one bench was constituted that took up 10 cases related to Motor Accident Claims, out of which 01 case titled as Mst. Sareena Akhter.

# ADC Handwara reviews preparations for Lok Sabha Elections 2024

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MARCH 23: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather who is also Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) For AC-Handwara today reviewed the preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in a meeting of Sector Magistrates, Supervisors and Police officers at Town Hall Handwara.

At the outset, the ARO called for strict implementation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC), and urged upon all the concerned for strict adherence to all the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India.

The ARO emphasized on providing a level playing field to all the political parties to ensure free, fair and smooth conduct of elections in the sub division.

The meeting also held a threadbare



discussion on various issues including vulnerability mapping, timely reporting

on defacement of public and private properties, availability of Assured Minimum Facilities at all polling booths, deployment of micro observers, resource availability, manpower, logistics, transport, video surveillance, SVEEP training and EVM management.

Instructions for sensitization of subordinate staff regarding strict implementation of Model Code of Conduct were also given to all the nodal officers.

ARO directed that FST and SST teams shall work in coordinated manner as per the guidelines of ECI. He also instructed on arranging comprehensive training sessions for all the AROs and nodal officers regarding MCC and other ECI guidelines. Instructions for sensitization of subordinate staff regarding strict implementation of Model Code of Conduct were also given to all the nodal officers.



# "Citizenship Law CAA Is Reprieve For Persecuted": Vice President

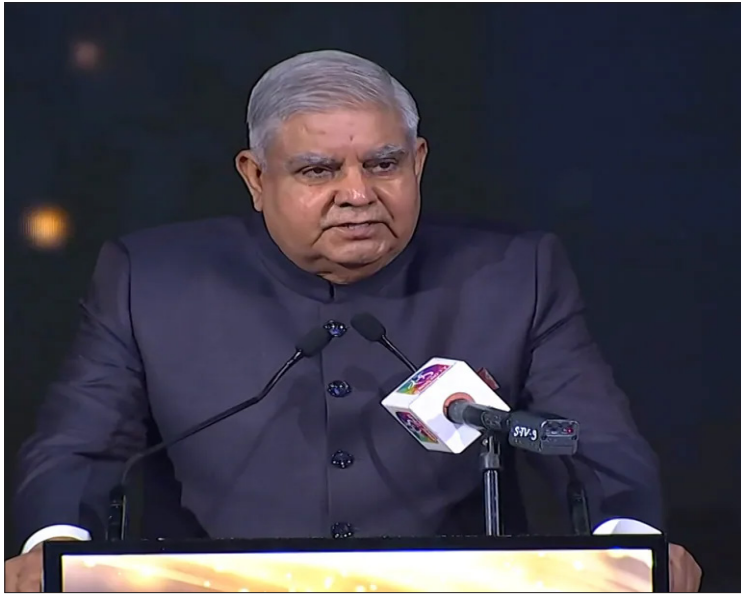
HT News Network

New Delhi: The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is a reprieve for the persecuted and India has been a place for persecuted communities for centuries, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said at NDTV Indian Of The Year awards today.

Delivering the keynote address at the event, he said it is a delightful moment as the flagship awards have been revived. "I am happy it is back on the rails and so is our Bharat," he said. Congratulating the award winners, the Vice-President said, "This award will inspire many to join our marathon march for a Viksit Bharat by 2047."

Speaking on the role of media in shaping public opinion, he referred to debate surrounding the Centre's move to implement CAA four years after it cleared the Parliament. The Opposition has questioned the timing of the move - weeks ahead of the general election.

"A high-decibel debate is taking place on CAA. It is crystal clear that CAA does not deprive any citizen of his/her citizenship. The act is a reprieve to those persecuted, who are in this country for decades. If



you go by ethos, India has been a place for those who have been persecuted," he said.

The media, he said, cannot be a platform for the free fall of untenable information. "It damages our democratic fabric, it shatters individual reputations, it shatters institutions. If you start floating info without due diligence, it can wreck our economy, social fabric," he said.

Stressing that there is an urgent need for the media to set up mech-

anisms to check the spread of misinformation, he said, "Media cannot be a registered, recognised, or unrecognised political party. Some people in the media leveraged decision-making. Media should not be a power-broker. It is accountable." India is no longer a sleeping giant, but on the cusp of immense possibilities, Mr Dhankhar said. He said the country has seen an unprecedented economic rise over the past few years

and has gone from being a member of 'Fragile Five' to among the top 5 economies of the world. "We have had exponential growth, envied by the world. Just imagine where we are," he said.

India, he said, has emerged as a peacemaker for global harmony too. Pointing at the technological advancements in the country, he said the country is witnessing a well-spread-out digital penetration that has transformed lives in Tier II cities too. "Gone are the days when we used to wait for the West to develop tech. India is now the epicentre, harvesting this technology." Delivering the keynote address at the event, he said it is a delightful moment as the flagship awards have been revived. "I am happy it is back on the rails and so is our Bharat," he said. Congratulating the award winners, the Vice-President said, "This award will inspire many to join our marathon march for a Viksit Bharat by 2047."

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# Arvind Kejriwal Challenges Arrest In High Court, Seeks Immediate Release

HT News Network

New Delhi: Terming his arrest and the order sending him to the Enforcement Directorate's custody illegal, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has approached the high court for an urgent hearing and sought his immediate release.

The AAP chief was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday in connection with a money laundering case pertaining to the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam. The agency was granted seven-day custody by the Rouse Avenue court in Delhi on Friday. Approaching the Delhi High Court on Saturday, Mr Kejriwal has challenged his arrest and the remand order, terming them illegal. Seeking an urgent hearing from the acting chief justice of the high court by Sunday, the AAP chief has claimed that he is entitled to be released from custody immediately.

The Delhi High Court had, incidentally, refused to grant protection from arrest to Mr Kejriwal on Thursday and he had been taken into custody by the ED hours later. "We have heard both sides, and we are not inclined at this stage (to grant protection). The respondent (ED) is at liberty to file a reply," a two-judge bench had said.

In a message earlier on Saturday, which was read out by his wife Sunita Kejriwal, the chief minister had urged AAP workers to continue their work for society and not hate anyone, including people from the BJP, which his party claims has misused



agencies and targeted opposition leaders like him. "There are several forces within and outside India that are weakening the country. There is no jail that can keep me behind bars for long. I will come out soon and keep my promises," he said in the message. Seeking Mr Kejriwal's custody, the ED had claimed he had received kickbacks in exchange for favours, and that he was the "kingpin" and a key conspirator in the alleged scam.

The total proceeds of the crime, according to the agency, are 600 crore. It has claimed that the scrapped Delhi liquor policy of 2021-22 provided a profit margin of 12% for wholesalers and nearly 185% for retailers. Of the 12%, six was to be recovered from wholesalers as kickbacks for AAP leaders and a lobby called the South Group allegedly gave 100 crore in advance to another accused in the case, Vijay Nair, who was linked to the ruling party in Delhi.

# Congress Has Multiple Bank Accounts, Just 3-4 Of Them Attached: BJP

HT News Network

New Delhi: The Congress has multiple bank accounts and just three-four of them have been attached, "not frozen", for non-payment of tax dues, the BJP said Saturday, accusing the opposition party of making misleading statements on the issue sensing its "imminent" defeat in the Lok Sabha poll. "These bank accounts have not been frozen, they are operational. You (Congress) can deposit money in these accounts and withdraw too, except 125 crore, which has been attached by the Income Tax department due to the non-payment of dues as per Income Tax rules," BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said.

Referring to media reports, he said the Congress has about 1,000 crore in its multiple bank accounts, opened with "multiple PAN" numbers in "violation of its own party constitution". The Congress also has a fixed asset of worth 500 crore, the BJP leader claimed. He said the Income Tax Department has attached three-four bank accounts of the Congress due to the non-payment of outstanding 135 crore as per rules. He slammed senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his claim that the



party doesn't have funds to even book train tickets following the freezing of its accounts. "Rahul Gandhi is saying there is no money with the Congress to even buy train tickets while he is seen travelling by chartered plane every day," the BJP leader charged and demanded the Congress leader give a "technical answer, instead of political" on the issue. "(Congress president) Mallikarjun Kharge, (former Congress president) Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi held a press conference in this connection and took anticipatory bail from the people's court by making wrong arguments in support of their claims seeing their imminent and miserable defeat in the Lok Sabha elections," Patra told a press conference at the party headquarters here.

# Kerala Goes To Supreme Court Against President Withholding Assent To Bills

HT News Network

New Delhi: In an unusual move, the Kerala government has petitioned the Supreme Court against President Droupadi Murmu withholding assent to four bills passed by the state assembly. The plea, filed through advocate CK Sasi, said the matter relates to the acts of the Kerala governor in reserving seven bills, which he was required to deal with himself, to the President. Not one of the seven bills had anything to do with Centre-state relations.

The state government said these bills had been pending with the governor for as long as about two years and his action "subverted" the functioning of the state legislature, rendering its very existence "ineffective and otiose". Kerala Goes To Supreme Court Against President Withholding Assent To Bills

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been pending with the governor for as long as about two years and his action "subverted" the functioning of the state legislature, rendering its very existence "ineffective and otiose".

"The bills include public interest bills which are for the public good, and even these have been rendered ineffective by the Governor not dealing with each one of them "as soon as possible" as required by the proviso to Article 200," the plea said.

The state government said that on February 23 and 29, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed it that the president has withheld assent to four of the seven bills - University Laws (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2021, the Kerala Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022, the University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022, and the University Laws (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill, 2022.

The petition urged the court to declare as unconstitutional the president not granting assent to these bills without assigning a reason.

# Chhattisgarh: 2 Maoists Killed In Encounter, 2 Jawans Injured In Blast, Say Cops

HT News Network

Bijapur/Dantewada: Two Maoists were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, while two jawans were injured in an IED blast in the neighbouring Sukma district, a police official said on Saturday.

The gunfight took place around 8.30 am on Saturday in a forest under the Ganaloor police station area when a team of personnel from different security forces was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P told news agency PTI.

The operation was carried out at the tri-junction of Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma districts, considered a Maoist bastion, he said.

Personnel belonging to the state's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and 'Bastar Fighters', Central Reserve Police Force and its elite unit CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) and a Special Task Force (STF) from the three districts took part in the operation that was launched on Friday evening, he said.

Naxalites opened fire when security forces were cordoning off a forest near Pidia village, over 450 km from the capital Raipur, triggering a gun battle between two sides, he said.

"After guns fell silent, the bodies of two Naxalites along with weapons were recovered from the spot," the official said.

The identity of the two Maoists was yet to be ascertained, the IG said, adding that a search operation was still underway in the area. As part of the same operation on



Friday night, two jawans of Bastar Fighters were injured after a pressure improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Maoists went off along the Dantewada-Sukma border, IG Sundarraj said.

The blast occurred in a forest near Dodi-tummar village under the Jagargunda police station area in Sukma district when the forest along the inter-district border was being cordoned off, he said.

The injured jawans have been identified as Vikas Kumar Karma and Rakesh Kumar Markam, both constables of Bastar Fighters-Dantewada. The two were taken to a local hospital before being airlifted to Raipur for further treatment, he said. The injured jawans were said to be out of danger, he added. The blast occurred in a forest near Dodi-tummar village under the Jagargunda police station area in Sukma district when the forest along the inter-district border was being cordoned off, he said. The injured jawans have been identified as Vikas Kumar Karma and Rakesh Kumar Markam, both constables of Bastar Fighters-Dantewada.

# "Ludicrous": S Jaishankar Junks China's Claims On Arunachal Pradesh

HT News Network

Singapore: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar dismissed China's repeated claims on Arunachal Pradesh as "ludicrous" and asserted that the frontier state is a "natural part of India".

In his first public comments on China's frequent claims on Arunachal Pradesh and its opposition to Indian leaders visiting the state, S Jaishankar said it is not a new issue.

"This is not a new issue. I mean China has laid claim, it has expanded its claim. The claims are ludicrous to begin with and remain ludicrous today," he said responding to a question on the issue after a lecture at the NUS Institute of South Asian Studies in Singapore.

He emphasised that Arunachal Pradesh is a "natural part of India".

"So, I think we've been very clear, very consistent on this. And I think you know that is something which will be part of the boundary discussions that are taking place," he said.

Mr Jaishankar's comments came days after the Ministry of External Affairs dismissed the Chinese defence ministry's assertions.

"We have noted the comments made by the spokesperson of the Chinese Defence Ministry advancing absurd claims over the territory of the Indian State of Arunachal Pradesh. Repeating baseless arguments in this regard does not lend such claims any validity.



Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India. Its people will continue to benefit from our development programmes and infrastructure projects," the MEA said.

Earlier, the Chinese foreign ministry objected to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

"We reject the comments made by the Chinese side regarding the visit of the Prime Minister to Arunachal Pradesh. Indian leaders visit Arunachal Pradesh from time to time, as they visit other states of India," the MEA said last week.

Objecting to such visits or India's developmental projects does not stand to reason. Further, it will not change the reality that the state of Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India. The Chinese side has been made aware of this consistent position on several occasions, the statement read.

# UP Court Schedules Hearing In Defamation Case Against Rahul Gandhi To April 2

HT News Network

People can come to Goa, relax and also work, underscored Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, adding that his government is starting the digital nomad concept.

"Every village is digitally connected. Har Ghar Fiber is being completed in Panjim. We are starting 'Work From Beach'. We are starting the digital nomad concept. Under this, people can come to Goa, relax, and also work," said Mr Sawant at the NDTV Indian Of The Year event in Delhi. "We have launched a homestay policy and are readying the infra. We want to create human resources. We are making hospitality institutes and skilling up the youth," the Chief Minister said. Mr Sawant, 50, said his government is also working on building spiritual tourism.

"We welcome people for spiritual tourism. We have started the samudra aarti at promenade at the Miramar beach. Goa in future will be known as Dakshin Kashi. There are many temples. Private investment is coming for yoga wellness centres in Goa," said the Chief Minister.

# Will Seek Court's Permission To Set Up Office For Arvind Kejriwal In Jail: Bhagwant Mann

HT News Network

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party leader and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday said that if his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal is sent to jail, they will approach the court seeking permission to set up his office in prison to run his government from there.

He also asserted that no one can take the place of Mr Kejriwal in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). "It is not written anywhere that a government cannot run from jail," Mr Mann told news agency PTI videos in an interview when asked about the arrest of the Delhi chief minister and AAP chief by the Enforcement Directorate in an excise policy case and how he will run his government if he is sent to judicial custody.



# Russia arrests suspected gunmen as concert death toll soars to 143

HT News Network

Russia said on Saturday it had arrested 11 people including four suspected gunmen in connection with a shooting rampage that killed 143 people in a concert hall near Moscow, the deadliest attack in Russia for 20 years.

The militant Islamic State group claimed responsibility for Friday's attack but there were indications that Russia was pursuing a Ukrainian link, despite a statement from Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak that Kyiv had nothing to do with it.

The FSB security service said "all four terrorists" had been arrested while heading to the Ukrainian border, and that they had contacts in Ukraine. It said they were being transferred to Moscow.

"Now we know in which country these bloody bastards planned to hide from pursuit — Ukraine," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Telegram.

Russian law enforcement officers stand guard near the Crocus City Hall concert venue following a shooting incident, outside Moscow, Russia, March 23, 2024.— Reuters

A senior Russian lawmaker, Andrei Kartapolov, said that if Ukraine was involved, then Russia must deliver a "worthy, clear and concrete" reply on the battlefield. Ukrainian military intelligence spokesman Andriy Yusov told Reuters: "Ukraine was of course not involved in this terror attack. Ukraine is defending its sovereignty from Russian invaders, liberating its own territory and is fighting with the occupiers' army and military targets, not civilians."

He said the FSB version that the suspects were arrested en route to Ukraine was "of course another lie from the Russian special services".

Russian state TV editor Margarita Simonyan published a video of one of the suspects, a young bearded man, being interrogated by the side of a road. She said the death toll had climbed to 143 but did not give the source of her information.

Russia's Investigative Committee earlier said at least 115 had died in the attack, in which camouflage-clad gunmen opened fire with automatic weapons at concertgoers in the Crocus City Hall near the capital.

It said some died from gunshot wounds and others in a huge fire that broke out in the complex.

Reports said the gunmen had lit the blaze using petrol from canisters they carried in rucksacks.

People fled in panic. Baza, a news outlet with good contacts in Russian security and law enforcement, said 28 bodies were found in a toilet and 14 on a staircase. "Many mothers were found embracing their children," it said.

The Kremlin said FSB chief Alexander Bortnikov had reported to President Vladimir Putin that those detained included "four terrorists" and that the service was working to identify their accomplices.

Russian lawmaker Alexander Khinshtein said the attackers had fled in a Renault vehicle that was spotted by police in the Bryansk region, about 340 kilometres southwest of Moscow on Friday night and disobeyed instructions to stop.

He said two were arrested after a car chase and two others fled into a forest. From the Kremlin account, it appeared they too were later detained.

Khinshtein said a pistol, a magazine for an assault rifle and passports from Tajikistan were found in the car. Tajikistan is a mainly Muslim Central Asian state that used to be part of the Soviet Union.

Suspect interrogated

The suspect in the interrogation video was shown replying in heavily accented Russian to a series of barked questions. He said he had flown from Turkey on March

## Putin Calls Moscow Concert Hall Attack "Barbaric Terrorist Act"

HT News Network

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday called an attack on a concert hall that killed more than 100 a "barbaric terrorist act" and announced a day of national mourning.

In a televised address to the nation, Putin said: "I am speaking to you today in connection with the bloody, barbaric terrorist act, the victims of which were dozens of innocent, peaceful people... I declare 24 March a day of national mourning."

## "India Stands In Solidarity": PM Modi On Moscow Terror Attack

HT News Network

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that India strongly condemns the terror attack in Moscow and stands in solidarity with the government and the people of Russia in this hour of grief.

Terrorists attacked a large concert hall in Moscow yesterday and sprayed the crowd with gunfire, killing more than 60 people, injuring over 100 and setting fire to the venue in a brazen attack.

"We strongly condemn the heinous terrorist attack in Moscow. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims," PM Modi said in a post on X. India stands in solidarity with the government and the people of the Russian Federation in this hour of grief," he said.

Media reports said the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on its affiliated channels on social media.

## Australia Tightens Student Visa Rules As Migration Hits Record High

HT News Network

Sydney: Australia will begin enforcing tougher visa rules for foreign students this week as official data showed migration hit another record high, which is likely to further exacerbate an already tight rental market. From Saturday, English language requirements for student and graduate visas will be increased, while the government will get the power to suspend education providers from recruiting international students if they repeatedly break rules. "The actions this weekend will continue to drive migration levels down while delivering on our commitments in the migration strategy to fix the broken system we inherited," Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil said in a statement.

A new "genuine student test" will be introduced to further crack down on international students who look to come to Australia primarily to work, while the imposition of "no further stay" conditions will be used on more visitor visas. The moves follow a raft of actions last year to close off COVID-era concessions introduced by the former government, including unrestricted working hours for international students. The government at the time said rules would be tightened for students that could halve its migrant intake over two years. Australia boosted its annual migration numbers in 2022 to help businesses recruit staff to fill shortages after the COVID-19 pandemic brought strict border controls, and kept foreign students and workers out for nearly two years. But the sudden influx of foreign workers and students has exacerbated pressure on an already tight rental market.

## Ex US Vice President Mike Pence Says Won't Back Trump For President In 2024

HT News Network

Washington: Former US Vice President Mike Pence said Friday he would not be backing Donald Trump as his old boss runs for a second term in the White House.

"It should come as no surprise that I will not be endorsing Donald Trump this year," Pence said in an interview with Fox News.

US media called the announcement a "bombshell" and "startling," although in reality deep divisions have driven the two men apart since leaving office, and an endorsement would have been a surprise.

The pair became estranged after Trump tried to pressure Pence to help him overturn his 2020 election defeat to Joe Biden, repeatedly attacking him on social media when he wouldn't go along with the scheme.

After various attempts by Trump and his allies to subvert the election results failed, the then-president directed a mob of his supporters to march on the Capitol, where they ransacked the building as some chanted "Hang Mike Pence!"

Pence told Fox News that Trump was "pursuing and articulating an agenda that is at odds with the conservative agenda that we governed on during our four years." The 64-year-old's comments come days after Trump secured enough delegates to clinch the Republican nomination to challenge Biden in November.

Pence was one of Trump's early rivals in the primary contest ahead of the 2024 election, although he quit the race last October after failing to poll in double figures. Pence did not offer an alternative endorsement -- there are several third-party candidates running -- and said he would never vote for Biden, who secured the Democratic nomination this week.

Pence gave Trump years of unwaveringly loyal service before the insurrection in Washington.

## Russia admits 'state of war' amid massive strikes on Ukraine

HT News Network

KYIV: Russia admitted two years into its invasion of Ukraine on Friday that it was "in a state of war," as it launched a massive wave of missile and drone attacks on its neighbour's territory.

Russia fired almost 90 missiles and more than 60 Iranian-designed kamikaze drones, damaging dozens of energy facilities including power stations, in what Ukrainian officials said was an attempt to cripple the country's electricity and heating supply.

Russia said the wave of strikes was retaliation for a series of Ukrainian attacks on its border regions in recent weeks.

At least five people were killed and more than 20 injured, according to Ukraine's interior ministry and local officials.

"We are in a state of war," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview to a pro-Kremlin newspaper, published on Friday.

Fires 90 missiles, 60 drones, damages energy facilities

The admission marks an escalation in official language used to describe the conflict, which the Kremlin initially

referred to as a "special military operation".

"Yes, it started as a special military operation, but as soon as this bunch was formed there, when the collective West became a participant on Ukraine's side, for us it already became a war," Peskov said.

"De jure (legally) it is a special military operation. But de facto it has turned into a war," he added.

Moscow often accuses the West of direct participation in the conflict by supplying Ukraine with weapons.

Calling Friday's strikes "retaliation" for recent Ukrainian attacks, Moscow's defence ministry said it had targeted Ukraine's "energy sites, military-industrial complex, railway hubs and arsenals."

"All of the objectives of the massive strike were achieved," it said.

'Largest on record'

Ukraine's state-run power grid, Ukrenergo, said the attack on the energy network was the "largest on record." It said "dozens of power system facilities have been damaged," including thermal and hydroelectric power plants.

More than 1.5 million people were left without power across at least eight regions, the United Nations Human Rights Moni-

## Over 70 Rohingya presumed dead in boat tragedy off Indonesia's Aceh coast

HT News Network

More than 70 Rohingya are "presumed dead or missing" after a boat they were on capsized off the coast of Indonesia's Aceh province, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Friday.

The UNHCR said in a joint statement with the International Organisation for Migration that if the death toll was confirmed, it would be the biggest loss of life so far this year.

The alert was raised on Wednesday when Indonesian fishermen rescued six of the migrants. A fishing community in Aceh said they had been standing on the hull of the boat after it capsized due to high tides.

For years, Rohingya have left Buddhist-majority Myanmar where they are generally regarded as foreign interlopers from South Asia, denied citizenship and subjected to abuse.

More than 2,300 Rohingya arrived in Indonesia last year, UNHCR data showed, surpassing the number of arrivals in the previous four years combined.

The 2023 toll of at least 569 Rohingya dead or missing while trying to flee Myan-



mar or Bangladesh was the highest since 2014, the UNHCR said in January.

Babar Baloch, a UNHCR Asia spokesperson, told Reuters that there had been 151 people on this latest boat, some 75 of whom have been evacuated by local authorities, while the rest were "presumed dead or missing".

Faisal Rahman, UNHCR's protection associate in Aceh, told Reuters that the surviving Rohingya were in good condition and were staying at a Red Cross building in West Aceh.

The immigration agency in Aceh did not respond to a request for comment.

## Putin Calls Moscow Concert Hall Attack "Barbaric Terrorist Act"

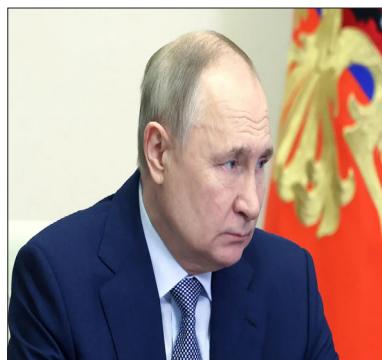
HT News Network

Australia and Britain said on Friday that a landmark deal to develop AUKUS nuclear-powered submarines would go ahead, despite mounting fears about costs, capabilities and the possible return of Donald Trump.

Under the fledgling AUKUS deal, the two countries along with the United States have pledged to beef up their military muscle in a bid to counter China's rise.

Defence chiefs this week unveiled ambitious plans to supply Australia with a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, a key pillar of the agreement.

"The three governments involved



here are working at pace to make this happen," Australian defence minister Richard Marles told reporters on Friday.

"This is going to happen and we need it to happen," he added.

Barely two years old, there are

already signs that AUKUS and its central project could be under threat.

Some fear Trump could jettison the pact if he wins this year's presidential election, returning to his "America first" style of foreign policy.

UK foreign secretary David Cameron suggested that "brilliant" AUKUS and other alliances like Nato -- which he dubbed "the most successful defence alliance in history" -- needed to be fighting fit come US election time.

"I think whoever is president, the best thing we can do is to get those alliances, to get those projects into the best possible shape so whoever is the new president can see that they're working," Cameron said.

## Barcelona officials worry about tourism amid drought

HT News Network

BARCELONA: Tourists arriving at Barcelona's airport or gazing at its iconic Sagrada Familia basilica will this Easter holiday be met with large signs in English that read: "Drought alert. During your stay, save water".

As the impact of climate change intensifies across southern Europe, Spain's Mediterranean region of Catalonia, which includes Barcelona, is enduring its worst drought on record. Reservoir levels are only around 15 per cent of their capacity, prompting curbs on water use by residents, visitors, agriculture and industry. Beach showers are shut and swimming pools cannot be filled with tap water, among other restrictions.

Catalan officials have appealed for tourists to act responsibly, but are also adamant the drought should not put them off coming to the Spanish city and region most visited by foreigners, where tourism accounts for 14.5 per cent of the local economy.

"The message from Catalonia's tourism agency and business department to campsites and hotels is one of calm: (People) can enjoy their holidays here as usual," said David Mascort, the regional government's environmental chief.

## Under Pressure, Trump Goes On Attack As \$454 Million Deadline Looms

HT News Network

New York: Donald Trump lashed out at prosecutors Friday as the clock ticked down on the possible seizure of his assets and threatened bankruptcy if he fails to come up with cash to pay a half-billion dollar bond.

The former president, who is running again in this year's election, is under pressure after a New York court ruled that he, his sons and his family company lied about the value of assets, deceiving banks and insurers.

Shares of his social media company could start trading on the stock market as early as Monday, upping his worth by \$3 billion, but it is uncertain when the cash would be available to cover his \$454 million bond.

"No trial, no jury, no crime, no victim," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "Only a crooked judge and a corrupt, Trump-hating attorney general, who takes her orders directly from the White House.



"Election interference at a level never seen before!" Trump said that due to "hard work, talent, and luck"

he had almost \$500 million in cash that he had planned to spend on his election campaign, adding the judge "knew this, (and) wanted to take it away from me."

Trump Media is planning to go public by merging with shell company Digital World Acquisition Corporation.

A vote on Friday could approve the much-delayed merger and create a windfall for Trump -- though the cash influx may be months away.

Trump built a public profile as a property developer and businessman in New York before entering politics.

Despite the real-estate mogul's \$2.6 billion estimated net worth -- and his own claims of having cash on hand -- his lawyers say that it has been impossible to come up with the \$454 million bond, due Monday.

Typically, such bonds would be underwritten by an insurer or specialized bond company.

But Trump's lawyers say that after approaching 30 such companies, none will take the ex-president's real-estate holdings as collateral.



# Hardik Pandya Arrives In Ahmedabad, Away Captain At Home Away From Home

**NEW DELHI:** On Friday evening, a team of specialists ran through their final checks around Motera to ensure the correct Gujarat Titans branding, along with a photo that has Shubman Gill at its front and center as the face of the team, was uniformly put up across the venue.

Titans have a new sponsor and a new captain. But it wasn't easy to tell, because the old one was also at the Narendra Modi Stadium, and he was wearing blue too - just a different shade of it. Dressed in shorts, a half-sleeve Mumbai Indians vest, dark glasses and a headband, Hardik Pandya carried off the vibe of someone ready for a beach party - relaxed and totally at ease with the surroundings.

He embraced Gill, the opposition captain, with a warm hug as they crossed paths upon entry. The curator, who had been working with his assistants to shave a layer of grass off the main pitch, waved from afar before walking over to greet Hardik.

Hardik lent a helping hand to Jayant Yadav, who had just finished his push-ups. Then as he glanced over to the Titans nets, he jokingly taunted Sai Sudharshan, who smacked a pull that crossed over into Mumbai's half of the ground. Rashid Khan and Josh Little looked around to find Hardik just behind them and they greeted him with high-fives.

Even if Hardik had expected to quietly soak in the feeling of being in the opposition camp, he couldn't have; he was being made to feel at home. And every hug, handshake and high-five was captured in high resolution. It was as if this was Hardik's home, and it was his duty to personally greet every single guest. Except this time, he was the guest.

Hardik then caught up with Ashish Nehra, the man with whom he had plotted and planned for two seasons. The one with whom he would jet around the ground on an electric scooter, overseeing nets in the center one moment, and then make a quick pit stop at the outdoor area to check on the bowlers.

It is unlikely Hardik wasn't flooded with nostalgia. This was, after all, the scene of one of his greatest triumphs as a new IPL captain in 2022, a venue where he announced himself as a fearless and aggressive leader protective of his team, where he'd insulated the younger players from external pressures to thrive in an environment of bonhomie.



It is the same environment that helped Hardik grow and mature in the leadership role, which thrust him firmly into a spotlight that he embraced with a smile. Even in his toughest moment - having to swallow a heartbreaking final-ball loss in last year's final to Chennai Super Kings - there was acceptance and magnanimity in defeat.

That lasting image of Hardik in Titans colors was so reassuring that the growing fanbase, so used to seeing him in dark blue, expected him to define his IPL legacy here. After all, he was a Gujarati boy leading a Gujarat-based franchise, doing things not many thought he could.

They had hoped he would be to Ahmedabad what MS Dhoni is to Chennai or Virat Kohli to Bengaluru. But the transactional nature of the IPL, where loyalties can change quickly, sometimes by chance and sometimes by design, has meant Hardik is now back to his roots, with the team that first gave him an identity in 2015.

None of this has swayed the average Ahmedabad fan, or so it appears. They're still vociferous in their support for the Titans, even if Hardik's face is on the back covers of their phones. Maybe they'll change them in due course. Or maybe they'll let it be for old times' sake.

It was impossible to not be swallowed up in the Hardik wave if you were inside the venue. Perhaps it was because Hardik was being Hardik, doing it all with a smile, before he joined his team for a light evening of training.

## STAGE SET FOR EXCITING RR-LSG CLASH

**BENGALURU:** The stage is set for an exciting clash between Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 at Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Sunday.

RR is bolstered by the return of key players like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ravichandran Ashwin, and Dhruv Jurel, who had successful stints with the Indian cricket team. Unfortunately, they will miss the services of pacer Prasad Krishna due to injury.

Avesh Khan and Devdutt Padikkal will face their former teams for the first time after a trade swap before the IPL 2024 auction.

Jaiswal was the top run-getter for RR in the previous edition of the IPL, showcasing his prowess as an uncapped player. Riyan Parag was the top run-getter in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2023, indicating his form coming into the IPL.

Skipper Sanju Samson has a good track record at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, being the top-scorer for RR at that venue. Chahal emerged as the most successful bowler for RR in IPL 2023, with a significant contribution to the team's bowling attack.

On the flip side, KL Rahul returns to lead LSG after missing the second half of the last season due to injury.

The team boasts a strong opening combination with Quinton de Kock and Devdutt Padikkal, along with the availability of Kyle Mayers.

Nicholas Pooran and Ayush Badoni are expected to play crucial roles in the middle order for LSG. All-rounders Marcus Stoinis and Krunal Pandya add depth to LSG's squad.

The bowling department is led by the likes of Naveen-ul-Haq, Shamar Joseph, Shivam Mavi, and spin wizard Ravi Bishnoi.

Trent Boult, Avesh, Ashwin, and Chahal provide LSG with a formidable bowling attack.

Rajasthan Royals: Sanju Samson (c), Jos Buttler, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shimron Hetmyer, Shubham Dube, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, Rovman Powell, Kunal Singh Rathore, Ravichandran Ashwin, Donovan Ferreira, Abid Mushtaq, Avesh Khan, Trent Boult, Nandre Burger, Yuzvendra Chahal, Navdeep Saini, Sandeep Sharma, Kuldeep Sen, Tanush Kotian

Lucknow Super Giants: KL Rahul (c), Quinton de Kock, Ayush Badoni, Devdutt Padikkal, Nicholas Pooran, Ashton Turner, Krishnappa Gowtham, Deepak Hooda, Arshin Kulkarni, Prerak Mankad, Kyle Mayers, Krunal Pandya, Marcus Stoinis, David Willey, Arshad Khan, Shamar Joseph, Amit Mishra, Mohsin Khan, Naveen-ul-Haq, Ravi Bishnoi, Shivam Mavi, Manimaran Siddarth, Mayank Yadav, Yash Thakur, Yudhvir Singh. (UNI)

## Cummins On Starc: 'Going To Be Weird Seeing Him In The Other Dugout'

**MUMBAI:** Pat Cummins vs Mitchell Starc. INR INR 20.50 crore vs INR 24.75 crore. Hardly a rivalry, even if it's been talked up ahead of the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) vs Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) game at Eden Gardens on Saturday. For Cummins, it's only going to be "weird looking across and seeing him in the other dugout".



"I will say this; hopefully I don't have to face Starc because that means our batters have done quite well," Cummins

said at a press conference a day off from the game. "It's funny... it's one of the beauties of the IPL; I have been playing

with Starc for 15 years. [and] I can't remember another game where I have played against him. Also it's going to be weird looking across and seeing him in the other dugout."

But there's that big salary to live up to. "Yeah, being an opposition captain, seeing how we go about playing him will be an interesting part of tomorrow. But we're both bowlers, so I am not sure we'll cross [paths] too much."

Cummins, as has been discussed ever since he was named SRH captain for the 2024 IPL season, has never captained a T20 side at a competitive level despite being Australia's Test and ODI captain and playing international cricket - all formats - since 2011. A fast-bowling captain at that.

"Really excited, good to go," Cummins said while acknowledging his lack of experience helming a T20 side.

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