



Srinagar

Sunday

March 31 | 2024

20 Ramadan 1445

Issue No: 77

Volume: 14

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PM Modi Freed J&K From Clutches Of Article 370, Terrorism And Separatism: Anurag Thakur

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi freed Jammu and Kashmir from the clutches of Article 370, terrorism and separatism which is the biggest achievement of the BJP-led government, Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday said.

Thakur made this assertion as he joined BJP candidate Jugal Kishore, who submitted his nomination papers from the Jammu Lok Sabha seat after a massive road show here.

He said Prime Minister Modi-led government provided new wings of development to

Jammu and Kashmir over the past 10 years besides showing that it cannot stay silent on Pakistan-sponsored terror attacks like the previous regime by conducting surgical strikes across the border.

"Someone travelling with me asked what Jammu and Kashmir has got under Modi? Jammu and Kashmir got freedom from Article 370, stone-pelting, terrorism and separatism while developmental activities got new wings," the Information and Broadcasting minister said addressing a public gathering after the road show along Residency Road here.

Talking to reporters later



after his public address, Thakur said that Jammu and Kashmir recorded a decline of 75 per cent in terror attacks, 81 per cent in killing of civilians and 50 per cent drop in security personnel casualties under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

"It all became possible when there was a strong government at the Centre," he said, asking people to vote for BJP candidates — Kishore — and Union Minister Jitendra Singh (Udhampur parliamentary constituency) — for the third term.

Amid chants of 'Ab ki baar 400 paar' and slogans in favour of Prime Minister Modi and the BJP, Thakur later accompanied

Kishore to the office of the returning officer for the Jammu Lok Sabha seat where the latter filed his nomination papers.

Kishore had won the Jammu Lok Sabha seat in 2014 and 2019 general elections but this time the parliamentary elections are happening for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir after the erstwhile state was bifurcated into two union territories and its special status under Article 370 revoked in August 2019.

In 2019, Kishore defeated Congress candidate Raman Bhalla by a margin of 3,02,875 votes. He defeated Congress candidate Madan Lal Sharma

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Rains Lash J&K For 2nd Day, Snow Blankets Pahalgam

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 30: Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed widespread rainfall in the last 24 hours, while



the upper reaches experienced snowfall, bringing down the temperatures. The Meteorological Department's (MeT)

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Special Training Imparted To 1300 Soldiers Ahead Of Amarnath Yatra

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 30: Preparations are underway to ensure the safety and security of devotees embarking on the revered Amarnath Yatra in 2024, with a particular focus on disaster management and rescue operations. The Mountaineering Rescue Team of Jammu and Kashmir is actively engaged in training activities in the Nad area of Samba to facilitate the smooth passage of pilgrims through the challenging terrain.

Anticipated to commence at the end of June and span over two months, the Amarnath Yatra draws millions of devotees

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NEWS BRIEF

12 Candidates In Fray For LS In Udhampur

JAMMU, MAR 30: Twelve candidates in fray for Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha seat of Jammu and Kashmir, which is going to polls for the first phase of Lok Sabha Elections as no one withdraws nominations in the stipulated time.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Returning Officer (RO) for the 4-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, Dr Rakesh informed that none of the candidates withdrew his papers and 12 candidates remain in fray for the seat.

Earlier, 15 candidates including BJP's present Member Parliament and MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh and Congress party's candidate and former MP

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

PHC shifts to a new building in Awantipora, lacks doctor

SRINAGAR, MAR 30: Authorities in Hari Parigam area of Awantipora have shifted the PHC in a new building after six years but the authorities are yet to post a doctor there.

Locals from Hari Parigam Awantipora told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the PHC building in their area had been lying defunct for the last six years and the existing primary health facility was running out of rented accommodation.

They said that the hospital building was completed years ago with a huge amount of money spent on it but due to unknown reasons it was left abandoned.

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Watermelon sales continue to remain low despite clearance from Food Safety Dept

SRINAGAR, MAR 30: Despite receiving clearance from the Food Safety Department, watermelon sales continue to be low in Kashmir this year.

Several vendors, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that while sales have slightly improved after the clearance, they still remain significantly lower compared to last year.

"This decline is due to the claims made by a few doctors regarding the artificial ripening of watermelons, and also the adverse weather conditions," he said.

Mohammad Ramzan, a vendor,

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LS Polls: Police & CAPF Conduct Flag Marches In Several Districts Of Kashmir

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 30: Ahead of the Lok Sabha election, Police along with Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) on Saturday conducted flag marches in several districts of Kashmir. The main objective behind this flag marches is to instill a sense of security and harmony in the society and to ensure free, fair and fear

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Restoration Of Ancient Martand Temple On Cards In Kashmir, Meeting Scheduled Next Week

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 30: Jammu and Kashmir administration has convened an officers meeting here next week to discuss 'protection, conservation and restoration' of an eighth-century old Martand Sun temple in Anantnag district.

The temple located at village Kehribal area of Mattan, some 63-km south of

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



Udhampur's 10 Years' Development Comparable To Earlier 6 Decades: Dr Jitendra

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MAR 30: Union Minister and BJP Candidate for Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency Dr Jitendra Singh, while addressing a series of road side gatherings and public meetings in different parts of



districts Udhampur today said, whoever has visited Udhampur before 2014 will bear out the transformational change that has taken place from 2014 to 2024 under the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Small hamlets, which did not even have decent footpaths for pedestrians, Udhampur has now emerged as the country's top three districts in the construction of PMGSY rural roads, said Dr. Jitendra Singh. At one time, it was a common sight to see patients being carried from one place to either on foot or in a Palki, particularly in the upper reaches of Udhampur, but the same spots have today been connected

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

BJP Candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma Files Nomination Papers For Jammu Lok Sabha Seat

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 30: For the third consecutive times, Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) leader Jugal Kishore Sharma filed his nomination papers for Jammu parliamentary constituency with a hope to get the third term as Member Parliament (MP).

Sharma was accompanied by BJP star campaigner and union minister Anurag Thakur.

According to news agency—Kashmir News Observ-



er (KNO), Sharma filed his nomination papers at the Deputy Commissioner's office (Returning Officer) here today and after that held a road show towards Shaheedi Chowk.

There was great enthusiasm among his supporters who were chanting slogans of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and hoped that BJP will win the Jammu seat easily.

The BJP candidate filed his nomination papers around 1 pm and after that

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Waaiah Ajlās Chare Ma Keh Duniya Chu Aakher Baiwafa Bukhari family of Kreeri Bereaved

Syed Aijaz Bukhari is No More

■ HT New Desk

MURADABAD KREERI, MAR 30: Son of Syed Bashir Ahmad Bukhari, Syed Aijaz Bukhari passed away after prolonged illness at his residence Ziyarat Mohalla Kreeri at the age of 36 on today evening. The deceased was suffering from brain tumor and finally lost this battle today evening. The deceased was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard

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Police Review Security Plan For Udhampur Lok Sabha Constituency In J&K

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 30: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday reviewed its security plan for the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency which is going to polls in the first phase on April 19.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi Range, conducted the parliamentary elections preparedness review at a meeting with senior officers at Udhampur district headquarters, a police spokesman said.

He said all relevant and concomitant aspects were discussed in detail, including the security plan for polling booths (as per sensitivity of the location), security of the strong room, collection and distribution centre of electronic

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Uncle Kills Nephew In Poonch

VDC Weapon Used To Commit The Crime

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAR 30: An uncle killed his nephew in Dara Dullian in Jhulas area of Poonch district last night and the accused has been arrested by the police after the incident.

The deceased has been identified as Gagandeep Singh, son of Kulbir Singh.

According to the news agency—

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

PM Modi Freed.....

by over 2.57 lakh votes in 2014. Thakur said the Modi government is “strongly behind the security forces which is evident when there was attacks on our forces”.

“The previous government would have done nothing but our government went across and carried out the surgical strikes to pin them down there,” he said, referring to the surgical strikes in response to the killing of 18 soldiers in the Uri terror attack in September 2016 and aerial strikes by the IAF deep inside Pakistan following a terror attack on a CRPF convoy that killed 40 jawans in February 2019.

The minister said the Centre ensured flowing of ‘Vikas ki Ganga’ across Jammu and Kashmir where the work on the railway line and new highways is going on very fast besides setting up of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and various other prestigious institutes like the IIM and IIT, new projects which will ensure massive employment generation and large scale investment which is in the pipeline.

Earlier, he said the travel between Jammu and Srinagar used to consume 15 hours but now the travel time has reduced to four to five hours, while the world highest Railway bridge ‘Chenab bridge’ along Udhampur-Baramulla-Srinagar Railway Line (USBRL) has been completed as the country is inching closer to connect Kashmir with Kanyakumari through railway network.

The Katra-Delhi expressway, which was never thought of by the Congress over the past six decades of its rule, is being built to facilitate the Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims, he said, highlighting various achievements of the government in space and other fields over the past 10 years.

Thakur said when Prime Minister Modi took over in 2014, the country’s economy was in shambles but his hard work ensured India’s economy jumping to the fifth spot in the globe and the BJP government is eyeing to take it further up and to the third position during the next five years.

“During India’s G20 presidency, Modi made a push for a new economic corridor which will connect India with Europe. This will also facilitate goods from Jammu to reach Europe,” he said.

Targeting the Congress, the minister said big scams like 2G and fodder scam came to light before 2014 but after Modi took over, he showed how a clean government is run with the same officials.

Meanwhile, Kishore while asking people to extend their support to him said the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, is “moving fast on the development path” under Prime Minister Modi.

“Modi restored honour of the country, took historic decisions which were pending for decades,” he added.

The Jammu Lok Sabha constituency is going to polls in the second phase on April 26. The last date to file the nominations is April 4 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is April 8.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina and other senior party leaders, including former ministers and legislators, also attended the road show and then addressed the public meeting, seeking vote for Kishore. (Agencies)

Rains Lash....

centre in Srinagar predicted widespread light to moderate rain or snow and thunderstorms over Jammu and Kashmir in the next 24 hours and a decrease in precipitation from March 31.

In the last 24 hours, Srinagar received 29.7 mm of rain, Pahalgam 35.4 mm, Gulmarg 26.6 mm, Qazigund 22.6 mm, Kokernag 30.2 mm, and Kupwara 20.2 mm.

In the Jammu region, Banihal received 43.8 mm, Bhaderwah 16 mm, Batote 29.2 mm, Katra 37.4 mm, and Jammu 8 mm.

The upper reaches, including the tourist resort of Pahalgam, received light snow last night.

The night temperatures also witnessed a dip, with Srinagar recording a minimum of 6.8 degrees Celsius against the previous night’s 8.2 degrees Celsius.

MeT said Pahalgam had 1.3 and Gulmarg had minus 0.5 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature.

The MeT has predicted wet weather till Sunday. The weather is generally expected to remain dry between April 1 and 5, with light rain at isolated places on April 3. (UNI)

Special Training.....

from across the country to seek the blessings of Baba Barfani. Given the rugged and inaccessible terrain, the authorities are vigilant to prevent accidents and address any emergencies that may arise during the pilgrimage.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) comprising 1300 trained soldiers, the Mountaineering Rescue Team is well-equipped to mitigate the challenges encountered by pilgrims along the route. Rigorous training programs are conducted to hone the skills of team members, many of whom have previously undertaken life-saving missions during past yatras.

Presently, personnel from various secu-

rity forces, including police, NDRF, and paramilitary units, are undergoing specialized training in the hilly areas of Nad, Samba. Notably, 260 soldiers and officers, spanning seven batches, have already completed their training, with additional batches currently undergoing rigorous instruction.

The training regimen encompasses a wide array of skills essential for disaster management, including rescue operations in the event of landslides, floods, fires, and road accidents. Personnel are trained in rope bridge construction, safe extraction of injured individuals from hazardous locations, and other life-saving techniques tailored to the challenging terrain of Jammu and Kashmir.

While adverse weather conditions, particularly snowfall along the Pahalgam and Baltal routes, may temporarily impede progress, security forces remain on standby at entry points to both routes. As snow melts and conditions improve, efforts to enhance travel infrastructure and logistical arrangements will accelerate to ensure a seamless pilgrimage experience for devotees.

The formation of the Mountaineering Rescue Team in 2009 marked a significant milestone in disaster preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra. Over the years, the team has continually refined its capabilities, with approximately five thousand soldiers receiving specialized training. Their dedicated efforts have saved numerous lives during emergencies.

LS Polls: Police.....

free election, police said.

The flag marches was carried out in Baramulla, Ganderbal, Shopian and Kulgam districts of Jammu and Kashmir and led by senior officers of Police and CAPF.

“Baramulla Police carried out flag marches in the district along with CAPF in view of upcoming Lok Sabha election to instill a sense of security and harmony in the society and to ensure free fair and fear free elections,” a police statement said.

Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency, which is slated to go to polls on May 20, during the fifth phase of the election, is the most sensitive due to its proximity to the Pakistan occupied Kashmir. The Baramulla parliamentary constituency encompasses three districts of Kupwara, Bandipora, and Baramulla and all of them share a border with PoK.

A senior BSF official today said that chances of infiltration from across the LoC increase during important events like the Lok Sabha election.

Similar flag marches have been conducted in Ganderbal, Shopian and Kulgam.

“Ganderbal Police today carried out flag marches in the District along with CAPF in view of the Parliamentary Elections 2024.

The Senior Officers of District Police & CAPF and Jawans took part in the Flag Marches which culminated at T-chowk,” a police statement said.

The flag marches was conducted days after a crucial high-level security meeting was held at the Police Control Room (PCR) Srinagar to assess and enhance the preparedness for the electoral process. (UNI)

Restoration Of.....

Srinagar, is considered as the oldest of the Sun temples in the country and a symbol of invaluable ancient spiritual heritage. It has been declared as a site of national importance by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and also appears in the list of centrally protected monuments.

According to a notice issued by Jammu and Kashmir department of culture, a meeting has been convened at Civil Secretariat in Jammu on April 1 to discuss the matter regarding protection, conservation and restoration of the ancient temples in Kashmir with installation of Emperor Lalitaditya Muktapida in the premises of Martand Sun temple.

The meeting, to be chaired by Principal Secretary, will be attended among others by Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums (J-K), superintendent of Archaeologist (incharge) ASI (Srinagar circle).

Thousands of pilgrims including Kashmiri Pandits visit the temple every year and have been demanding its restoration.

In May 2022, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha took part in ‘Navgrah Ashtamangala Pooja’ at the temple which was protested by ASI as “violation of rules” for not seeking required permission. However, J-K administration defended the pooja citing rule 7(2) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, which states that this should not apply to any event held “in pursuance of a recognised religious usage or custom”.

Built on the top of a plateau, the temple ruins and related archaeological findings revealed that it was an excellent specimen of Kashmiri architecture, which had blended the Gandharan, Gupta and Chinese forms of architecture.

The temple has a colonnaded courtyard, with its primary shrine in its centre and surrounded by 84 smaller shrines, stretching to be 220 feet long and 142 feet broad total and incorporating a smaller temple that was previously built.

JK & Ladakh.....

custody without unwarranted loss of time”.

The court made these observations in a

contempt petition against DM Baramulla and SSP Baramulla who despite orders from the High Court had not ensured the release of a detainee from detention and remained in illegal detention for 79 days.

The High Court made known to the two officers, who were present in the court its “serious concern about the loss of 79 days of (detenue’s) life” who remained “under preventive custody without any legal basis”.

A single bench of Justice Rahul Bharti observed in his order on March 26 that the detainee earned his release “upon intervention of this court when the petitioner came to file the present contempt petition”, in which he apprised the court that despite quashment of his preventive detention in terms of judgment dated 30.12.2023 the petitioner has not earned his release from the custody, that is with effect from the date of pronouncement of the judgment reading his detention illegal.”

“This court hopes that such like scenario does not repeat again and whenever the preventive detention of a detainee gets quashed, the Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir acts with reasonable dispatch to ensure that the detainee person is released from the custody without unwarranted loss of time”, Justice Bharti observed while disposing off a contempt petition by Muneeb Rasool Shenwari filed through his lawyer.

The court let the petitioner restored to his personal liberty in terms of the order on March 18, and subsequently closed the contempt petition against the DM and SSP concerned.

The Court, however, made it clear that “without prejudice to the right of the petitioner”, he is free to “avail appropriate legal remedy against the defaulting/erring official or authority for illegal detention suffered by him post quashment” of his detention order. (UNI)

Udhampur’s.....

with concrete roads and people are seen driving motor vehicles, he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, Udhampur was the first district in the country to have achieved almost 100% saturation in issuing AYUSHMAN Card or health insurance. Similarly, almost all the Viksit Bhart initiatives undertaken by the have achieved 100% or near 100% saturation.

At the same time, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the aspirations of the youth have been fulfilled after PM Modi provided them equal opportunity and a level playing field. As a result, today boys and girls from here are going to Metro cities and competing with their counterparts there to make a mark in their careers.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, there are certain critics and cynics who say they cannot see any development in 10 years but at the same time avail the utility of all the new projects set up in the last 10 years.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Modi Govt gave centrally funded Medical College and Mukeerjee tunnel from Chenani to Nashri to shorten the travel time by road.

The Minister said that earlier, Udhampur was known to be a “place of pedestrians” and there were Dogri folk songs written on “Udhampure diyan Takkhiyan” but under the Modi government, Udhampur has emerged as country’s top three districts in PMGSY road construction even in remotest areas.

He said, “Among over 700 districts in the country, Udhampur has become one of the top three districts.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed, adding that the district has now its own radio station for which a demand was raised in 1965, but this genuine demand was never fulfilled by the earlier government. Not only this, Udhampur has a passport office now, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said this constituency is in near future all set to become a tourist-cum-religious pilgrim destination as well as a centre for learning.

Talking about the success of Lavender revolution in Bhaderwah area of district Doda, Dr Jitendra Singh informed its cultivation is now being taken up in Basantgarh-Dudu area of Udhampur given its success.

The Minister exuded confidence that while in the upcoming general elections, Narendra Modi will return to power, with 400 seats, the voters of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha seat are going to script a new record by bestowing a 4 lakh plus record margin on Dr Jitendra Singh, and tumble the previous record voter turnout here. In the last election, this constituency had a record victory margin since the Independence, which was the highest in the history of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019”, Dr Jitendra Singh said.

Pawan Gupta, former Minister, BJP J&K Vice President Pawan Khajuria, BJP District President Arun Gupta, DDC Chairman Lal Chand, Senior leaders Balwant Mankotia, Akhil Parashar, local Sarpanches, DDC members, PRIs, among others, addressed the different meetings.

BJP Candidate.....

moved towards Shaheedi Chowk Jammu in a road show. At Shaheedi Chowk BJP had organized a rally where Anurag Thakur addressed the gathering and sought votes in favour of Jugal Kishore Sharma.

Talking to media persons Anurag Thakur said that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed development in each and every nook and corner during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s

tenure. “Be it IIT, IIM, 11 medical colleges, Vande Bharat train, four lane highways and six lane expressway, J&K has been put on the developmental path by the Modi government,” Thakur said.

He mentioned that peace has been brought in Jammu and Kashmir and violence level has come down drastically. “Modi’s love towards J&K can be determined by the fact that he removed Article 370, put an end to stone throwing and separatism, terrorism related incidents have come down by 75 percent, killings of locals have gone down by 81 percent and killing of security forces have also decreased by 50 percent,” the BJP star campaigner said.

“This has become possible only when BJP government led by Modi came at the centre and J&K gave us two MPs Jugal Kishore and Dr. Jitendra Singh,” he added.

Replying to question on electoral bonds issue and Congress party questioning the government’s one-sided approach, he said, “BJP has around 400 MPs in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and we have got Rs 6000 crore through electoral bonds whereas party like TMC has got Rs 1600 crores. Through electoral bonds the money has gone straight to political parties whereas during Congress regime 95 percent was going to pockets of their leaders.”

“I feel sorry for Rahul Gandhi. Will his party not file income tax returns and is his party above law? Congress party lost in Court and with Appellate authority and that is why they got demand notice,” the BJP leader said, adding, “In the eyes of law, Congress party is guilty as they haven’t followed the rules and that is why they didn’t get any relief.”

He also lashed out on AAP and said that those who have done corruption are behind bars.

The Jammu Lok Sabha seat has been represented by BJP MP Jugal Kishore since 2014 and this time also the party has put its weight behind him by giving him the mandate. This time after delimitation, twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch have been made part of Anantnag Lok Sabha seat and Reasi district has been made part of Jammu constituency. There is a direct fight between BJP and Congress party on Jammu seat like Udhampur as Congress has fielded former minister Raman Bhalla against Sharma.

Uncle Kills.....

Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the accused identified as Joginder Singh, son of Jodh Singh barged into the house of Gagandeep Singh during the night and fired upon him from a point blank range and killed him on the spot. “Immediately after hearing the gunshots, other family members got hold of the accused and called police. The accused was handed over to the police and a murder case has been registered in police station Poonch against the accused,” a police official told KNO.

The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of police post Jhulas which falls under police station Poonch.

The police official said that the accused was drunk and had come with an intention to kill. “They had some family issues which were sorted out in a Gram panchayat. But the accused was not satisfied with the outcome of the Gram Panchayat at which forced him to take the step to kill,” he added.

Sources told KNO that the accused was a Village Defence Committee (VDC) member and used his VDC weapon to commit the crime.

The source further said that the deceased was wanted in many crime cases including rape and attempt to murder and police was planning to slap Public Safety Act (PSA) on him and put behind the bars.

Police have arrested the accused under murder charges and a case in this regard has been registered in police station Poonch.

Bukhari family.....

at Muradabad Kreeri.

Various religious, Socio-Political organisation have condoled with the bereaved family. Team Headlines Today in general and Editor in Chief, Jahangir Bukhari in particular expressed grief and sorrow over the sad demise of this young soul. Expressing solidarity with the bereaved family Bukhari expressed deep sorrow over the sad demise Syed Aijaz Bukhari and also extended heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Nimazi Jinaza was offered at 10.30 PM at their ancestral graveyard near Ziyarat Shareef of Hazrat Syed Haji Mohammad Murad Bukhari (RA) at Muradabad Kreeri.

Police Review.....

voting machines (EVMs), transport and route plan and induction and de-

induction of central paramilitary forces.

The communication plan, law and order, SOP in case of any exigency, surveillance over the activities of overground workers (OGWs), surrendered and released terrorists, history sheeters and trouble-mongers were also discussed in detail during the meeting, the spokesman said.

He said the meeting also chalked out the strategy to keep an eye on social media to avoid its misuse, monitoring of movement of polling parties, accommodation of CAPF and security plan for venues of public meetings and arrangement for procession and rallies. Focus on keeping an eye over subversive activities by anti-national elements and proper reporting channels by strengthening the police control rooms (PCR) was also emphasised, he said. (AGENCIES)

12 Candidates.....

Choudhary Lal Singh along with their covering candidates filed papers. After scrutiny, RO rejected papers of three covering candidates of BJP, Congress and BSP.

Those who remain in fray included Amit Kumar of BSP, Balwan Singh of Jammu Kashmir National Panther Party (Bhim), dr Jitendera Singh of BJO, Ch Lal Singh of Congress, Ghulam Mohammad Saroori of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Manoj Kumar of Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal, Dr Pankaj Sharma, Rajesh Manchanda, Sachin Gupta, Swarn Veer Singh, mohd ali Gujar and Mehraj Din as Independent.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Dr. Jitendra Singh won from Udhampur with a total of 724311 votes. Vikramaditya Singh, the nominee of the Indian National Congress, received 367059 votes. The Bharatiya Janata Party secured a majority of 61 percent in the polls. Similarly, in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Dr. Jitendra Singh had won from Udhampur, securing 4,87,369 votes. He defeated then Congress stalwart Ghulam Nabi Azad of Indian National Congress with a margin of 60,976 votes. Azad got 4,26,393 Votes.

PHC shifts to....

They said that the building was used by drug addicts causing inconvenience to people.

They said that after repeated requests to the authorities, the hospital has been shifted to a new building.

They said that the hospital now has good space and can have testing facilities available but there is a need for staff at the hospital.

They further added that there is no doctor at the hospital as of now and only immunization and first aid facilities are being provided at the facility.

Mukhtar Ahmad a local resident said that they are thankful to the government for constructing a big building for the hospital and now shifting it there

He said that spending crores in absence of staff, especially doctors is of no use and there won’t be any benefit for the patients.

Locals requested higher ups to post a male and female doctor at the hospital so that they won’t have to take long routes for minor ailments.

BMO Tral Dr Zahoor Ahmad said that the hospital has been shifted to the new building recently and a doctor will be available in the hospital twice a week from April 1.

Watermelon.....

said even his own family members refrained from consuming watermelon after reports emerged about artificial ripening.

Despite the clearance from the food safety department, reluctance among consumers continues, especially during Ramadan when watermelon consumption is traditionally high.

Other fruit vendors echoed similar sentiments, saying that the claims of artificial ripening had a detrimental impact on watermelon sales.

Bashir Ahmad Bashir, chairman of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, said that despite the department’s clearance, sales are still down by approximately 40 percent.

The decline in sales was witnessed when Dr Wajahat, a clinical oncologist, cautioned against consuming artificially ripened watermelons due to potential health risks, including cancer. His social media post on March 08 went viral and garnered support from fellow doctors.

Subsequently, the food safety department collected hundreds of samples from various districts for testing and concluded that nothing adverse was found and that watermelons are safe for consumption.

However, the lingering effects of the initial claims made by doctors continue to impact consumers, which led to the low sales of watermelons in Kashmir.

Tawi Sahitya Lok Utsav showcases vibrant literary, cultural diversity on day 2

HT News Network

JAMMU, MARCH 30: The second day of Tawi Sahitya Lok Utsav, organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts, Jammu, showcased a vibrant tapestry of literary and cultural activities.

Held at the picturesque venue of JKAACL, the event captivated attendees with a diverse range of experiences, including interactive sessions, book launches, poetry recitals, and insightful workshops.

The day began with the release of Heena Mahajan's book titled "Jammu

Di Chidi" by Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Department of Culture.

Afterwards, the event continued with book launches facilitated by the Sarv Bhasha Trust and Subhi Publication, presenting the literary creations of esteemed authors to eager audiences. The session witnessed unveiling of four captivating literary works, enriching the literary landscape of the region.

Adding to the literary fervor, the IGNCA book stall hosted the prestigious book launch of Manoj Misra, a distinguished author, against the backdrop of scholarly discussions and interactions. This momentous occasion furthered the event's commit-



ment towards fostering meaningful literary dialogue and exploration. Interactive sessions featuring

prominent authors from diverse linguistic backgrounds were held at the main stall JKAACL, facilitating engag-

ing discussions on various dimensions of literature and culture. The attendees had the opportunity to delve into the nuances of language and storytelling, enhancing their understanding of rich cultural tapestry of Jammu and Kashmir.

The vibrant ambience of the event was enhanced by soul-stirring performances at the Kavi Sammelans, celebrating the poetic traditions of Kashmiri and Pahadi languages. Held at the Main Ground Stage and Dogri Village, these performances captivated the audiences and highlighted the cultural richness of the region.

In addition to literary endeavours, the attendees immersed themselves in the world of short stories at desig-

nated parks, where talented storytellers showcased their literary prowess. A workshop on cultural journalism, hosted at Dogra Village, aimed at promoting the cultural heritage and tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir, provided participants with valuable insights and perspectives.

The event also facilitated meaningful interactions between publishers and authors, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing. Innovative initiatives spearheaded by students, such as the publication of seven books by MIT students at IGNCA Park and a thought-provoking talk by Hina Mahajan at the Main Stage, underscored the dynamic energy and creativity of the youth.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAVOORA

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from MOHAMMAD MUDASIR R/O DOONIWARI LOLAB Tehsil LALPORA District KUPWARA for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of my Son namely ARHAAN MUDASIR S/O MOHAMMAD MUDASIR KHAN MUGHAL R/O DOONIWARI LOLAB D.O.B as per documents is 12/06/2020 & In this connection if anyone have any objection in event has been to be occurred at home registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar LALPORA // BDO office Wavoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAVOORA)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAVOORA

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from MOHAMMAD MUDASIR R/O DOONIWARI LOLAB Tehsil LALPORA District KUPWARA for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of my Son namely HOOREIN MUDASIR D/O MOHAMMAD MUDASIR KHAN MUGHAL R/O DOONIWARI LOLAB D.O.B as per documents is 15/12/2017 & In this connection if anyone have any objection in event has been to be occurred at home registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar LALPORA // BDO office Wavoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAVOORA)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAVOORA

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from MOHAMMAD MUDASIR R/O DOONIWARI LOLAB Tehsil LALPORA District KUPWARA for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of my Son namely AFFAAN MUDASIR S/O MOHAMMAD MUDASIR KHAN MUGHAL R/O DOONIWARI LOLAB D.O.B as per documents is 15/03/2015 & In this connection if anyone have any objection in event has been to be occurred at home registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar LALPORA // BDO office Wavoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAVOORA)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR BIRTHS & DEATHS BLOCK WAVOORA

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office is in receipt of representation from MOHAMMAD MUDASIR R/O DOONIWARI LOLAB Tehsil LALPORA District KUPWARA for issuance of Birth Certificate in favour of my Son namely HUZAF MUDASIR S/O MOHAMMAD MUDASIR KHAN MUGHAL R/O DOONIWARI LOLAB D.O.B as per documents is 10/04/2013 & In this connection if anyone have any objection in event has been to be occurred at home registration of birth certificate shall present his/her claim to this office or Tehsildar LALPORA // BDO office Wavoora within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
(BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAVOORA)

Illegal extraction and transportation of minerals Police arrests 03 persons, seizes 03 vehicles in Kulgam

Farooq Rather



Kulgam: March 26: Acting tough against the elements involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, Kulgam police under the close supervision of SSP Kulgam have arrested three persons and seized three vehicles involved in the commission of crime.

A Police party of Police Station Kund during Naka checking at Kanchloo Crossing intercepted the vehicles (Tractors) loaded with illegally extracted minerals. The accused drivers were arrested and the vehicles used in the commission of crime have also been seized.

Accordingly, cases vide FIR No. 09 & 10/2024 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Kund and investigation set into motion.

Persons found indulging in illegal mining activities shall be dealt as per law. Community members are requested to share information regarding the crimes in their neighbourhood with their concerned police units.

Police organizes awareness rally against drug abuse in Awantipora

HT News Network

March 30: Police in Awantipora have organized an awareness rally against drug abuse. The rally was attended by students, trader federation and youth/respectables of Awantipora area. The awareness rally was flagged off by SDPO Awantipora Shri Mumtaz Ali Bhatti-JKPS along with Tehsildar Awantipora & SHO PS Awantipora. The rally passed through various routes of Sub-division Awantipora and culminated near Dogripora Crossing Awantipora. The main aim of the rally was to spread awareness about ill effects of drug abuse and its consequences.

اطلاع عام

میری بیٹیوں کی پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ بنی تم ہوگی ہے اب اسکی دلیکٹ سرٹیفکیٹ نکالنی مطلب ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو اپنا اعتراض دفتر حرا میں پیش کرے وقت گزرنے کے بعد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

المشتر

نام..... عاصہ زینب اور طیبہ بتول دختر شوکت حسین ڈار ساکنہ..... متی پورہ تحصیل..... سنگھپورہ پٹن فون نمبر..... 8803950021

Public Notice

I have changed my name from (old name), RIZWAN NAYEEM, to (New name) RIZWAN NAYEEM ITOO. In future I will be known as (New name), RIZWAN NAYEEM ITOO.

If any body is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar with in 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Name:- Rizwan Nayeem Itoo
S/o Nayeem Hussian Itoo
Passport No:- L-1917515

Lok Sabha Elections 2024:EVM/ VVPAT training imparted to Supervisors, BLOs at Handwara

Dr Abdul Qayoom

Handwara, March 30, In the Run-up to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections- 2024, Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) Handwara-5, Aziz Ahmad Rather today organized a training program for Supervisors/ BLOs of all the polling stations of Tehsil Handwara at Town Hall Handwara. The training was imparted by District Level Master Trainer, Syed Saqib Geelani, who provided full guidance to the participants on various facets of the electoral process and operations of EVM/VVPAT.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of active participation and adherence to the guidelines outlined by the Election commission of India to ensure smooth and transparent conduct of the elections.



While addressing the trainees, the ADC stressed upon the concerned to ensure Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) at every polling station, flagging of PwD voters, registrations of Migrant Voters, strategy for their

voting and provisions of voting for absentee voters etc.

At the culmination of the training programme, the vote of thanks was presented by Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024 Training programme on Material Management held at Shopian

HT News Network



SHOPIAN, MARCH 30: The District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today chaired a training programme, held to educate all relevant staff associated with the assignments of Material Management, receipt and dispatch of material on desired SOPs on the subject. At the outset, DEO stressed upon all to take maximum benefits of the training for smooth execution of allotted tasks on ground. He further asked them to go through ECI guidelines regarding their duties and responsibilities during the election period. Training was imparted by the District Level Master Trainers who spoke on all key aspects of material management for the effective and smooth receipt and dispatch of material for polling. ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, Dy. DEO, Jahangir, Ahmed, Nodal officer, material management and dispatch and other concerned were present.

ازنیابت پھلگام

مضمون: درخواست از ازاں محمد اشرف موہی ولد محمد بھان موہی ساکنہ موضع ہردو پچرو تحصیل پھلگام ضلع انت ناگ براد S C بھت محمد اشرف موہی

اشتہار ہمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندر بہ عنوان الصد میں کاغذات درخواست سامر کو کر دفتر ذمہ میں زیر سماعت ہیں اس سلسلے میں رپورٹ چواری طالب کیا گیا جس سے عیا ہوتا ہے کہ درخواست دہندہ صدر از سے دسمبر کو زمین سکونت رکھتا ہے اور ذات موہی کے طور جانے جاتے ہے سال کے لمبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 98000 تک ہے سال دھرم کو کا منتقل باخندہ ہے

- محمد اشرف موہی ولد محمد بھان موہی 40 سال مزدوری
- مبینہ ذمہ محمد اشرف موہی 38 سال گھریلو کام
- فیصل احمد پسر 12 سال زیر تعلیم
- ابوبید احمد پسر 08 سال //
- فنی بیوہ بھان 65 سال عمر رسیدہ

لہذا اتمام حوام الناس کو بر ر اختیار حرا ملاحظ کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص کو سرٹیفکیٹ مرکوز اجراء کرنے میں غور یا اعتراض ہو وہ دفتر پتر میں سات دن کے اندر اندیشیں کرے بعد کوئی غور یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار پھلگام

ازنیابت پھگام

عنوان درخواست: بشیر احمد آہنگر ولد غلام محمد آہنگر پسر مرحوم رنجی بیگم زوہد غلام محمد آہنگر ساکنہ لاری پورہ پھلگام نسبت اجرائی نیل ہیر وارث جائزہ سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتہار ہمراد آگاہی

ماملہ مندر بہ عنوان زمین درخواست سال کی ماں رنجی بیگم زوہد غلام محمد آہنگر ساکنہ لاری پورہ پھلگام مورخہ 06/02/2024 کو فوت ہو چکی ہے اس نسبت سال خواہاں ہے کہ اسکی حق میں نیل ہیر سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کی جاوے

- بشیر احمد آہنگر ولد غلام محمد آہنگر 45 سال پسر مزدوری
- بشیر احمد ولد غلام محمد آہنگر 39 سال مزدوری
- افروز احمد ولد غلام محمد آہنگر 36 سال پسر
- جمید بیگم دختر غلام محمد آہنگر 43 سال گھریلو کام
- حفیظہ دختر غلام محمد آہنگر 41 سال گھریلو کام
- فنی جان دختر غلام محمد آہنگر 35 سال گھریلو کام

اس طور کنیکل (6) افراد پر مشتمل ہے اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کنیکل نہیں بتلا یا گیا ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی بکسے اندر پیش کرے معاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار پھلگام

ازنیابت پھلگام

درخواست منجانب سال ضحیف فاروق ولد فاروق احمد ملک ساکنہ لاری پورہ پھلگام براد حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ بحق خود

اشتہار ہمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندر بہ عنوان میں درخواست سال دفتر ذمہ میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت چواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ منظور مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے سال موضع ساکنہ لاری پورہ پھلگام میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔

- جمینہ بیگم زوہد مرحوم 32 سال سرکاری ملازم
- نسبہ زوہد فاروق احمد 38 سال بہو
- ضحیف فاروق ولد فاروق احمد ملک پسر 15 سال زیر تعلیم
- فاقد فاروق دختر 13 سال //
- ساتھ فاروق دختر 12 سال //

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد نہیں بتلا یا گیا ہے سال کے کمبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 96000 دھائی گئی ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی دن کے اندر اندر پیش کریں معاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا عذر یا اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

EDITORIAL

DSEJK's Mandate Against School Monopolies

For far too long, the burden of exorbitant costs for school supplies has fallen heavily on the shoulders of parents, coerced by schools into purchasing books and uniforms from specific shops, often at inflated prices. This practice not only strained family budgets but also reinforced monopolistic tendencies within educational institutions. However, the recent intervention by the Directorate of School Education, Jammu & Kashmir (DSEJK) heralds a new era of relief for parents and accountability for schools.

The directive from DSEJK prohibiting schools from compelling parents to buy books and uniforms from designated vendors is a decisive step towards promoting fairness and affordability in education. By disallowing such monopolistic practices, the mandate empowers parents with the freedom to choose where to procure these essentials, enabling them to make informed decisions based on affordability and quality.

Moreover, the stringent penalties outlined by DSEJK for non-compliance signify a firm stance against any attempts to circumvent the regulations. With fines of up to Rs 1 lac and the potential cancellation of school registrations, the message is clear: schools must prioritize the welfare of students and parents over profit-driven agendas.

This mandate brings a palpable sense of relief to countless parents who have long grappled with the financial strain imposed by school monopolies. No longer will they be subjected to the undue pressure of purchasing from specific vendors, alleviating financial stress and promoting a more equitable educational environment.

Furthermore, the broader implications of this mandate extend beyond immediate financial relief. By fostering competition among vendors, it encourages market diversity and fosters innovation, ultimately benefiting consumers with better quality and more affordable options.

In essence, DSEJK's decisive action against school monopolies marks a significant victory for parents, ushering in a new era of transparency, fairness, and empowerment in the realm of education. It underscores the importance of regulatory oversight in safeguarding the interests of all stakeholders and upholding the principles of equity and accessibility in education.

The Transformative Power Of Education In Fostering Global Unity



MOOL RAJ

Education serves as a bridge that transcends cultural divides, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration among diverse populations

In today's intricate global tapestry, education emerges as a pivotal force, transcending cultural boundaries and fostering mutual understanding among diverse populations. Delving into the realm of academic achievement, this study explores the profound impact of education, particularly focusing on the experiences of Indian students.

Within the contemporary global educational milieu, institutions offering rigorous research-oriented programmes attract a kaleidoscope of students from various backgrounds. This commitment is exemplified by programs spanning disciplines such as petroleum engineering and the energy sector. Such institutions serve as melting pots for students from around the globe, facilitating a dynamic international community. This dynamic illustrates how educational settings can serve as conduits for intercultural exchange, fostering innovation and academic excellence.

Indian students are renowned for their academic prowess, particularly in STEM disciplines. Beyond their intellectual contributions, they enrich their academic environments by sharing their cultural heritage through various events and celebrations. This exchange cultivates mutual respect and understanding among peers, broadening perspectives and equipping students for an increasingly interconnected global workforce. Initiatives promoting cross-cultural exchanges and collaboration underscore the mutual benefits of cultural integration in fostering educational and economic growth.

Transitioning from academia to the professional realm marks a pivotal stage for students. Certain institutions



distinguish themselves by seamlessly integrating career preparation into the educational journey. For instance, programmes like the Job Placement Guarantee Programme guide students in career planning from the outset, offering support in enhancing interview skills, gaining practical experience through internships, and facilitating on-campus employment opportunities. For Indian students aspiring to pursue careers abroad, such initiatives offer a pathway to success amid the challenges of securing work visas, underscoring the institution's commitment to their holistic development.

On-campus job opportunities serve as stepping stones for students to apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings, irrespective of their nationality. Indian students benefit from roles in data processing and IT help desks, gaining invaluable real-world insights and honing essential soft skills such as problem-solving and time management.

Education catalyses excellence and cross-cultural understanding. Educational institutions worldwide are laying the groundwork for a more interconnected and empathetic global community through a multifaceted approach that integrates rigorous academic programmes, opportunities for

cultural exchange, and practical professional development. The transformative educational journey experienced by Indian students abroad epitomizes this ethos, emphasizing the importance of diversity and readiness for a globalised workforce.

These institutions not only nurture future leaders but also pave the way for a future where cultural diversity is celebrated as a strength rather than a barrier. By fostering environments where students from diverse backgrounds can share experiences, learn from one another, and prepare for the challenges of a globalised economy, education emerges as a unifying force, transcending cultural differences in the pursuit of collective achievement.

In conclusion, the exchange of students among countries is not merely a matter of academic enrichment; it is a cornerstone for fostering a more united and harmonious world. By facilitating cross-cultural understanding and empathy, student exchanges lay the foundation for mutual respect and cooperation on a global scale. When students from diverse backgrounds come together in educational settings, they bring with them unique perspectives, traditions, and experiences, creating a rich tapestry of diversity that enriches the learning environment for

all.

Moreover, these exchanges cultivate lifelong friendships and professional networks that transcend borders, fostering a sense of global citizenship and interconnectedness. As students return to their home countries with newfound knowledge and cultural insights, they become ambassadors for understanding and collaboration, breaking down stereotypes and misconceptions that often divide societies.

Furthermore, the skills and attitudes cultivated through international education—such as adaptability, tolerance, and intercultural communication—are essential for addressing the complex challenges of our interconnected world, from climate change to global health crises. By investing in student exchanges and promoting educational opportunities across borders, we not only invest in the future of individuals but also the collective well-being of humanity. Ultimately, the exchange of students among countries serves as a powerful catalyst for building a better, more united world based on shared values of respect, cooperation, and mutual understanding.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

"Beyond Words: Exploring the Silence of Extraordinary Experiences"



Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo

In the intricate weave of human existence, a profound sense of solitude engulfs those who have weathered the tempests of extraordinary experiences. It transcends the mere challenges faced; it's about grappling with the isolating silence that emerges when these profound tales resist easy sharing, leaving human empathy struggling to plumb the depths of such narratives.

"Ibn e Mariyam Hua Kare Koi Mere Dukh Ki Dava Kare Koi"
"Son of Mary, Let there be one. If only someone would cure my pain."

These poignant lines by an esteemed poet Mirza Ghalib capture the essence of the isolation felt by those navigating extraordinary journeys. The invocation of the Son of Mary signifies a plea for divine intervention or the emergence of someone capable of understanding and alleviating the pain that comes with such unique experiences.

Within the realm of empathy, cognitive understanding dominates—a knowledge-based approach where the mind dissects emotions by drawing parallels to personal experiences. While noble, this falls



short of genuine empathy, an emotional resonance that transcends comparison.

Consider the person handed a prognosis of limited time by their doctors. No matter how one contemplates this situation, the seismic shift from life to death cannot be truly felt without living it, evoking an existential tremor that eludes the empathetic observer.

Picture an individual emerging from two decades of incarceration, standing on the precipice of freedom. The quivering uncertainty, the struggle to integrate back into a life now foreign, and the insidious

force of institutionalization lingering like a shadow—these are layers of experience that elude understanding without direct encounter.

The struggle intensifies for those grappling with the aftermath of loss: a lost limb, a debilitating disability, or the heart-wrenching grief of losing a child. The depth of these experiences creates an impenetrable solitude, a space where true understanding becomes elusive.

"Bak Raha Hon Junoon Main Kya Kya Kuch Kuch Na Samjhe Khuda Kare Koi"

"Babbling in frenzy, I do not know what am I saying, May the lord grant that no one would understand anything."

People who carry the weight of extreme experiences often find themselves in a world that fails to comprehend the nuances of their journey. The challenge is not merely the experiences themselves but the profound inability to share them adequately, deepening their sense of isolation.

Reducing the significance of these experiences, attempting to simplify them as a coping mechanism for our own empa-

thetic limitations, only exacerbates the wounds. It is a disservice to gloss over the intricacies of these unique narratives.

"Kya Sufi-O-Mullah Ko Khabar Mere Junoon Ki Un Ka Sar-E-Daman Bhi Abhi Chaak Nahin Hai"

"How can the priest and monk assess the height of craze that I possess? still sound the hems of robes they wear, which have no rifts and know no tear."

This couplet by Allama Iqbal adds depth to the discussion, highlighting the inability of conventional wisdom or religious authority to grasp the intensity of one's fervor or suffering. It underscores the notion that extraordinary experiences often lie beyond the comprehension of those who have not lived through them, further emphasizing the isolation felt by individuals navigating such journeys.

Tailpiece : In a society grappling with the complexities of human existence, a genuine empathetic revolution is called for. Let us strive to acknowledge the uniqueness and intricacies of each person's journey. Only then can we hope to build bridges over the isolating chasms created by extreme experiences, fostering a collective understanding that transcends the limitations of mere cognitive empathy. It is in this empathetic embrace that we truly connect, weaving a more compassionate fabric into the diverse tapestry of humanity.

About the Author:
Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo is a distinguished Educational Columnist, Motivational Speaker, and Associate Editor of the weekly educational publication 'Education Quill.' akhoo. aubaid@gmail.com

DC Kulgam chairs monthly NCORD meeting

Instructs for stringent measures towards ensuring zero cultivation of illicit crops in the district

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, MARCH 30: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss various measures aimed to curb the drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district, and review the implementation of decisions and directions passed in previous meeting.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held on various issues pertaining to incidence of drug addiction, areas of concern and hotspots of drug use, and action taken by the concerned departments with regard to curbing the menace of drugs.



The meeting was informed that 11 panchayats are declared drug free in the district. It was also shared that 22 Drug Peddlers were arrested and 16 FIRs were registered during the current month.

The DC instructed concerned to convene meeting

of Tehsil and Gram panchayat level committees regularly.

Moreover, stringent measures were directed towards ensuring zero cultivation of illicit crops in the district. The Social Welfare Department was tasked with formulating a comprehensive plan for impact-

ful awareness programs.

Assistant Drug Controller reported on the recent inspections of pharmacies, with 106 conducted during the current month. She was further instructed to intensify these inspections.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; ACD, Syed Naseer; ACR, Mushtaq Ahmad; SDM Noorabad, Bashir Ul Hassan; ACP, Nazia Hassan and other officers from police and civil administration. Moreover, stringent measures were directed towards ensuring zero cultivation of illicit crops in the district.

The Social Welfare Department was tasked with formulating a comprehensive plan for impact-

■ **HT News Network**

DODA, MARCH 30: District Election Officer (DEO), Doda Harvinder Singh, today chaired a comprehensive meeting here in the conference hall of the DC office complex, to assess the transport plan for upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The stakeholders, during the meeting, presented roadmaps for smooth movement in view of election activities, followed by a detailed discussion on all routes pertaining to the event.

Adc Bhaderwah, ACR, District Program Officer Poshan Project, SDM Assar, ACD, Deputy District Election Officer, AROs, CMO,



CEO, ARTO, Tehsildars and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed various aspects related to elections like power supply, lighting, accommodation, and toilet facilities at election sites. Intermediate strong room facilities and

of strong rooms. The AROs were tasked to ensure adequate facilities at polling stations.

The DEO stressed on the need to enhance voter participation through SVEEP campaign and awareness programs. Additionally, officials were directed to conduct cleanliness drives at polling booths to ensure their hygiene.

Detailed planning, including vehicle arrangements for sector officers and zonal magistrates, was outlined through route maps prepared by concerned Tehsildars.

The meeting concluded with directives to maximize voter turnout and ensure meticulous arrangements at every stage of the electoral process.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024 SVEEP: GDC Sumbal organises Mehndi Art Competition

■ **HT News Network**

BANDIPORA, MARCH 30: The Women Development Cell of Government Degree College (GDC) Sumbal in collaboration with Electoral Literacy Club and NSS wing today organized "Mehndi Art Competition" under SVEEP campaign to promote voter awareness.

The theme of the event was Importance of Voting in Democracy.

The programme conducted under the patronage of Principal Prof. (Dr) Shabeena Iqbal Shawi was intended to build a truly participatory democracy by encouraging all eligible citizens to vote and make an informed decision during the forthcoming elections.

At the outset of the competition Dr. Mehraj uddin (HOD Political Science) highlighted the importance of voting in democracy.

He emphasized the significance of this civic duty as an opportunity to actively shape the destiny of the nation.

On the occasion, Dr. Nuzhat Gull (HOD Chemistry) highlighted the importance of voting not just as a right but as a duty.

The competition began with the orientation session by Prof. Manzoor Ahmed Parey wherein he instructed students about rules and regulations to be followed during the competition.

A number of enthusiastic female students participated, showcasing their artistic prowess by adorning their hands with intricate designs and empowering messages.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024 Training for POs commences at Kishtwar

■ **HT News Network**

KISHTWAR, MARCH 30: In run up to Lok Sabha Elections-2024, District Election Department Kishtwar, in collaboration with the RDD, today conducted a daylong training programme for Presiding Officers (POs) as part of the first phase of general training.

The training programme was presided over by District Election Officer, (Deputy Commissioner), Dr Devansh Yadav.

Deputy District Election Officer Idrees Lone, besides officers and officials of the election department were also present.

The training held in two batches, was imparted to the election staff by NLMT ECI, Riaz Ahmed Butt and District level master trainers (DLMTs) in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex and Auditorium Hall of GDC Kishtwar.

About 300 POs presented hands-on training which will continue for 10 days.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO stressed on staff to imbibe rules and regulations in letter and spirit and



perform their duties with utmost dedication, zeal and zest.

He also exhorted on other stakeholders to maintain mutual cooperation and support during the election process to make these elections a grand success. Thrust was laid on learning and following timeliness strictly.

Deputy District Election Officer

informed that training programme shall continue till all the available manpower is fully trained.

During the programme, Master Trainer imparted training related to EVM and other election related activities, besides deliberating upon duties and precautions to be observed by Presiding officers.

Sopore Police carriers out route march across so- pore town

■ **Aadil Nazir**



Sopore, 30 Mar: As a prelude to the ensuing Lok Sabha Elections, District Police Sopore today carried out a flag march across various areas. The flag march was led by Superintendent of Police Sopore Smt. Divya D-IPS. Around 200 personnel, comprising contingents of the District Police, 179 Bn CRPF and BSF took part in the flag march for a stretch of 3km from the Degree College, Sopore to Hathishah Bridge Sopore. The flag march was carried out to instil confidence among general public so that they can exercise their franchise on the polling day without fear or coercion. A similar flag march was also taken out in sub-division Rafiabad.

JKTF accords warm send off to Headmaster Farooq Ahmad Rather

Hajin: Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum accorded a warm farewell to the headmaster of Govt Girls High School Hajin Farooq Ahmad Rather on his superannuation on Saturday after rendering 34 years of dedicated service in the education department. The farewell was attended by Principal Higher Secondary School Hajin Mehboob Ahmad, HOI Vijpara Farooq Ahmad, HOI GMS Abdul Aziz, HOI Gulshanabad Mohammad Shafi, Chief Spokesperson JKTF Mir Bashir Ahmad, Majeed Mazaji besides officials from the education department.

CPIM Workers Stage Protest in Kulgam Against Erratic Power Supply, Hike in Tariff

■ **Farooq Rather**

Srinagar 30 Mar : Hundreds of workers of the Communist Party of India - Marxist (CPIM) Saturday staged a protest in south Kashmir's Kulgam district against an erratic electricity supply and hike in power tariff. As per the news agency CNS, the CPIM workers, after hitting the road in Kulgam, were joined by the local populace and jointly raised slogans against the Power Development Department for plunging the people into darkness by frequent power cuts and affecting the MSME sector due to shortage of power.



"The Power Development Department is still following the schedule of winter and that too with the unscheduled cuts time and again. Jammu and Kashmir is bestowed with rich resources. The region has an approximate estimate of 24 thousand MWs of power potential yet the people are suffering," said CIPM in its

memorandum addressed to LG Manoj Sinha.

The CPIM party termed the power purchase agreement between Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited and J&K Power Development Corporation with Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT services for a period of 40 years as an "injustice" with the people of J&K. It said that the people are finding it hard to pay the electricity bills as the enhancement in the tariff was done "without any proper survey". The party also listed six demands regarding electricity and sought the intervention of LG Manoj Sinha for its fulfilment.

Basharat Bukhari fumes over delay in construction of bridge at Sheikhpura Bla

■ **HT News Network**

Baramulla, Mar 30 (KNO): Senior political leader and former minister Syed Basharat Bukhari on Saturday urged J&K administration to install a bridge over Fresthar Nallah at Sheikhpura so that students are able to reach the local higher secondary school. In a statement to news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the former minister, who has twice represented erstwhile Sangrama constituency in J&K Assembly, said that students are facing immense hardships in absence of the bridge.

"They have to walk through a Nallah to reach the local higher secondary school, however, in the absence of a bridge, they are not able to make it, particularly in the rainy season when water discharge is high," Bukhari said.

Bukhari regretted that the school had to be closed today as students could not cross the Nallah after the makeshift culvert collapsed due to intense water flow.

He further added that the DPR for the said bridge stands already approved and even token money of Rs 20 lakh has also been released but the work has not.

DLSA Ramban holds first quarterly meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee

■ **HT News Network**

RAMBAN, March 30: As per NALSA's annual calendar of activities for the year 2024, today the District Legal Services Authority, Ramban under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority, conducted the first quarterly meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) at District Court Complex, Ramban.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman (Principal District & Sessions Judge), District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ramban Ranbir Singh Jasrotia along with other members of the Under Trial Review Committee.

The meeting was held in order to expedite the identification and review of pris-



oners belonging to district Ramban, who are lodged in district Court Udhampur and

are eligible to be considered for release as well as to accelerate the regular functioning of the committee and review the state of all eligible under-trial prisoners (UTPs).

The committee reviewed the cases of the eligible UTPs shortlisted by the Secretary (Sub-Judge), District Legal Services Authority, Ramban, Ms. Anjana Rajput. The committee took up and discussed 05-cases, however, no case was recommended for early release.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Charak, Additional Superintendent of Police, Ramban Gourav Mahajan, Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel Abdul Hamid Itoo, and Additional Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Ramban Kumar Harshvijay Singh.

PM Modi To Address Mega Rally In UP's Meerut, Jayant Chaudhary To Be Present

■ HT News Network

Meerut: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will kick-start his Lok Sabha election campaign in Uttar Pradesh tomorrow with a rally in Meerut where the BJP has fielded actor Arun Govil of TV serial 'Ramayan' fame as its candidate.

According to sources, apart from Arun Govil, Rashtriya Lok Dal president Jayant Chaudhary, who recently joined the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, will share the dais with the Prime Minister.

Arun Govil became a household name after essaying the role of Lord Ram in Ramanand Sagar's 'Ramayan'.

BJP leader said, "After the consecration of Lord Ram's idol at the temple in Ayodhya, PM Modi is starting his election campaign in the state from the constituency of Arun Govil, who played the role of Lord Ram and is highly respected."

The party's state General Secretary Anoop Gupta has been given the responsibility of coordinating the prime minister's rally. A senior BJP leader said that apart from Meerut, people from nearby Baghpat, Bijnor, Muzaffarnagar and Kairana Lok Sabha constituencies



will also participate in the rally on Sunday.

Prime Minister Modi's Meerut rally will prove to be a milestone in western Uttar Pradesh, senior BJP leader and MLC Govind Narayan Shukla said and asserted that the party and its allies would win all 80 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

A BJP leader said, "This is the first rally of the 2024 elections (in Uttar Pradesh). The party workers are fortunate that the prime minister is going to start the election

campaign from Meerut." According to RLD spokesperson Atir Rizvi, party chief Jayant Chaudhary will share the stage with BJP leaders at the rally.

On Good Friday, PM Modi Remembers Jesus Christ's "Profound Sacrifice"

Leaders of the BJP and RLD said that Bharat Ratna to former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, issues related to sugarcane growers and farmers as well as the development of Western Uttar Pradesh would feature in the rally.

Pradesh would feature in the rally.

On Saturday, President Droupadi Murmu conferred 'Bharat Ratna', the country's highest civilian award, to Chaudhary Charan Singh posthumously. The award was received by the former prime minister's grandson Jayant Chaudhary during an event at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi.

The local administration has heightened security measures ahead of the prime minister's Sunday rally. Flying drones, kites or balloons in an eight-km radius from the venue of the rally has been banned under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Polling in Uttar Pradesh will be held in all seven phases of the Lok Sabha elections. Voting in Bijnor, Muzaffarnagar and Kairana Lok Sabha constituencies will be in the first phase on April 19. Meerut and Baghpat will see polling in the second phase on April 26. On Good Friday, PM Modi Remembers Jesus Christ's "Profound Sacrifice"

Leaders of the BJP and RLD said that Bharat Ratna to former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, issues related to sugarcane growers and farmers as well as the development of Western Uttar Pradesh would feature in the rally.

Congress Got Large Amounts In Cash, Had Ample Time To Reply: Sources On Tax Charge

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The Congress' claims of "tax terrorism" based on fresh notices from the Income Tax department have been strongly countered by sources in the government agency, who have pointed out that incriminating material had been seized and the assessment proceedings are taking place now because they would have been time-barred on March 31 this year.

The sources said the Congress knew about the proceedings and had been given enough time to reply, including during the hearings in the Delhi High Court, which had denied the party relief.

The Congress, which had earlier claimed its bank accounts had been frozen after the Income Tax authorities had imposed a penalty of 200 crore, had said on Friday that it had received a new tax notice from the department to the tune of 1,800 crore.

The fresh notice was for the assessment years 2017-18 to 2020-21 (financial years 2016-17 to 2019-20) and included penalty and interest.

Officials said income tax searches in April 2019 had revealed cash receipts by the Congress from Megha Engineering - which has emerged as the second-largest donor in the electoral bonds scheme - and others. This, they claimed, was discovered



during raids on associates of Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath.

The total receipts in cash between 2013-14 to April 2019 were to the extent of 626 crore, the officials claimed, and included proceedings of an alleged corruption scam.

"These cash receipts have been established and corroborated in multiple ways, including documents found during searches, WhatsApp messages and recorded statements," an official said.

Under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, money received by a political party is exempt if certain conditions are met, including not accepting amounts over more than 2,000. Since the Congress violated these conditions, it became liable to pay tax on its entire income, the officials said.

Days After Arvind Kejriwal Arrest, Probe Agency Questions Delhi Minister

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Delhi minister and AAP leader Kailash Gahlot was today questioned by the Enforcement Directorate in an alleged money laundering case linked to the Delhi liquor policy. Mr Gahlot is currently the minister for home, transport, and law in the Delhi government.

Mr Gahlot was questioned by the ED for over five hours. Sources said the probe agency asked him about the process following while drafting the policy.

"I was questioned for nearly 5.5 hours. I will come in for questioning again if the ED summons me," the AAP leader said after leaving the probe agency's office.

The summons came just days after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was arrested in the case.

The case pertains to alleged corruption and money laundering in formulating and executing the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22, which was later scrapped.

The ED claims the policy provided an impossibly high profit margin of nearly 185 per cent for retailers and 12 per cent for wholesalers. Of the latter, six per cent - over 600 crore - was recovered as bribes and the money was allegedly used to fund the Goa and Punjab poll campaigns,



the agency claims.

This group is alleged to have given 100-crore kickbacks to the AAP and its leaders. The ED has also alleged in its chargesheet that Mr Gahlot handled a single SIM number but his IMEI (international mobile equipment identity) was changed thrice.

Three top Aam Aadmi Party leaders including Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal have been arrested in the Delhi liquor policy case. The other two are AAP MP Sanjay Singh and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

K Kavitha, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, is also in jail.

After US, Germany, UN Comment On Arvind Kejriwal, Vice President's Rejoinder

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Stressing that India is a unique democracy, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said the country does not need lessons from anyone on the rule of law. His comments came after Germany, the US and the United Nations made remarks on the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The questions posed to representatives of the US and the UN, which triggered the comments, were also about the freezing of the Congress' bank accounts.

Speaking at an event on Friday, the Vice President said, "India is a democracy with a robust judicial system. This can't be compromised by any individual or any group. India does not need lessons from anyone on rule of law." Mr Dhankhar emphasised that "equality before law is the new norm" in India and those who thought they are beyond the law are being held accountable. In a possible reference to the AAP's planned rally against Mr Kejriwal's arrest at the Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi on Sunday,



which will be attended by several leaders from the INDIA alliance, the Vice President said, "But what do we see? The moment the law takes its course, they take to the streets, high-decibel debates, camouflaging culpability of the worst nature by human rights. This is happening under our nose," he added.

Describing the Indian judicial system as robust, independent and pro-people, he asked,

"What is the justification for a person or an institution or an organisation to take to the streets when the law is set in motion?"

Addressing the 70th Founders' Day celebrations of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, Mr Dhankhar also said people engaging in the "transgression of law" are now playing the victim card.

"Corruption is not a passage to opportunity, employment or a contract anymore. It is a passage to jail... Can you go on a high moral ground that the corrupt must not be dealt with because it is a festive season or it is farming season? How can there be any reason to save those who are culpable," the Vice President asked. After the remarks by representatives of the US and Germany, India had summoned their envoys. It had termed the comments "unwarranted", "biased" and "unacceptable", but has not reacted to the statement by a spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres so far.

Poll Body Transfers IPS Officer, Husband Of Haryana BJP MP Fight

■ HT News Network

Chandigarh: The Election Commission has ordered the transfer of IPS officer Rajesh Duggal, who is the husband of BJP MP from Sirsa Sunita Duggal, and directed that no election-related work be assigned to him till Lok Sabha polls conclude in the state. Acting on the EC's directive, the Haryana government on Thursday issued the transfer order. Rajesh Duggal, who was holding the charge as Joint Commissioner of Police, Gurugram, has now been posted as Deputy Inspector General of Police at the Police Headquarters in Panchkula with immediate effect. "Further, as directed by the Election Commission of India, he shall not be assigned any election-related work till the completion of the current Lok Sabha election in the state," reads the order issued by Haryana's Additional Chief Secretary (Home Department) T V S N Prasad. Polling for the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana will be held in the sixth phase



of elections on May 25.

At the time of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls too, the ECI had ordered that Rajesh Duggal, who was then holding the charge as commandant of the 3rd battalion of the Haryana Armed Police in Hisar, be posted outside Hisar and Sirsa constituencies.

"Will Fight Together": Arvind Kejriwal, Hemant Soren's Wives Meet In Delhi

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The wives of jailed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his former counterpart from Jharkhand, Hemant Soren, who is also in jail, met in Delhi today amid speculation that Sunita Kejriwal may take over the top post.

Kalpna Soren and Sunita Kejriwal hugged and greeted each other on camera, in what was seen as a show of strength against what the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) call the Centre's misuse of probe agencies to weaken the Opposition just before the Lok Sabha elections.

"Despite the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal ji and Hemant Soren ji by the dictatorial government, they (the two women) are standing strong and fighting with the people of their respective states," the AAP said in a post on the microblogging website X.

Controversial Imran Masood Is Congress' Pick For Saharanpur Lok Sabha Seat

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The Congress has once again fielded Imran Masood from the Saharanpur Lok Sabha seat in western Uttar Pradesh. Mr Masood, a prominent Muslim leader, has previously contested from Saharanpur twice as a Congress candidate. However, he failed to win on both occasions. Imran Masood was born on April 21, 1971, to Rashid Masood in Gangoh, Uttar Pradesh. He is the nephew of former Union minister Rasheed Masood. In his 15 years in politics, Imran Masood has worked in the Congress, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and now back in Congress. 2. He ventured into politics in 2006 and was elected the chairman of the Saharanpur municipal council. Just a year later, he won from the Muzaffarabad seat in his first Assembly elections as an Independent candidate.

Congress Veteran's Daughter-In-Law Archana Patil Joins BJP In Maharashtra

■ HT News Network

Mumbai: Archana Patil Chakurkar, the daughter-in-law of former Lok Sabha speaker and Congress leader Shivraj Patil, joined the BJP today.

Archana Patil is the chairperson of Lifecare Hospital and Research Centre in Udgir, and her husband Shailesh Patil Chandurkar is state secretary of the Congress.

"I have joined BJP to work in the political sphere. I was greatly influenced by the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam brought by PM Modi. It gives equal opportunity to women," Archana Patil told reporters after joining the BJP today in a formal event.

"I have worked at the grassroots level in Latur, and I will work at the grassroots level with the BJP also. I was never officially in the Congress. I joined the BJP because its ideology has a great influence on me," Archana Patil said.

She had met Maharash-



tra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis at his official home 'Sagar' in south Mumbai on Friday.

Archana Patil had planned to join the BJP along with former state minister Baswaraj Murumkar, an aide of Shivraj Patil, on Monday, but postponed the plan due to her daughter's wedding.

Shivraj Patil was Union Home Minister between 2004 and 2008 in the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government. Archana Patil Chakurkar, the daughter-in-law of former Lok Sabha speaker and Congress leader Shivraj Patil, joined the BJP today.

Archana Patil is the chairperson of Lifecare Hospital and Research Centre in Udgir, and her husband Shailesh Patil Chandurkar is state secretary of the Congress. "I have joined BJP to work in the political sphere. I was greatly influenced by the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam brought by PM Modi. It gives equal opportunity to women," Archana Patil told reporters after joining the BJP today in a formal event. "I have worked at the grassroots level in Latur, and I will work at the grassroots level with the BJP also. I was never officially in the Congress.

DC Kupwara flags-off group of Women for 2 Month's training at NIFT Srinagar

■ HT News Network

Kupwara, March 30, The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan on Saturday, flagged-off a group of 20 women trainees to National Institute of fashion technology (NIFT) Srinagar for two month's advanced training programme under 'Aspirational District Programme'.

The group of women from different areas of Kupwara district were deputed to NIFT Srinagar in order to up-skill them in the field of Garment technology and fashion designing.

Superintendent, ITI Kupwara along with other officers and officials were present at the flagging off ceremony which was organized at the premises of DC Office complex Kupwara.

The Deputy Commissioner on the occasion interacted with the women trainees and sought their feedback regarding self employment related schemes and programmes of government.

The Deputy Commissioner, On the occasion, exhorted the trainees to take full interest in the training programme as it will provide valuable opportunities to enhance the skills



and pursue a career in fashion technology. DC urged the trainees to take the advantage of PMEGP and other related schemes and start their own ventures. This initiative of District Skill Committee under the Chairpersonship of Deputy commissioner Kupwara, aims in ensuring that youth remain at the forefront of industry advancements. Such opportunities of up-skilling will not only augment the gap that exists between the types of skill available with the skills actually required at present, but also drive a spirit of innovation & entrepreneurship development leading to enhanced

employment generation opportunities for the youth. Meanwhile, the women trainees expressed their happiness for having a healthy interaction with DC Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan. This initiative of District Skill Committee under the Chairpersonship of Deputy commissioner Kupwara, aims in ensuring that youth remain at the forefront of industry advancements. Such opportunities of up-skilling will not only augment the gap that exists between the types of skill available with the skills actually required at present, but also drive a spirit of innovation & entrepreneurship.

Alyas Khateeb Accorded Warm Send Off On Superannuation

■ Amir Iqbal Khan



Bhadarwah, March 30: A fare well party was organized by teaching and non teaching staff of Government Girls Higher Secondary School Bhadarwah to give a warm send off to the senior teacher Dr Mohammad Alyas Khateeb and wished him a very happy, cheerful and healthy retired life.

Principal of the institution Shafayat Ali presided over the function.

While acknowledging the outstanding contribution of the retiring employee, the speakers wished him good health and prosperity on attaining the age of superannuation.

Prominent speakers including Dr Brijesh Kumar (Sr Lecturer), Rashmi Kotwal, Gowsia Malik etc lauded the role which Khateeb played all along his service tenure specifically in shaping the career of the students efficiently. They further highlighted his dedicated services towards the field of education and society.

"Dr Khateeb has remained a prominent figure at HSSG Bhadarwah all along his service tenure, and everyone knew him as a kind mentor, an excellent teacher and a good-natured leader who always put the interests of the school and its students first," said Shafayat Ali Principal in his address.

Earlier, the farewell ceremony began with a felicitation speeches by the senior staff members of the institution, in which they praised outgoing teacher's contribution to the school's progress and highlighted his excellent leadership qualities that had made a significant impact on the students.

Dr Mohammad Alyas Khateeb in his speech thanked all the participants for honouring him by recognising his works.

"I have been fortunate enough to have worked with such an excellent team of teachers and staff," Khateeb said. He, however, expressed his gratitude towards the school management for supporting him in his endeavors.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024

DEO Ganderbal reviews AMF Status of Polling Stations, SVEEP activities

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, MARCH 30: In a significant step towards ensuring smooth conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha Election 2024 in Ganderbal district, a meeting was convened today by District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir here in the V.C Room of DC Office.

The meeting held detailed discussion on various points including AMF Status, SVEEP, Dispatch and Receipt Plan of Polling Parties on Poll Day and logistics.

The status of Assured Minimum Facilities at each polling station was meticulously reviewed which include facilities such as drinking water, electricity, ramps for persons with disabilities, and sanitation arrangements. Any gaps or deficiencies were identified, and corrective measures were discussed. The DEO assessed the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiatives and discussed ongoing SVEEP activities, evaluated their impact, and planned additional awareness campaigns leading up to election day.



The logistics for polling day were meticulously examined including the deployment of polling parties to their respective polling stations, ensuring timely receipt of election materials, and coordination with security personnel. The DEO emphasized the importance of meticulous planning and seamless execution to uphold the integrity of the electoral process. He stressed upon strict adherence to the guidelines of ECI and urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively and ensure that every voter's right to participate in the democratic process is safeguarded. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders involved in election preparations, including Deputy District Election Officer Ganderbal, Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), Tehsildars, Nodal Officer.

Lok Sabha Elections-2024: Distt Admin organizes Voters

Awareness programmes under SVEEP at Warsun, Trehgam

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, MARCH 30: On the directions of District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, mega Voters Awareness programs under the (SVEEP) initiative were today organized at different educational institutions (venues) of the district. The programmes were organized to raise awareness about various voting-related activities and promote electoral literacy among citizens, especially first-time voters in the run up to the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections. Mega Voters Awareness programs under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative were organized by Nodal



Officer SVEEP/CEO Kupwara at Govt. Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Warsun, GHSS Trehgam and GHSS Ring Payeen (Machil), close to LoC. The events were attended by the principals, teachers, and students from different schools, officials from various departments, general public, first time voters, community leaders, local

artists and other target groups. Participants were enthralled by colorful skits presented by students who highlighted the importance of voting. Scintillating cultural performances presented by local artists enthralled the participants. Interactive sessions designed to educate the target groups inspired the young voters to actively

participate in the democratic process. Voter Pledge ceremonies under SVEEP were also held where participants took the pledge to vote enthusiastically in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. As a token of appreciation, achiever students were felicitated with appreciation certificates. Plantation drive during the events was also organized. Mass awareness regarding electoral participation was generated through painting and Quiz competitions.

Speaking at the events, concerned Cluster Heads and Resource Persons emphasized on the significance of electoral literacy in empowering citizens and urged everyone, especially first-time voters, to exercise their franchise responsibly.

Police organises free medical camp in Awantipora

■ HT News Network

Awantipora March 30: In order to provide special health care facilities, Police under the aegis of Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2023-2024 organised free medical health camp at Zantrag Khrew. SDPO Pampore Shri Krishan Rattan inaugurated the Medical Camp besides, SHO Khrew and other officers were also present on the occasion. The Medical camp was organized to provide basic health care facilities to the people of Police District Awantipora. A team of 09 Doctors and other paramedical staff examined the patients from far-off areas of Khrew. Team of Doctors consists of Paediatrician, Dermatologist, Gynaecologist, Orthopaedic, Dentist, General Physician etc. Besides, Doctors from Health Department, Doctors from CRPF were also part of comprehensive medical team. During the camp, quality medicines were distributed/given to locals free of cost as per their diagnosis. SDPO Pampore in his inaugural address, laid stress on importance of physical and mental health for all. He also emphasised upon importance of hygiene and other preventive Health care measures in one's life that can help a person in maintaining a healthy life style. He also advised the Youth to refrain from taking illicit Drugs. General public of the area hailed the initiative and were satisfied with the services provided by the Police.

District Admin Ramban hosts Grand Iftar party

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, MARCH 30: District administration Ramban today organized a grand Iftar party in the Premises of District Administrative complex Ramban.

The Iftar party was graced by the Deputy Commissioner, Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary along with SSP Ramban, Anuj Kumar, ADDC Roshan Lal, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, ASP Gourav Mahajan and other district and sectoral officers. The district administration had invited over five hundred people including civil and police officers and Prominent citizens of the district. The Deputy Commissioner expressed gratitude to the participants and conveyed his best wishes to whole Muslim community on the holy month which is celebrated as a sacred festival with devotion and dedication towards the Almighty. The participants also lauded the District Administration with great applause for hosting Iftar party besides, thanked them to give such a platform of interact with each other.

Police established Election related helpline 9541786731 (24x7) in Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal March 30: In view of upcoming General Lok Sabha Elections 2024, J&K Police has established 24x7 Election related helpline in Ganderbal to ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process. In order to address election-related queries and concerns, J&K Police District Ganderbal established a dedicated 24x7 election helpline number 9541786731 at Police Control Room Ganderbal. Citizens can now reach out to the said number round the clock to seek information or clarification regarding election related affairs. The establishment of 24x7 election helpline underscores the commitment of Ganderbal Police to uphold the credibility & transparency of the electoral process. By facilitating communication and assistance, District Police aimed to ensure a safe & secure environment for voters to exercise their democratic rights.

Police establishes Election related Helpline (24x7) in Baramulla

■ HT News Network

Baramulla March 30: In view of upcoming General Lok Sabha Elections 2024, J&K Police has established 24x7 Election related helpline in Baramulla to ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process. In order to address election-related queries and concerns, J&K Police district Baramulla established a dedicated 24x7 election helpline number +91 9596767768 at Police Control Room Baramulla. Citizens can now reach out to the said number.

BJP lacking of substantive agenda, misleading public with fake narratives: Rattan Lal

Says Nation cannot forget supreme sacrifices of NC in restoring democracy in J&K

■ HT News Network

JAMMU 30th March: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of J&K National Conference, today strongly criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for its lack of substantive agenda and tactics of misleading the public with fake narratives.

In a statement issued here today, the senior NC leader asserted that the entire BJP leadership seems to be frustrated, lacking an agenda, as the Saffron party has miserably failed to fulfill the poll promises made with the people during the 2014 and 2019 elections.

The Provincial President criticized the BJP for its deceitful tactics in spreading false narratives on the name of unprecedented development. He stated that the BJP has nothing in its kitty to show the people, and is facing criticism from the public for inflation, unemployment, corruption, and other issues.

Exposing BJP's apprehension regarding the elections,



the senior NC leader claimed that the entire BJP leadership is fully aware of the increasing popularity of the National Conference and its potential to secure all the seats of Parliament in the upcoming polls in the Union Territory.

"The focus of BJP seems to solely revolve around criticizing the NC leadership without presenting any

substantive achievements or initiatives," he said, adding that the Nation cannot forget the unparalleled sacrifices made by the J&K National Conference in restoring democracy in Jammu and Kashmir during the tumultuous period of 1996 under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah. The courageous actions and unwavering commitment of the party members will forever be etched in the annals of history, he added.

Raising serious concern over the hardships being faced by the common masses in absence of popular government in Jammu and Kashmir, Rattan Lal Gupta stated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are facing numerous problems but the BJP dispensation at the Centre and its proxy administration in J&K are doing nothing except rhetoric and showing dreams to the people with more and more promises made every day as if those sitting at helm will provide moon and stars to the people. He made a bold promise to the people, asserting that the National Conference guarantees to secure their jobs, lands and dignity.



Ashwin defends Hardik: 'Fan wars should never take an ugly turn'

NEW DELHI: Ravichandran Ashwin has come out in strong support of Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya, blaming India's "fan wars" and "cinema culture" for the vehement booing Hardik has been subjected to at various grounds this IPL season.

Hardik, who took over the Mumbai captaincy from Rohit Sharma this season, was given a hostile reception by the fans in Ahmedabad last week when he faced his former team Gujarat Titans, whom he had led to successive IPL finals including the title in 2022. The booing continued when Hardik faced Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, as Mumbai began their campaign with back-to-back defeats.

Answering a question from a viewer on his YouTube channel on whether Mumbai should issue a statement to diffuse the situation, Ashwin said that the onus lay with the fans, not the team, to "get our act together" and put an end to such "ugly" scenes.

"People should remember which country these players represent. It's our country," Ashwin said. "Fan wars should never take such an ugly route. I've said it many times,

this is cinema culture, that happens only here.

"I know there are many things like marketing, branding, and positioning. I don't deny it, but have you seen these fights happen in any other country? Have you seen, for instance, Joe Root and Zak Crawley fans have a fight? Or Joe Root and Jos Buttler fans fight? It's crazy. Do you see Steven Smith fans fighting with Pat Cummins fans in Australia?"

Ashwin brought up examples from the past, when several Indian greats like Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid all played under each other's captaincies, with minimal fuss or backlash from the fans.

"I don't understand. If you don't like a player and boo him, why should the club come out and issue a clarification? We act like this has not happened before.

"Sourav Ganguly played under Sachin Tendulkar and vice versa. These two have both played under Rahul Dravid. These three have played under Anil Kumble and all of them have played under MS Dhoni. When they were under Dhoni, these play-

ers were cricket jambhavan (giants). Dhoni too played under Virat Kohli."

Ashwin said he believes that all fans have a collective responsibility to "correct ourselves" before blaming others, explaining that cinema can't be compared directly to sports.

"You know what the issue is? We all happily sit inside our houses and look at the trash outside. We expect someone else to pick it up instead of doing it ourselves.

"This is real-time sport. Sport has real players with real emotions, nothing is scripted. Hero and hero worshiping is great, but sport should never be compared to cinema. How we go beyond that, counter it and find balance to play cricket is what this is all about.

"You are free to enjoy what you like about your favourite players or team, but not at the cost of putting another player down. This is one thing I'd love to see disappear from the face of the earth in our country."

Mumbai will play their first home game of the season against Ashwin's Rajasthan Royals at the Wankhede on Monday.

Rehan Ahmed: 'I'm not yet the bowler I want to be in five years'

LONDON: Rehan Ahmed says that his aim this summer is to be ready to play for England at all times and in all formats, but he admits his immediate focus at Leicestershire might have to be on his batting, given that his legspin is unlikely to be a major weapon at this early stage of the season.

Rehan returned early from England's tour of India following a family bereavement, having played in each of the first three Tests. Though he did not have the same impact as on debut at Karachi in December 2022, he still picked up 11 wickets at 44.00, including a six-wicket match haul at Visakhapatnam.

But, at the age of 19, Rehan recognises that the experience he's already gleaned in his short international career far surpasses the impact that he could have been expected to make.

"I feel like I've got nothing to lose in this situation," Rehan said at the Kia Oval, during Rado's unveiling as the official timing partner of England cricket. "I know I'm not the bowler I want to be in five years. I'm just the bowler I am today. So, I just try and do as well as I can, and at the same time enjoy it as much as I can.

"We came close in a lot of games. We had a lot of opportunities to close games out, but I guess they just did it better than us. I personally gained a lot from it, a lot of experience, a lot of things I can use for my cricket to get better. And I enjoyed it more than anything else. [India is] one team that I'll always want to play. I loved it."

Under Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum, England have certainly put enjoyment front and centre of the Test experience, and though the tour ended in disappointment with a 4-1 series loss, Rehan played a small but important role in the undisputed high point of the series, the 28-run win in the first Test at Hyderabad.

"I look back and I just can't believe I was part of it," Rehan said, after claiming two first-innings wickets and making 41 runs across his two innings. "I look back as a cricket fan, thinking that was crazy. But then me being part of that makes it even more mad.

"The Karachi win was great. The game at Rawalpindi [against Pakistan in 2022] when I was doing 12th man, that was unbelievable, and Hyderabad was probably the best. That was huge. It's just great. It's something that you wake up every day and it literally makes you happy to have been part of it."



Quite apart from his own precocity, Rehan knows that he has benefitted hugely from playing under the leadership of Stokes, a captain whose willingness to attack the match situation plays into the strengths of his eager young legspinner.

"Stokesy saying 'you're not bowling with a mid-on', I would have thought that's crazy, I don't think any other captain would say that to me," Rehan said. "And to be fair, I'm just like, 'let's do it'. I don't want to bowl with a mid-on, let's do as much as we can, and force the game on."

"I really enjoy that. I think that's what I enjoyed the most. Sometimes it gets the better of me when I get smacked around, but I don't have a single regret, thinking I could have done this or done that.

"I train at my club and the kids come to me as if I'm, like, the biggest player," he added. "No I'm not, I'm just a normal guy that tries to bowl. All you can do is keep believing in yourself."

"It's April, going to be nipping round corners," he said. "I don't expect to bowl loads of overs because if the seamers are getting wickets, they are getting wickets. The team comes first. But if I know I'm not going to bowl in the day because Wrighty [Chris Wright] will probably get eight-for, I'll just try and bowl as much in the nets as I can."

It's a situation that Jeetan Patel, England's spin-bowling coach, anticipated during the India series, when he pledged to provide coaching support so that his young bowlers wouldn't be left in the lurch while their playing time was limited.

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