

Maxwell on Mayank: You don't often see someone of his pace

Pj12

Dr Abid Rasheed Reviews Functioning Of Maternity Hospital SKIMS

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Opposition Spreading Rumours About CAA, It Is Modi Ki Guarantee To Provide Citizenship: PM Modi

HT News Network

COOCH BEHAR, APR 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday slammed opposition bloc INDIA for spreading canards about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and said it is "Modi ki guarantee to provide citizenship to those who have faith in Maa Bharati (Mother India)".

Addressing a mega rally at Rash Mela grounds in West Bengal's Cooch Behar, Modi criticised the opposition parties for trying to save the corrupt and asserted that he



will ensure that they are punished.

"They (INDIA bloc) never cared for the marginalised communities. Now that we have brought CAA, they are spreading rumours and lies. It is Modi ki guarantee to provide citizenship to those who have faith in Maa Bharati," he said.

Hitting out at the opposition alliance INDIA, Modi said the "opposition alliance is busy indulging in politics of lies and deceit." "I am saying remove corruption; the opposition is saying 'save

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India's Position On PoJK Not Of One Party But Of Whole Nation: Jaishankar

HT News Network

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (KERALA), APR 4: Reaffirming India's stand that Pakistan-occupied-Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) is an integral part of India, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that this is not just the Bharatiya Janata Party's position but that of the whole country.

He further said that the prime concern regarding Pakistan is that of terrorism, and if anything unruly happens, it will be given a firm response.

"On the issue of PoJK, there is a national position and not the party's position. The Parliament of India has taken a united stand and every political party in the country has supported that stand. We will never accept that the PoJK is not a

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Weather Improves After Rainfall In Kashmir

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 4: Weather improved on Thursday after rain lashed the plains of Kashmir valley on Wednesday,



plummeting the temperature.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar predicted on Thursday that the weather will generally remain dry on Thursday while there are chances of light rain or snow at isolated places towards Friday morning.

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NEWS BRIEF

Ramadan best opportunity for smokers to quit, say doctors

SRINAGAR, APR 04: Ramadan is a hope for smokers to quit smoking and other bad habits, as it can generate willpower among them, doctors said.

They said that smoking can have an adverse impact on health, and smokers are at risk of having lung cancer. Fasting in Ramadan is the best opportunity for them to get rid of smoking.

Speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Showkat Ahmad, working in south Kashmir, said that besides having enormous health benefits, fasting is the best opportunity for smokers to quit cigarette smoking.

"Fasting develops willpower among

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25 new smart city buses to enhance public transport in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, APR 04: Srinagar is gearing up to welcome a fleet of 25 new smart city buses, introduced by the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL). An inspection and trial run of the freshly arrived buses were carried out in the city on Thursday.

Anuj Malhotra, General Manager of Planning & Urban Development at Smart City Srinagar, shared details with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), saying that the city is all set to receive 25 state-of-the-art smart city buses, which will commence operations in the coming days.

He elaborated on the features of the new buses, saying these have

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2 Pak nationals, J&K resident arrested by UP ATS

SRINAGAR, APR 04: The Uttar Pradesh ATS on Thursday arrested three terrorists including two Pakistani nationals and a resident of Kashmir.

Reports reaching the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), as per intelligence information, the trio was planning to carry out terrorist activities in India and with the help of ISI.

Three Hizbul terrorists, including two Pakistani nationals were apprehended by the UP ATS after they entered India through the India-Nepal border, reports said.

"With assistance from ISI, the terrorists have trained under Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. The trio has been identified as Mohammad Altaf Bhat, son

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Modi Govt's Benefits Reached Everyone Regardless Of Religion, Caste: Dr Jitendra

HT News Network

RAMBAN/BANIHAL, APR 4: Union Minister and BJP Candidate for Udhampur, Doda, Kathua Lok Sabha constituency Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that Modi government's benefits reached everyone, regardless of religion, caste or creed.

Addressing a series of public meetings in the upper reaches of Ramban and Banihal across Pir Panjal during the election tour across Peer Panjal in peripheral areas like Rajgarh, Ukhral, Sangaldan, Gool, Kanthi and finally culminating in Banihal town, Dr Jitendra Singh said, quite in

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CS Reviews Implementation Of New Criminal Laws In J&K

HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 4: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high level Steering Committee Meeting of senior functionaries of Home, Police and Law Departments to

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IAF's Apache Attack Chopper Makes Emergency Landing In Ladakh; Both Pilots Safe

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, APR 4: An Apache helicopter of the Indian Air Force (IAF) made an emergency landing during an operational sortie in Ladakh and it sustained damage due to "undulating" terrain and



high altitude, the IAF said on Thursday.

The IAF said the incident took place on Wednesday and both the pilots on board are safe.

It was the first such incident involving an Apache chopper in the IAF, military

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NC & Congress To Fight LS Polls Together In JK: Omar Abdullah

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 4: Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday announced that National Con-



ference and Congress would jointly fight the five seats of Lok Sabha in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said this a day after the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) announced that it would contest all three seats in the Valley. The announcement set the stage for the National Conference and the PDP

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LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024

DEO Srinagar joins vibrant Electoral Awareness programme under SVEEP at Tulip Garden

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 04: With a view to enhance public participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha, 2024, the District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Thursday joined a Vibrant Voter Awareness programme organized by

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Apni Party Announces Candidates For Srinagar And Anantnag-Rajouri Seats

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 4: Apni Party led by Altaf Bukhari, on Thursday announced to field Mohammad Ashraf Mir from Srinagar constituency and Zafar Iqbal Manhas from Anantnag-Rajouri constituency in the upcoming Lok Sabha election.

Addressing a press conference here, senior party leader Mohammad Dilwar Mir announced the names of the two candidates.

He said "as far as the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency is concerned, the Apni party has decided to field Zafar Manhas from there and Mohammad Ashraf Mir from Srinagar constituency".

Asked on who would be the party's candidate from the Baramulla Parliamentary seat, Mir said

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Rahul, Priyanka Among Congress Star Campaigners To Address Rallies In J&K Likely Next Week

HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 4: As many as 25 star campaigners from the Congress party, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, to address rallies in support of their candidates contesting the Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

The top leaders of the Congress party are expected to visit next week.

"Around 25 top leaders from the party including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi will be visiting Jammu and Kashmir likely next week," party sources said. They added that the leaders will address

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J&K Education Dept Permits Age Relaxation For Admission Of Students In Class 1st

HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 4: Relieving hundreds of parents battling for the admission of their children who have not attained an age of six years, the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department has permitted the relaxation in age for admission of students in class first in 2024-25 academic session.

As per the circular issued by the Director, Jammu School Education Department, it is stated that a number of representations have been received from parents of some students stating that their wards are being denied admission in class 1st by the respective schools for the reason of being less than six years of age and hence ineligible for admission as per the National Education Policy 2020.

"The issue has also been projected by some schools and the

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Opposition.....

the corrupt.' I will ensure the corrupt are punished, and the poor get justice. In the next five years, more stringent action will be taken against the corrupt," he said. (Agencies)

India's Position.....

part of India. It's a united stand, it remains our stand," Jaishankar said addressing a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday.

"The central issue where Pakistan is concerned is terrorism, and on the terrorism issue, we as a party and the government have been very clear that we will not ignore terrorism and won't look away when terrorism happens. If something happens, we will deal with it, we will reply and that has been our record," he added.

On being asked about the relation with China, the Foreign Minister acknowledged that the relationship is challenging, but affirmed that India will compete in a competitive way.

"We have challenging relationships with China. But, this is a country that is confident, which is capable of advancing and defending its interests in a competitive way and we will compete," Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar also refuted any doubts regarding India's relation with its neighbours, adding that there might be "forces" inside India and in the neighbourhood "who want to create problems."

He further said that barring Pakistan and China, India's relationship with the neighbourhood is much better than it has been for a long time.

"If we talk about neighbours, please go to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and ask people what they think. During their deepest economic trouble, who stood by? Go to Nepal and ask them where do you get your vaccines, who gave you fertilizer and fuel when the Ukraine trouble happened. So, I won't agree that our neighbourhood is not in our favour. There may be forces in the neighbourhood and 'forces behind forces' who create problems...there may be people in India who like to play out this problem," the EAM said.

He added, "As I said we have very abnormal relation with China. With Pakistan, you all know what is the state of current relationship. But, barring those two, our relationship with the neighbourhood has been much better than it has been for a long time." (Agencies)

Weather Improves.....

During April 11-12, light rain or snow at isolated places can occur, while there is a possibility of intermittent light rain or snow at many places during April 13-15, the MeT office said.

The MeT has advised farmers to resume farm operations except on April 5.

The Plains of Kashmir Valley experienced light to moderate rainfall, plummeting the temperature and disrupting normal activities on Wednesday.

According to the data available with the MeT office, Srinagar received 6.8mm of rainfall, Qazigund 6.0mm, Pahalgam 5.4mm, Kupwara 4.9mm, Kokernag 6.2mm, and Gulmarg 2.2mm during the past 24 hours.

The minimum temperature recorded at Srinagar during the intervening nights of Wednesday and Thursday at 7.2°C, compared to 8.0°C the previous night. However, it was 0.8°C above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

The day temperature recorded on Wednesday was 0.6°C below the normal of 17.7°C in Srinagar.

Pahalgam had a low of 2.8°C against 2.5°C a day ago, and it was 1.1°C above normal for the tourist spot in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Gulmarg dipped to -1.0°C against the 2.0°C recorded the previous night, and it was 0.2°C below normal for the ski resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday, the MeT office said. (UNI)

Modi Govt's.....

contrast to the policy of appeasement and discrimination among different sections of society which was followed by Congress and its allies for over six decades, Prime Minister Narendra Modi after taking over in 2014 sought to introduce a new political culture wherein every section of society was addressed as per its needs, without any consideration of caste, creed or even the vote preference.

Following the approach of Prime Minister Modi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, for the first time after independence, district Ramban which comprises different communities and different castes, also witnessed a new approach in public welfare schemes. For example, if a gas cylinder was to be provided to a needy household under the Ujjwala Scheme, it was never asked whether the household belonged to a Hindu or a Muslim, a Brahmin or a Thakur; it was also not asked whom the household had voted for in the last elections nor it was suggested where it should vote in the next elections, he said.

Similarly, Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out, under the PMAY, Pukka houses were constructed for all the needy as a result of which several such households which may not have voted for BJP or Bharatiya Jan Sangh in the bygone decades also saw the entire colonies getting converted into Pukka houses.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the true essence of democracy is that every individual should have

the confidence to believe that he is claimant to the same facility as any other individual or any other section of society. Similarly, he said, the essence of democracy is that every mother in any household, big or small, has the confidence to dream that her child can also grow up on the strength of hard work and rise to the highest position.

This essence of democracy has been realised for the first time under the ten year regime of Prime Minister Modi, said Dr Jitendra Singh and added that this has drastically changed our mindsets and our social behaviour, particularly in districts like Ramban and Banihal where different communities live together and are also ready to standby each other.

As far as Ramban and Banihal are concerned, regardless of the composition of the population, similar and equal benefits and resources have been provided. There has been a series of tunnels and bridges including Maitra Bridge and Jhula Bridge built in Ramban which was in demand for several years. Similarly in Banihal, there is not only a rail tunnel but also a new tunnel through Pir Panjal which will make the travel time easier. At the same time, Banihal is going to be an important link of the railway connecting it with the rest of the country. This, he said, will change the entire approach and will lay the foundation for future political, social and economic equitability in distribution of resources and benefits.

Accompanying Dr Jitendra Singh in this tour were former MLA Ramban Neelam Kumar Langeh, BJP District President Ramban Rajeshwar Kumar, BJP State Executive Member Ramesh Sharma, former Distt President Rakesh Kumar, General Secretary BJP District Ramban Mohd Saleem Bhat, Shah Nawaz, DDC members, Sarpanches, local PRIs and prominent activists of the region.

CS Reviews.....

review implementation of three new criminal laws in J&K enacted by the Parliament in 2023.

Apart from the Principal Secretary, Home the meeting was attended by DG, Prisons and Crime, Director, Prosecution J&K, ADG, L&O; Secretary, Law, Director, FSL and other concerned officers of the department while Srinagar based officers participated through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary took note of the measures taken so far regarding the capacity building and training of personnel. He enquired about the batches of police officers from each wing who had got the required training and education about new laws.

He called for designation of a senior Police Officer as a single point contact for implementation of these laws across J&K. He observed that this Nodal Officer should address all the issues and facilitate between different wings of police department in adoption of all the changes made in these laws within the stipulated timeframe.

He asked about the changes to be made in Police Manual here. He told them to look into the need for issuing the SO's for meeting the purpose within deadline. He sought suggestions from members of the steering committee about the efforts made so far and the way ahead to make maximum out of the available time.

In his presentation, the Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti, threw light on different initiatives taken by the local administration in this pursuit, so far. He revealed that the three pillars of our strategy in implementation of these laws rest on capacity building and training of the staff, requirement of additional manpower, if any and the requirement of upgradation of hardware and technological interventions to be made.

It was also revealed that the committees and study groups were constituted for having insights into these laws and framing a roadmap to implement these laws in the UT.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam had been recently notified by the MHA for their implementation from July, 2024. These are going to replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860; Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively.

IAF's Apache.....

officials said. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

The IAF had procured 22 Apache attack helicopters and the chopper that had to make the emergency landing was based in the Pathankot Air Force station in Punjab.

"An IAF Apache helicopter carried out a precautionary landing during an operational training sortie in Ladakh on April 3. During the process of this landing, it sustained damage due to undulating terrain and high altitude," the IAF said in a brief statement.

"Both the pilots on board are safe and have been recovered to the nearest airbase. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause," it said.

People familiar with the incident said the chopper made the emergency landing at a high-altitude place between Leh and Thoise.

The Apaches are extensively operating from Leh and Thoise air bases while carrying out operational sorties in eastern Ladakh.

The people cited above said the two pilots

sustained minor injuries in the incident.

India had finalised a contract in September 2015 to procure 22 Apache helicopters and 15 Chinooks choppers from the US at a cost of around USD 3 billion.

The first batch of Apache choppers was inducted into the IAF in 2019.

The AH-64 Apaches hold the reputation of being the world's one of the most advanced and proven attack helicopters.

The helicopter is capable of delivering a variety of weapons which include air to ground Hellfire missiles. (Agencies)

NC & Congress.....

— partners in the Opposition INDIA bloc — to take on each other on the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir. The Congress party is also part of the INDIA alliance partner.

"They (Congress) have assured us and made it clear that all the three candidates of NC will get their support.. In the next one or two days after going to Delhi, it'll be clear that NC & Congress will fight together on five seats in J&K," Omar told reporters in Srinagar.

He said NC President Farooq Abdullah has already started campaigning for the two Congress candidates in Jammu region.

"My programme will also start and our effort will be that in both seats of Jammu and Udhampur Congress candidates should win. And the same way Congress has assured that wherever in Kashmir they will utilize their influence to ensure the win of the NC candidates," Omar said.

On AAP leader Sanjay Singh's bail in the Delhi excise policy case, the NC Vice President said he hoped that Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Manish Sisodia will also get bail.

"The important thing is that the court observed that evidence was not produced for keeping Sanjay Singh in jail. This is the same case in which Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia have been arrested and we hope that they also get bail," he said

Earlier, Omar while addressing a function of the youth wing of the party said that every citizen should remember August 5, 2019-when J&K was scrapped of its special status-while casting their votes.

"Your vote will decide if you affirm the decisions of August 5 or oppose them. For those who do not accept these decisions it is better to vote for the National Conference because this vote will be a message to the Union government," the former CM said.

He added that NC was being targeted for advocating rights of the people in Jammu and Kashmir.

The NC Vice President exhorted party's youth wing functionaries to repeat 1977 victory by defeating New Delhi's representatives, and sending peoples' representatives to Parliament.

"Senior leaders and former ministers of our party are without security and when we ask for it, we are told that no security personnel are available. Here is the irony. Those who start abusing us are provided with accommodation and vehicles within two days and even envelopes are delivered to their home in the evening. There is no shortage of PSO's for such people. Is it our fault that we did not approve the decisions of 5th August 2019? Is it our fault that we say we will fight for the rights of the people here?" Omar asked.

He said that what NC says in Kashmir, they say the same things in Jammu, and the same in Delhi. (UNI)

DEO Srinagar.....

District Election Authority at the world famous Tulip Garden under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP).

On the occasion, the District Election Officer Srinagar, who is also the Returning Officer (RO) for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency along with Deputy District Election Officer, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Nodal Officer SVEEP/AMF, A.H.Fani, Deputy CEO Srinagar, Anjum Raja other Officers from Chief Education Office Srinagar, School Students, hundreds of Locals and Tourists visiting from across India captured memorable selfies at the SVEEP Selfie Stand set up by the District Election Authority Srinagar.

While interacting with the participants, District Election Officer Srinagar Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat urged every citizen to maximize voter turnout and highlighted initiatives like the Pink Booth established for Women Voters and Vote-from-Home facility for Senior citizens aged 85 and above.

The DEO said that the primary objective of organizing such events is to enhance voter awareness and boost the public participation in the electoral process in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024.

The DEO urged Students to spread the message to their parents, relatives and community underscoring the significance of their participation in nation-building through elections. He said that a well-informed electorate is fundamental to ensuring a vibrant and representative democracy. He also interacted with the tourists visiting Tulip Garden and hoped that they all will also cast their vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Deputy District Election Officer Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz while interacting with the students, teachers and locals urged them to act as ambassadors of SVEEP in their locality and encourage others to participate in

upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

District Nodal Officer, SVEEP/AMF, A.H.Fani also urged the students to carry forward the message regarding right to vote to their family and participation in nation-building through elections. He emphasized the role of SVEEP in educating people about the electoral process. He added that SVEEP's primary goal is to build a truly participative democracy by encouraging all eligible citizens to vote.

During the electoral Awareness programme, the Students delivered the speeches, besides Specially designed selfie point with SVEEP theme like My Vote My future, Nothing like voting I vote for sure were set up.

The Students/People/Tourists were enthusiastic to click selfie at the selfie point. While the tourists present in the Tulip Garden Srinagar also enjoyed the programme.

As part of the campaign, a variety of cultural programmes including Band Peather, Short Skits, Jingles, Local Rouf etc related to electoral awareness and about the Upcoming Lok Sabha Elections were held to encourage youth especially first time voters to participate in the electoral process. Youth from various schools of Srinagar District participated in the daylong event.

Signature campaign was also conducted in which all the participants actively participated and an oath was administered at the conclusion of the event, emphasizing the importance of voting and assisting those unable to reach Polling booths.

Apni Party.....

it will be decided later. "The decision to announce candidate for Baramulla Lok Sabha seat would be taken at an appropriate time", the AP senior leader said.

Asked about the speculations of forming the third front and the statement given by the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) President Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mir said that " as far as the statement of Azad shab is concerned, efforts were on and there was coordination among the parties to contest the upcoming elections together".

He said it could not happen as Azad has announced his name for the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary seat separately.

The AP senior leader said the doors for the talks have not been closed.

Replying to a question, Mir said that they have been listing for a long time now about the A, B and C team, "why don't you ask those who are labeling charges on us in which team they were a part".

"Why don't you ask the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and why don't you ask the National Conference..where were they..they were with the BJP and were part of BJP..how can they blame on us".

"We have never done any alliance with the BJP", he added. (UNI)

Rahul, Priyanka.....

rallies in Jammu and Udhampur for Phase-1 and Phase-2 elections.

From Kathua-Udhampur Lok Sabha seat that will go to poll on April 19, the Congress candidate Choudhary Lal Singh will fight against the BJP two times sitting Member Parliament and Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and from Jammu-Reasi Lok Sabha seat that will go to poll on April 26, Congress candidate Raman Bhalla will contest against BJP two times sitting Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma.

"The Congress party has rallied an impressive line-up of star campaigners, including top leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, to intensify and strengthen its campaign efforts for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections," they added.

As per party sources, party's Organization General Secretary KC Venugopal has issued a list of star campaigners visiting to Jammu and Kashmir comprising notable figures such as Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, Ambika Soni, Sachin Pilot, and others.

Under the banner of the INDIA alliance, which includes the National Conference and PDP alongside Congress, the party is gearing up to contest on two seats in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per reports, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also be visiting Udhampur on April 12, Union Minister Amit Shah on April 9 in Jammu and Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath is visiting on April 10 in Kathua. (UNI)

J&K Education.....

matter has been examined and it is felt that strict implementation of these provisions will lead to loss of academic year for some students who have already been admitted in pre-primary in the preceding year and therefore the request

merits consideration,," read the circular.

However, it further stated that an upper ceiling has to be fixed and the relaxation cannot be unending, adding, "it has accordingly been decided to gradually implement the NEP and relax the age criteria for admission to class 1st for the academic session 2024-25, in view of the transition period."

"Besides, similar relaxations are being extended by some other states also," it read.

The circular mentioned that in its backdrop, it is brought to the notice of all concerned that as a one time exception, the students who shall be completing six years of age in the next six months (i.e. students completing six years of age upto September 30, 2024) from the start of academic session shall be allowed admission in the first class in the academic session 2024-25.

Meanwhile, Secretary J&K School Education Dr Piyush Singla confirmed the issuance of the circular. (UNI)

Ramadan best.....

people, and a smoker can think that if he can leave smoking for 14 hours while fasting, why not for a full 24 hours and accordingly, forever," he said.

Dr Showkat said that diabetic patients, who wish to fast, must take special care as it is not advisable for them to take long food breaks. He said taking frequent meals after certain durations helps in maintaining their blood glucose level smoothly.

"Diabetic patients must check blood sugar levels frequently during fasting. If someone feels symptoms of hypoglycemia, an instant blood sugar test should be done to prevent any untoward complication," he added. "Diabetic patients could have slow-absorbing foods, which have a low glycemic index before they begin the fast. These types of food keep your blood glucose level more stable and smooth during the course of the fast."

Dr Ahmad said that diabetic patients must avoid long brisk walks while they are fasting to avoid hypoglycemia and dehydration; however, they can go for a walk once they break their fast in the evening.

He said patients suffering from chronic diseases must consult their treating doctor before starting fasting, as many decompensated heart, liver and kidney disease patients have to take diuretic medicines leading to frequent urination, which can lead to dehydration.

The general population who are fasting must stay hydrated, take enough proteins, eat a fibre-rich diet, and eat foods containing essential micronutrients like iron, calcium, and vitamin B12, he advised.

Dr Mir Mushtaq, spokesperson of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and Nodal Officer, National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP), said that Ramadan is the best opportunity for people to leave bad habits like smoking, as fasting develops a sense of patience in the person.

Ramadan is an opportunity to make significant changes in one's lifestyle and develop the resolve to make healthy living choices, he said, adding, "The diet should be simple and not differ too much from one's normal everyday diet. It should contain foods from all the major food groups - like fruits and vegetables; bread, other cereals, and potatoes; milk and meat; fish and dairy food alternatives; foods containing fat and foods containing sugar."

Overeating cannot only harm the body but also interfere with a person's spiritual growth during the month, Dr Mushtaq added.

25 new smart.....

length of over 12 metres. "These buses are a significant upgrade from the previously acquired 9-metre buses, with a seating capacity of 35 passengers along with additional standing room," he said, adding that the new buses offer enhanced comfort, including more spacious seating and highback seats.

Speaking about the total number of buses, Malhotra said they have made an addition of 25 new buses to the existing fleet, bringing the total count to 100 smart city buses, including the previous 75.

The inspection and trial run of the smart city buses were overseen by key figures such as RTO Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari and Anuj Malhotra, alongside other officials.

2 Pak nationals.....

of Khizar Mohammad Bhat of house number 559, Sadiqabad, Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Syed Ghazanfar, son of Syed Mohammad Syed of Taramani Chowk Irfanabad, F-87, House No. 19, Jamia Ali Murtaza Masjid, Islamabad, Pakistan and Nasir Ali, son of Ghulam Ahmed Ali of Karali Pora Hawal Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir, India," reports said.



DR ABID RASHEED REVIEWS FUNCTIONING OF MATERNITY HOSPITAL SKIMS

SRINAGAR, APR 4: Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, who is also holding the charge of Director SKIMS, today visited Maternity Hospital SKIMS and reviewed its functioning.

He had a detailed interaction with the staff and patients. He conducted round of the Maternity Hospital and OPD service areas of SKIMS to assess the medical facilities available to the patients.

He visited the wards, casu-

alty area, operation theatres and OPD areas of the hospital where he interacted with the patients in detail.

Medical Superintendent Maternity Hospital & HOD Gynae & Obstetrics along with other senior faculty apprised the Secretary of the functioning of hospital including the current state of infrastructure, availability of essential drugs/equipments.

The Secretary, while taking stock of various medical facilities, said that the faculty and



staff of the hospital should ensure best patient care services and enhance hospital functioning to reach and benefit maximum number of patients.

Dr. Abid Rasheed also visited OPD service areas of SKIMS and conducted round of various patient care facilities. He interacted with doctors on duty, patients and attendants to assess ground situation and availability of patient care facilities in the hospital.

First Quarterly UTRC meeting successfully held, setting a benchmark for Criminal Justice in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, APR 04: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority today convened the inaugural quarterly meeting of Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) in the office Chamber of Principal District & Session Judge (Chairman DLSA) Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by the Jawad Ahmed, Principal District & Session Judge (Chairman DLSA) Srinagar and witnessed active participation from key stakeholders, including Ashish Mishra, S.S.P Srinagar; Mr. Syed Ahmad Kataria, ADC Srinagar; Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA Srinagar; Sheikh Zulfikar Azad, SSP, Central Jail Srinagar; Aijaz Ahmad, Chief Prosecuting Officer, Srinagar; Dr. Sheikh Athar Senior Medical Officer, Central Jail Srinagar; Saad Ganie, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel and Zulfi Tasneem, Deputy Legal Aid Counsel.

The committee reviewed the cases of 9 under trial prisoners, engaging in thorough discussions and deliberations. Each case was meticulously examined, and after thoughtful consideration, the committee formulated suitable recommendations tailored to the specific circumstances of each individual.

Jawad Ahmed, the Chairman of the meeting, emphasized the paramount importance of UTRC gatherings in ensuring fair and expedited trials for under trial prisoners.

He underscored the need for regular initiatives such as these to streamline the criminal justice system and uphold the principles of equity and justice.

26 candidates file nomination for Jammu Lok Sabha constituency

JAMMU, APR 4: On the last day of filing nomination papers, nine candidates today filed their nomination papers from Jammu Lok Sabha constituency for second phase of parliamentary elections scheduled to be held in Jammu and Kashmir on April 26.

The candidates who filed nomination papers in the office of Returning Officer included Naresh Kumar Talla from Jai Prakash Janta Dal, Qari Zaheer Abbas Bhatti from All India Forward Block, Naresh Kumar Chib from Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim), Indra Bhalla from Indian National Congress (Substitute Candidate) and Independent candidates Principal CD Sharma, Satish Poonchi, Vicky Kumar Dogra, Perseen Singh and Ravinder Singh.

With the filing of nomination papers by these nine candidates, the total number of candidates who have filed their candidature for 5-Jammu PC goes to 26.

The nomination papers will be scrutinized on April 6 at 11 am.

The candidates can withdraw their nomination before 03:00 pm on April 08, 2024 in the office of Returning Officer.

SMHS Hospital Rebutts Video Clip Circulated On Social Media Regarding Road Traffic Accident

SRINAGAR, APR 04: The Authorities of Government SMHS Hospital Srinagar today rebutted the recent video clip recorded at the Emergency Gate of Govt. SMHS Hospital Srinagar by some freelance/self styled journalists regarding Road Traffic Accident (RTA)

brought to the hospital that went viral on social media on 02 April, 2024.

An official statement issued in this connection mentioned that the Road Traffic Accident (RTA) brought to SMHS Hospital Srinagar was immediately admitted in the Neurosurgery

Ward of the Hospital.

As per the reports from Head of the Department Neurosurgery, the patient is brain dead. Since all ICU beds at SMHS Hospital were already occupied, the patient was shifted to Super Specialty Hospital and put on a ventilator in the ICU of the

Hospital, where a full-fledged Department of Neurosurgery is functional too.

The patient is being managed in the ICU of Super Specialty Hospital under the close and watchful supervision of Departments of Neurosurgery and Anesthesiology, read the

statement.

It was further alleged that the clip was made viral on social media by some freelance/self styled journalists in order to sensationalize it to meet their nefarious designs against this prestigious Institution without any knowledge of the case.

DC Sgr chairs NCORD meeting on Prevention of Drug Abuse & Narcotics Trade

Stresses on intensifying IEC campaign to aware target groups, keeping strict vigil around hotspots, educational Institutions

SRINAGAR, APR 04: In order to review the measures taken by Law Enforcement Agencies and other stakeholders to curb the menace of drug abuse and drug peddling in Srinagar, a meeting on District Level meeting on Prevention of Drug Abuse & Narcotics Trade (NCORD) was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed appraisal and action taken with regard to the directions passed in the last meeting from the concerned members of NCORD Committee. He also reviewed the deterrence measures taken and progress achieved to eliminate drug abuse and its peddling from the Srinagar District.

The DC also reviewed the progress and impact of the anti-drugs awareness campaign in the district.

He called the members of NCORD Committee to keep vigil on vulnerable target groups and places particularly around educational Institutions to prevent spread of drugs and save the young generation from drug menace. Dr Bilal stressed upon the Officers of all the line departments to further intensify the deterrence measures to control the harmful effects of drug menace so that youth is discouraged from tempting towards drugs.

He urged the concerned to intensify the IEC campaign for awareness



of target groups so that they are educated about the harmful effects of the substance abuse in an impactful manner. The DC asked all the stakeholder Departments to further strengthen the intelligence network by keeping proper vigil around suspected hotspots to crack whip on the menace of drugs.

The Officers of Agriculture, Excise and other Departments were asked to intensify field inspections to check cultivation of poppy and cannabis etc. in order to curb its cultivation for the purpose of drugs.

Dr Bilal further stressed the Officers to evaluate the progress related to anti-drugs measures by setting benchmarks based on previous data to get accurate information.

Earlier, the DC was given feedback by the members of the Committee

including Superintendent of Police, Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre SMHS Hospital, Incharge ATF, SKIMS Bemina, Officers of Drug Controller and other enforcement agencies, who presented the latest report related to action taken against drug addiction and drug trafficking in Srinagar District.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Khalid Hussain and Superintendent of Police, Umer Shah, the meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agricultural Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, District youth Services & Sports Officer, DDMO Srinagar, Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre SMHS Hospital, Incharge ATF, SKIMS Bemina and Officers from ANTF, Excise, Labour and other Departments.

KVK Leh dedicated Custom Hiring centre and farm inputs distributed in Leh Ladakh

LEH, APR 04: Prof. MAKHDOOMI Director Extension was chief guest.

A one day awareness and demonstration campaign on Climate Resilient

Agriculture is being organized at NICRA Village Chuchot under the project NICRA -

An awareness programme regarding climate resilient agriculture and input distribution was held at Panchayat Ghar village Chuchot Shama Leh Ladakh. The programme was organised by Dr Feroz ud Din Sheikh programme coordinator and Head KVK LEH. Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension, SKUAST-K was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Before handing over the customer hiring centre to the farmers of village, The inputs arranged by KVK Leh including climate resilient seeds, Vanraja poultry birds nine units, 5 units of horticulture, farm machinery including harvesters, chain cutters etc besides mineral mixture for live stock was distributed. The chief guest gave the essence of NICRA scheme to farming ladies and



Senior PDP Leader Fayaz Ahmed Mir Engages in Grassroots Mobilization Meeting

■ Dr. Ab Qayoom

KUPWARA, APR 04: In a strategic move to invigorate the grassroots support base of the party, Senior PDP leader and former Member of Parliament, Fayaz Ahmed Mir, orchestrated a pivotal meeting at his residence in Kupwara.

A gathering of noteworthy workers representing Awora and Mughalpora panchayats convened under the leadership of Mir Muhammad Fayaz. The meeting, attended by approximately seven hundred individuals, underscored the fervent commitment of party members



towards advancing the party's objectives amidst the evolving

political landscape of Kashmir. Mir Muhammad Fayaz's proac-

tive engagement in the political arena has been evident, as he

continues to play an active role in galvanizing support for the PDP. With an influx of new candidates aligning with the party, there is a palpable desire among constituents to witness Mir Muhammad Fayaz's return to Parliament. Addressing the gathering, Mir Muhammad Fayaz reiterated the significance of grassroots mobilization, urging party workers to consolidate efforts at the panchayat and block levels. Emphasizing unity and cohesion, he articulated a vision for inclusive governance and community empowerment, reaffirming the party's commitment to serving the interests of the people.

emphasised on farmer friendly use of custom hiring centre and During the campaign,

KVK-Leh distributed items for NICRA Custom Hiring Centre and to the beneficiaries under the project through Village Climate Risk Management Committee (VCRMC). The project is being Government flagship program and as per guidelines of the scheme KVK leh organised the programme in collaboration with allied development departments of the farming community. Officers from line departments Mrs Tashi dolma dist agriculture officer Leh, Mrs Kunzang dist Horticulture officer Leh and Numberdar of Village Chuchot Shama, scientists of kvk leh and NICRA farmers of village Chechot Shama numbring 45 lady farmers participated in the event.

The Numberdar of the village expressing happiness on the event thanked the chief guest and organizers on behalf of all farming women of the village.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024: DEO Kupwara takes review of Polling Station preparations, accessibility

HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 04: In order to review the progress of preparations being made with regard to Polling Station preparations, accessibility for upcoming Lok Sabha Elections in the district, a meeting was held on Thursday under the Chairpersonship of the District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan at Mini-Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here. The DEO took a detailed appraisal

from Nodal Officer Welfare, ACD Kupwara and BDOs about the arrangements being made at Polling Stations, their accessibility and AMFs.

On the occasion, the DEO directed, Nodal Officer Polling Stations/ BDOs to check polling stations so that all requisite/Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) including electricity, water supply, shade, ramp and functional toilet facilities at all the 607 designated polling stations is ensured, besides making all welfare measures for the polling staff and security per-



sonnel on poll day.

DEO instructed that Aanganwadi workers and ASHAs will take care of queue management of women voters during the poll day.

She stressed on the officers to focus on AMFs and arrange additional chairs and facilities of shade for ailing voters, PwD voters, elderly and Women.

The DEO directed the BDOs to identify the few model polling stations in each assembly segment of the district as model polling

stations and undertake some innovative activities, beautification, display of local traditional artifacts, so that these polling stations give a festive look on the poll day and the district gets appreciation.

The meeting was attended by Special Nodal Officer Elections, Sameer Jan; Nodal Officer Welfare, Hakeem Tanveer; ACD Kupwara, Muhammad Muzaffar; CMO Kupwara, Dr. Ramzan; BDOs besides other concerned Officers.

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
Sub: Application of SHABIR AHMAD BHAT S/O GH AHMAD BHAT R/O KREERI seeking their in the Legal heirs certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context. As per the death certificate and report submitted by the patwari concerned GH AHMAD BHAT S/O KHALIL BHAT R/O KREERI has passed away on 31/10/2023. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has following legal heirs.

S No	Name of legal heir	Relation with Deceased	Age	Occupation	Remark
1	Shahar Ahmad Bhat	Son	35 year	Daily wager in floriculture	Married
2	Rafiq Begum	Daughter	55 year	House wife	Married
3	Fariha Begum	Do	52 year	Do	DO
4	Sara Begum	DO	48 Year	Do	Do
5	Meena Begum	Do	30 year	Do	Do

The applicant has applied for issuance of legal heir certificate. As such the instant matter is published through news paper if any one is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 07 days of the publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days no objection will be entertained

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR BARAMULLA
(EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BARAMULLA) has submitted case file pertaining to Birth MY daughter's name has been wrongly written as AAIDAH RIYAZ A while her correct name is AAHIDA RIYAZ D/O RIYAZ AHMAD R/O DURHAMA Tehsil WAGOORA Dist. Baramulla which needs to be corrected with verified the date of Birth, as 07/07/2023 In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of said registration shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS BARAMULLA

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

JOB OPPORTUNITY

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

Science Urdu and Computer

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

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

Sd/- Principal

MIRANDA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
CHINKRAL MOHALLA, HABBA KADAL, SRINAGAR

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited for the below mentioned posts:

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

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

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

Sd/- PRINCIPAL

ازدفترا نواب تحصیلدار کریری

درخواست منجانب سال غلام محمد تیلی ولد غلام احمد تیلی ساکنہ کریری برادر
حصول OBC سرٹیفکیٹ تحت ایس اراو 126/294 بجٹ خود

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد زمیں درخواست سال غلام محمد تیلی ولد غلام احمد تیلی ساکنہ کریری ذمہ دار ہیں زیر کاروانی ہے اس نسبت رپورٹ پٹواری سے عیاں ہوتا ہے سال کا نمبر (08) افراد پر مشتمل ہے کنڈی سالانہ کی سالانہ آمدنی ایک ہے سال کے افراد خانداندر پر ذیل ہے

1. غلام محمد تیلی ولد غلام احمد تیلی	سربرہ	75 سال	عمر ریہ
2. مسما فاتی زویرہ	زویہ	70 سال	//
3. غلام رسول تیلی ولد غلام محمد تیلی پسر	پسر	40 سال	دوکانداری
4. رفیقہ زویرہ ولد غلام رسول بہو	بہو	35 سال	گھریلو کام
5. محمد رحمت اللہ پسر غلام رسول پوتا	پوتا	11 سال	زیر تعلیم
6. صادق رسول ذمہ دار غلام رسول پوتی	پوتی	08 سال	گھریلو کام
7. فائزہ رسول ذمہ دار غلام رسول پوتی	پوتی	04 سال	//
8. آرزو رسول ذمہ دار غلام رسول پوتی	پوتی	02 سال	//

اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد نہیں بتلایا ہے لہذا تمام خواہ مخواہ عام بزرگیو اشتہار مطالعہ عیاں جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی کو سرٹیفکیٹ نکالنے میں کوئی عور یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عور یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر اندر پیش کریں معاد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عور یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار کریری

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter's name in DATE OF BIRTH certificate has been wrongly written as MUSKAN MANZOOR while her correct name is AREEB MANZOOR D/O MANZOOR AHMAD WANI which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the (B MO) / office SDH kreeri within a period of seven days from the date publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained

Name.....MANZOOR AHMAD WANI
F/O ...AREEB MANZOOR
R/O...KREERI
TEHSIL...KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name in J&K Bank PassBook With Account No :-0227040800009970 has been wrongly written as Bismillah Bano D/O Mohd iqbal Rather while my correct name is Bisma Bano D/O ohd iqbal Rather which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the J&K Bank Branch Unit Pattan within a period of seven days from the date publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained

Name...Mohd Iqbal Rather
F/O ...Bisma Bano
R/O ...Matipora Baramulla

اطلاع عام

میں نے Mannat Home Saty کی رجسٹریشن مکمل ٹورازم پہلا م میں کرانی مطلوب ہے اگر اس بارے میں کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اسسٹنڈ ڈیپارٹمنٹ ٹورازم پہلا م کے دفتر میں پیش کرے یا اس فون نمبر رابطہ کرے 01936243324 بعد معاد کوئی اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

المشتر
عبدل مجید وانی ولد غلام محمد وانی ساکن پھلگام

اطلاع عام

میں نے اپنے گھر کے لیے رجسٹریشن کی رجسٹریشن مکمل pdd دفتر مشقت م میں کرانی مطلوب ہے اگر اس بارے میں کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر pdd ڈوبن مشقت م کے دفتر میں پیش کرے بعد معاد کوئی اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

المشتر
محمد ابراہیم وانی ولد عبدل مجید وانی ساکن پھلگام انت ناگ

Growing Together: BHSS Hatmulla Cultivates a Greener Future through Plantation Drive

DR. AB QAYOOM

Kupwara, April, 04: In alignment with the ongoing SVEEP Campaign championed by the Government of India, BHSS Hatmulla proudly hosted the third phase of its Plantation Drive on April 4th, 2024. Over 100 saplings of diverse species were planted within the school premises, showcasing a robust commitment to environmental preservation and education. Led by Irshad Ahmad Dar, Assistant Director Administration, Gama Unit K-06 Natussa (Kupwara), and Syed Mohd Iqbal Shah, the esteemed Principal of BHSS Hatmulla, the event saw active participation from staff, students, and the Forest Protection Force (FPF), underlining the collaborative spirit driving this initiative. The Plantation Drive unfolded in multiple phases, beginning with the planting of Chinara trees generously donated by social worker Mohammad Syed Wani of Chogal Handwara. Subsequent phases featured the cultivation of saplings including Deodar, Kairu, and ornamental plants, made possible through a fruitful partnership with the Forest Department. Integral to the event was the educational discourse, where students were enlightened about the vital role of plants in sustaining life and the imperative of conscientious plantation practices. The message resonated with the community, encapsulated in the poignant mantra: "Ann Posh Tele Yele Von Posh". BHSS Hatmulla's Plantation Drive stands as a shining example of proactive environmental advocacy and community engagement. Through such concerted efforts, the school reaffirms its commitment to fostering a greener, healthier future for all.

DC Pulwama conducts extensive visit of various religious places, reviews arrangements

HT News Network

PULWAMA, APRIL 04: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom along with SSP Pulwama and team of officers today conducted an extensive visit to various religious places in the district ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, Shab e Qadr, Baisakhi and Navratra to take stock of arrangements for the festive occasions. Dr. Basharat visited new Eidgah Pulwama, Gurdwara Chatti Padshahi Shadimarg, Temple Migrant Colony Hall and Imambada Gangoo. The DC engaged with leaders and devotees at each religious site. The interactions focused on the values of peace, harmony, and togetherness, reinforcing the message of unity amidst diversity. Dr. Basharat aimed to emphasize the shared values of love, compassion, and respect that unite people of all faiths in Pulwama. He underlined the importance of celebrating religious diversity and fostering mutual understanding. The DC directed concerned officers to make comprehensive arrangements for uninterrupted electricity and water supply besides public utility in view of religious festivals. He instructed the Health Department to establish health camps at the shrines with a dedicated medical team and exhorted on MC for conducting sanitation drives in the vicinity as well as in the premises of Shrines. He gave directions to the concerned officers for making elaborate arrangements regarding observance of religious occasions. Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Pulwama, besides other officers also accompanied the DC.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Chief Accounts Officer GPF Police Cell Zonal Police Head Quarter Srinagar

Sakshi Bhat,
D/o: Subhan Krishen Bhat,
R/o: H No 99, Lane No 08,
Laxmi Nagar Muthi,
Jammu.

NO: GPF/ZPHQ/Sgr/Adm-305-08 **Dated: 04/04/2024**

Sub: Final Show cause notice.

Whereas among others you were appointed as Asstt. Compiler under Prime Minister's package vides order NO: 28-DGF of 2022 dated: 23.02.2022 Issued by Director General Funds Organisation. Whereas Joint Director Divisional Fund Office Srinagar's Order NO: JDFK/Adm/38 of 2022 dated: 19.03.2022, you have joined in GPFund Office ZPHQ on 25.03.2022. Whereas you were supposed to attend the Office regularly but remained on unauthorized absence from duty w.e.f. 13.05.2022 continuously till date. Whereas show cause notice issued to you by this office vide No. ZPHQ/Adm/1117-20 Dated 13.07.2023 and ZPHQ/Adm/37-39 Dated 04.01.2024 to resume back your duties and instead of joining your duty you have not furnished any reply, nor has joined the duties. Now, therefore, you are directed to report for duty within a period of 10 days from the date of its publication in local dailies and also explain the reason for remaining absent from duty unauthorized, failing which it shall be presumed that you are not willing to join the service and your case shall be submitted to the Government for termination of your appointment.

DIPK-25/24 **Chief Accounts Officer Provincial**
Date: Apr 4 2024 **GPF Office PHQ, Srinagar**

DC Bandipora conducts extensive tour of far-flung Bothu village

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APRIL 04: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Thursday conducted an extensive tour of upper reaches of the far-flung Bothu village and inspected various aspects at the village.

The DC interacted with locals, listened to their issues, and assured them resolution of their genuine grievances.

During the visit, he also visited High School Bothoo to assess the infrastructure and educational resources in the School.

While interacting with teachers and students, the DC emphasized the importance of quality education in shaping the future of youth. He also visited the shrine of Hazrat



rat Bibi Arifa popularly known as "Ded Mouj" to assess the arrangements for Jumat ul Vida and Shab e Qadr.

The DC took stock of facilities available for devotees at the shrine.

Local Auqaaf committee members apprised the DC regarding various works taken up and put forth various demands.

ADC Handwara Leads Efforts for Safe and Joyous Holy Festival Celebrations

DR. AB QAYOOM

Handwara, April 04: In anticipation of the upcoming holy festivals, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather, spearheaded a comprehensive meeting on April 4th to meticulously plan and finalize arrangements. The meeting, attended by various departmental heads, served as a platform to strategize measures aimed at facilitating the smooth conduct of Jumata-ul-Vida, Shab-i-Qadr, and Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations. Among the crucial directives issued during the meeting, sanitation emerged as a paramount concern. ADC Rather emphasized the importance of maintaining proper sanitation around Eid Gahs and Masjids. Additionally, the installation of LED lamps was underscored to enhance the ambiance of these revered sites. To ensure the well-



being of attendees, the availability of medical facilities at congregation venues was deemed imperative. Moreover, Municipal Committees were tasked with conducting pre-festival and post-festival cleanliness drives to uphold sanitation and hygiene standards. This initiative reflects a proactive approach

towards fostering a clean and hygienic environment for all participants. The meeting also addressed concerns regarding market integrity. Market checking squads were instructed to intensify efforts to combat illegal profiteering, hoarding, and the sale of low-quality food items. This directive

aligns with the commitment to safeguarding consumer rights and ensuring fair trade practices during the festive season. Recognizing the essential role of the Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) department, ADC Rather directed efforts towards ensuring an adequate supply of essential commodities, including LPG and sugar. This proactive measure aims to mitigate any potential shortages and alleviate the burden on residents during the festive period. In tandem with these initiatives, the Power Development Department (PDD) and Public Health Engineering (PHE) department were entrusted with the task of guaranteeing uninterrupted power and drinking water supply during the festival days. This underscores the commitment to providing essential services and enhancing the overall festival experience for the community.

DC takes stock of preparations for Eid ul Fitr, Navratri & Baisakhi at Kulgam

HT News Network



KULGAM, APRIL 04: In order to oversee preparations for upcoming festivals of Eid-ul-Fitr, Navratri and Baisakhi in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan along with SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal today visited Ziyarat Shareef Mir Syed Ali Hussain Simnani RA, Gurdwara at Palpora and Vessu Migrant Colony.

During their visit, they interacted with the people and Management Committee members. The DC directed officers of line departments to put in place elaborate arrangements for upcoming festivals at all places to ensure smooth and hassle free celebrations. Accompanying the duo were ADC, ACD, Tehsildar, CMO BMO, Executive Engineer from R&B and other officers.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 General, Police Observers review election preparedness in Banihal

HT News Network

RAMBAN, APRIL 04: General Observer, Dheeraj Kumar and Police Observer, Daljit Singh for the 4-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency today conducted comprehensive assessment of election preparedness in the Assembly Constituency (AC)-55 Banihal. Among others, they were accompanied by District Election Officer Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, Senior Superintendent of Police Anuj Kumar, ARO, AC-55 Banihal, Rizwan Asgar and several other officers.

The Observers inspected the Election strong room at Government Model Higher Secondary School Boys, Banihal, besides the Control Room and other arrange-



ments. The General Observer also inspected Strong Room lodged with EVMs and VVPATs in presence of representatives of political parties.

During the visit, detailed discussions were held on the enforcement of model code of conduct, expenditure monitoring, Security plan, Transport and Communication plan besides functioning of VST and flying squads. Reviewing the plans worked out by the

administration for polling, the Observer said that proper training of polling staff is the key for successful conduct of elections. He directed the district administration to ensure quality training and better human resource management to ensure smooth conduct of elections scheduled to be held on April 19, 2024 in the district.

Emphasising on enhancement of voter turnout, the Observer asked the

officers to sensitize voters under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities comprehensively throughout the district. He further directed AROs and Nodal Officers to adhere to the latest guidelines from the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Meanwhile, the District Election Officer briefed the Observers about the election preparedness at the polling station level, including plans for dispatching polling parties, monitoring the model code of conduct, and managing media certification and expenditure vigilance. Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban, also provided insights into the security plan being formulated for the district to ensure the elections proceed smoothly.

FSD conducts extensive milk drive, market checking at Ganderbal

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APRIL 04: The Food Safety Department Ganderbal today conducted an extensive market checking drive against adulteration and unhygienic food products especially milk supplies and associated dairy products.

The drive was taken up on the directions of District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir and the checking team was led by Food Safety Officer Ganderbal.

During the drive, a massive crackdown was started near Nagbal against the load carriers and lorries used for milk supply and services. The team collected around a dozen samples of cow milk, cheese and other dairy products.

Later, the team conducted market checking from Duderhama to Qamaria Chowk during which shopkeepers and other Food business operators were checked and advised to maintain hygienic food services. They were also sensitized about the rules and regulations of Food Safety. The traders were also warned of serious action if they fail to display price lists in the shops and price tags labelled on the food products. Later, the team conducted market checking from Duderhama to Qamaria Chowk during which shopkeepers and other Food business operators were checked and advised to maintain hygienic food services. They were also sensitized about the rules and regulations of Food Safety.

Police solves theft case in Budgam, accused arrested

HT News Network

Budgam April 04: Police in Budgam have solved theft case by arresting an accused person and recovered stolen property from his possession.

Police Post Soibugh received a complaint from one lady who is a resident of Soibugh stating there in that some unknown persons have barged into her house and stole cash and golden ornaments. Upon this information, a case vide FIR No. 103/2024 under relevant section of law was registered at Police Station Budgam and investigation was set into motion.

During the course of investigation, several suspects were brought for questioning. During questioning, one suspect identified as Furqan Ahmad Malik son of Manzoor Ahmed Malik resident of Soibugh admitted his involvement in the commission of crime. On his disclosure, stolen cash of Rs 6,500/- were recovered from his possession. He has been arrested in the instant case and further investigation is going on.

Our consistent actions against anti-social elements should reassure the community members that we are making every effort to keep our society free of crime. Police has resolved to act as per law against those who indulge in criminal activities.

Illegal extraction & transportation of minerals Police seizes 8 vehicles, arrests 8 drivers in Baramulla

HT News Network

Baramulla April 04: Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police have seized 8 vehicles and arrested 8 drivers in Baramulla. Police parties under the supervision of SDPO Tangmarg, Pattan & Kreeri assisted by SHO PS Pattan/Kunzer, IC PP Kungambara & Wagoora seized 8 vehicles (3 Tippers, 4 Tractors, 1 Excavator) & arrested 8 drivers at Vizer, Palpora, Khore Sherabad & Kunzer for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals. The accused drivers have been identified as Zahoor Ahmad Malik son of Mohd Abdullah resident of Drangbal Baramulla, Naveed Ahmad Dar son of Gh Mohammad resident of Jal Sheeri Baramulla, Altaf Ahmad Lone son of Ghulam Mohammad resident of Nuner Ganderbal, Mehraj Din Dar son of Mohd Altaf Dar resident of Kralpora, Arshid Ahmad Wani son of Abdul Hameed resident of Shirpora.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

DEO Poonch supervises election staff training at Mendhar

HT News Network

MENDHAR, APRIL 04: District Election Cell Poonch today organised second leg of training for Election Staff here at Mendhar under the supervision of District Election Officer (DEO), Yasin M. Choudhary.

The programme aimed to enhance the preparedness for upcoming Lok Sabha Elections to ensure fair, transparent and smooth conduct of elections.

The training session featured demonstrations by master trainers on the proper sealing, installation, and functioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).



Forms were also distributed for postal ballots to officials attending training.

The polling personnel were sensitized about their crucial role during the electoral process. They were asked to strictly follow the guidelines of ECI to ensure the

integrity of electoral process.

The District Election Officer emphasized upon the polling officers to perform their duties with utmost zeal and dedication, upholding principles of democracy and ensuring transparent and impartial electoral process.

Kotwal Meets ADC Bhadarwah, Submits Memorandum

Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhadarwah, April 04: A delegation of Specially Aabled Persons, (Divyangjan), led by Ajit Singh Kotwal, Vice President J&K Saksham (A National Organization For Specially Aabled Persons) met Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhadarwah, Sunil Kumar today and submitted a memorandum to him stating the Saksham vision for a healthier community while highlighting the issues of Specially aabled persons. According to a press statement, Jammu and Kashmir Saksham vice president Ajit Singh Kotwal while giving introduction of the NGO and its goals, specifi-

cally focusing on the aim of promoting health and well being of specially aabled persons, discussed main purpose of the organisation for which the platform is utilised to inculcate the health and well being of the public. The statement further noted that the purpose of the meeting was to highlight the challenges faced by Divyangjan, particularly the issue of the need for increased awareness among Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) regarding their rights and participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha Election. The memorandum specifically requested for the provision of essential facilities such as ramps and wheelchairs at polling stations to ensure PWDs.

Higher Secondary School Bhalra Organises Awareness About "Mission Prerana"

Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhadarwah, April 4: An awareness program was organized by Govt PM Shree Higher Secondary School Bhalra here today. The program which is an experiential learning program launched by the Ministry of Education, Government of India was conducted by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul (Teacher/Associate NCC Officer/Zonal Counseling Incharge).

While briefing the students about the opportunities of Mission Prerana for students to explore country's great culture through their journey of Vadnagar, a living city, its history, archaeology and traditional Bhartiya Gyan Parampara, Dr Koul said that it offers a unique and inspiring



experience for students. "The aim of Prerana is to inspire the students of all the

districts of the country from a place from where the inspirational journey of our

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi started," he explained. More than 130 students of GHSS Bhalra right from class 9th to 12th have been registered in the Mission Portal, said Dr. Koul. On this occasion, Dr Nitin Singh Kotwal teacher of the institution also provided the technical information regarding the registration and participation in the Mission Prerana.

Expressing her views, Adarshika Manhas students of 10th class elaborated about the Prerana School, which allows students to experience and internalize their values through the latest technology.

Notably, the awareness programme was organized under the direction of Chief Education Officer Doda Parkash Lal Thapa and was supervised by Pardeep Singh Billaoria (Principal of the Institution).

EDITORIAL

Embracing the Majesty of Laylat-ul-Qadr - A Night of Spiritual Renewal

In the tapestry of Islamic faith, Laylat-ul-Qadr, the Night of Power, emerges as a luminous thread, weaving profound significance for Muslims worldwide. This sacred night, honored during the last ten days of Ramadan, holds unparalleled importance, transcending time and space to bestow blessings equivalent to a thousand months.

Laylat-ul-Qadr symbolizes the pinnacle of spiritual devotion and divine mercy, commemorating the revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It serves as a reminder of the profound connection between humanity and the Almighty, inviting believers to immerse themselves in prayer, reflection, and acts of charity. It is a night of profound significance, where wide, and supplications are received with unparalleled grace.

For Muslims, Laylat-ul-Qadr represents a golden opportunity for spiritual renewal and redemption. It is a time for introspection, repentance, and seeking forgiveness for past transgressions. The Prophet Muhammad emphasized the worship on this night, urging believers to seek it in acts of righteousness.

Beyond its spiritual magnitude, Laylat-ul-Qadr holds the promise of a personal and societal level. It inspires believers to cultivate virtues of compassion, generosity, and empathy, fostering a sense of unity and solidarity within the global Muslim community. It serves as a beacon of hope, guiding individuals towards a path of righteousness and moral rectitude.

In a world fraught with uncertainty and turmoil, the significance of Laylat-ul-Qadr resonates more profoundly than ever. It offers solace amidst adversity, reminding believers of the enduring power of faith and perseverance. As Muslims across the globe converge in prayer and contemplation, the collective energy of devotion reverberates, illuminating the darkness and ushering in a dawn of spiritual enlightenment.

As we embrace the majesty of Laylat-ul-Qadr, let us heed its timeless message of hope, humility, and harmony. May this blessed night be a source of inspiration and guidance for all, leading us towards a path of righteousness and peace.

HT FRIDAY COMPASS

the heavens open and the gates of heaven are received with unparalleled grace. Laylat-ul-Qadr represents a golden opportunity for spiritual renewal and redemption. It is a time for introspection, repentance, and seeking forgiveness for past transgressions. The Prophet Muhammad emphasized the worship on this night, urging believers to seek it in acts of righteousness.

Domestic Violence Compelling Women To Make Sacrifices



By MooL Raj

The definition of domestic violence has been extended to include verbal, emotional, economic and sexual abuse. Of all the crimes in the world, domestic violence has the highest repeat rate. "It was just a slap"; "This happens in every house", and "she must have done something to provoke him". How many times have you heard people justify domestic violence against women? Emotional harassment, demand for dowry, physical violence, and sexual violence. All these categories fall under domestic violence. It is a broad topic with many layers. It can be physical violence which includes hitting and other bodily harm. Sexual assault is also a form of domestic violence. It can also be psychological, which can be an insult communicated verbally or controlling every aspect of a person's life. Another form of domestic violence is economic such as monitoring a person's access to money and keeping them financially dependent.

Till the late 20th century, most legal systems did not recognize domestic violence as a crime. It is stated that domestic violence arrests should only be made as a "last resort". Courts saw it as a "family problem" which should be resolved privately. Most police forces did nothing to protect women against domestic violence. This changed only with the second wave of US feminist movement in the late 60s and 70s which focused on the criminalization of domestic violence and popularized the slogan "we will not be beaten". At the same time, the autonomous women movements raised awareness on the issues of violence against women to make cruelty by a woman's husband or in-laws a punishable offence. But despite these progressive shifts in the laws, domestic violence remains highly prevalent. In fact, research shows that 42% of men and 52% of women believe it is reasonable for a man to beat his wife but why? Presently in our society, women are



glorified for adhering to patriarchal gender norms and those who rebel against it are usually punished or mocked. All violence is non-consensual. Then why is rape worthy of capital punishment and when it comes to domestic violence we say "No please stick with him. He will be okay. You will be fine". Society's response and the stigma of a "divorced", and "weak" woman further contribute to women not speaking up. Domestic violence stems from a systemic problem with power dynamics within families. Girls are socialized into believing that keeping their husbands and in-laws happy is an essential part of their marital duties. While for men, marriage is often framed as bringing someone into the family whose primary role is to take care of them. Men's control over their wives post-marriage is socially sanctioned. In fact, research shows that not taking permission from the husband before performing a simple task like going out or talking on the phone is one of the most common reasons men give for inflicting domestic violence. And these power dynamics are reinforced in seemingly harmless ways. Notions like "it's a private matter" or "it's between husband and wife" are used to further strengthen a man's control over his wife by preventing her from building a support system. It's little surprise that women in crises have nowhere to turn. 75 % of

women who are subjected to domestic violence don't seek help. Judges and law enforcement officers who operate with the same social lens often sympathize with men in the interpretation of the law.

Apart from fundamental rights, some specific provisions to ensure the rights of women have also been incorporated in directive principles of state policy. However, despite constitutional protection and several legislations, gender discrimination and injustice continue to occur. This is mainly because those who enforce the laws or interpret do not always fully share the philosophy of gender-justice concept. Police officials held a high degree of patriarchal belief and inequitable perceptions regarding the gender roles of women. Multiple linear regression analysis, controlling for key socio-demographic variables, demonstrated a statistically significant association between the police officers' patriarchal beliefs and their perceptions of gender equity. Challenging domestic violence then is not just about questioning the physical act of violence. It is about dismantling the structural disempowerment women face within their marriages and families. Through art and activist movements online and offline, feminists are doing exactly that. They are raising questions about male entitlement in households, about women being raised as "meek compromisers",

about violence being hushed up within four walls, about women having the right to live dignified lives within and outside their homes. Because even if it is "just one slap", it is simply unacceptable. It's high time for authorities to take strict action against this heinous act to avoid catastrophic consequences down the road. Popular culture reinforces the idea that for a woman to be "good", she must make sacrifices for her family, prioritizing other's needs over her own. She can be the overworked "mother" constantly caring for the demanding kids, the devoted "wife" who lets go of her own professional pursuits to support her husband's career and the chaste "widow" who sacrifices her own desires for the sake of her family's honor. Studies show that this expectation of sacrificing for their families is so overwhelming that women in the paid workforce carry a deep-seated guilt at neglecting their responsibilities at home. Their dual role in the domestic and public spheres referred to as the "second shift" by scholars makes them feel like bad mothers, selfish wives and absentee daughters for not sacrificing enough of their own needs for others. However, this does not just take an emotional toll but a recent UN report shows that "In countries facing conflict and hunger, women often eat last and least sacrificing their health for their families". Women also do at least two-and-a-half times more unpaid care work and domestic work at home than men do even when they are also doing paid work outside. And when they do earn an income, women choose to reinvest 90% of their resources back into their families because spending on their own selves seems "wasteful". But why do we end up valorizing the role of a sacrificing woman? This makes women devalue their needs and reconciles them to their own oppression. While we need to undo and be critical of society's valorization of women's sacrifices, that doesn't mean we should dismiss the ideal of sacrifice "altogether". We should actually draw from women's experiences and roles to rebuild cultures so that we can actually facilitate people's abilities to care and sacrifice for others. So maybe, instead of expecting women to make sacrifices because of their gender, lets reframe sacrifice as a virtue everyone 'aspires' to but no one is 'burdened' to perform.

The Author Is A Regular Columnist And Freelance Writer

The Sukhnag River is an attractive tourist spot



Sahil Manzoor

As it is well known to all of us, there are 10 districts in Kashmir Valley. Every district has potential, a number of tourist spots, is unique in fruit production, is unique in several crops, etc. Budgam district is one of them and has immense potential for tourists, ranking third in maize cultivation. Sukhnag is famous and has great potential for local and foreign tourists.

A River With Many Faces Sukhnag is one of the endowed rivers in District Budgam.

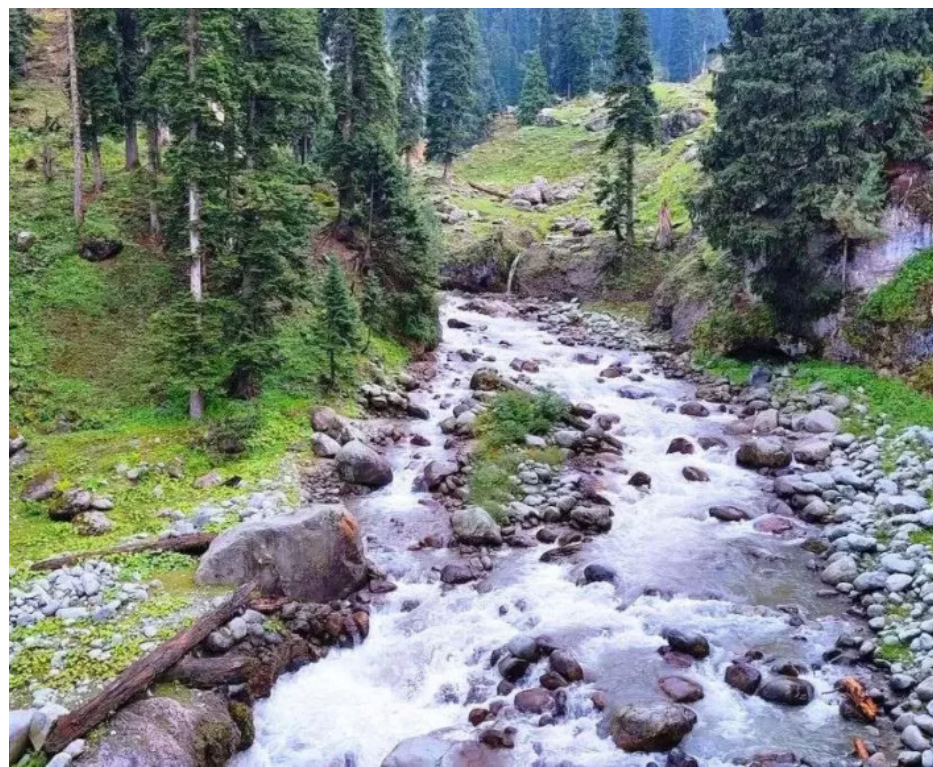
What are the best attributes of the Kashmir Valley? The world has accepted Kashmir as a place of calmness, uniqueness, incredibility, lavishing, and winsomeness. Kashmir Valley has renowned tourist destinations, mesmerizing abutted snow-clad mountains. Kashmir has great potential beyond remaining one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. The lush green deodar and fir trees enhance and beautify it. The Pir Panjal forest ranges to a very large extent. The Almighty bestowed the whole universe with different attributes

and induced great potential in the human brain to feel, praise, and make it clear that whatever object exists in this universe has its own importance at its own level.

Every individual should contribute his or her best for the human kind and for the upliftment of its feeding nation. The strength of a nation is directly proportional to the strength of its individuals; it simply indicates that every individual has to play his or her role in the development of his or her nation. The tourism sector plays an immense and pivotal role in the economic growth of the country and generates an enormous vacuum for unemployed youth. Kashmir Valley is famous for different aspects, like the world-famous cuisines that are being prepared here for the tourists, and the Kashmiri folk who are bound by this sector are getting appreciation worldwide for their generosity and hospitality.

Literally, today in this article I am going to highlight the beautiful attributes of one of the prominent, mesmerizing, beautiful, lavishing, incredible springs of district Budgam's Sukh Naag river. The Sukhnag River is located in the Pir Panjal Mountains of Parihas Doodhpathri and Sitaharan Khag. Literally, the river is commonly known as Sukh Nag. "" comprises two Kashmiri words, like Sukh, which means calm, and Naag, which means spring. The Sukh Naag River beautifies and quenches the thirst of several villages alongside it; the villages are Arizal, Zanigam, and Beerwah, and it finally opens its mouth into the river Jhelum. Sukh Naag is one of the major tributaries of the river Jhelum.

The Sukhnaag River is famous through-



out the district and has great influence among the native people. It originates from the upper mountain hills of the Tosamaidan. The origins are Dammam Sar, etc., which dams and beautifies the lush green forest of the place. It will be brought under the map of tourism, but at the same time, it needs the attention of the administration. The Sukhnag River has great potential for tourists and generates revenue for the state, generating employment as well for the locals

of the area. There are certain more facts about the Sukhnaag River, such as that the river is just a 40-minute walk from the tourist reception center (TRC) in Raiyar-ich, Tangnar.

District Administration, Budgam, and the tourism department of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir The concerned department will find many other hidden facts about the beautiful place after its takeover as a tourism destination in the

Kashmir Valley. District administration Budgam put in many efforts for the upliftment of the district, as the district Budgam is still lacking several basic facilities for the tourism sector. There are renowned tourist places in the district as well. Youss Marg, Doodhpathri, and still counting. Tosamaidan is a newly introduced tourist destination, has great potential for tourism, and needs assistance from the central government. Dear readers, In Sha Allah, in the future, I will bring more interesting information and facts about the destinations and try to let you know how beautiful the Sukh Naag River is. Sukhnag is just a few yards away from the main road, Doodhpathri, and tourists who come from different states and from all corners of the world visit the endowed river and create memories for a long time. For the past couple of years, the Doodhpathri has had great potential for both local and foreign tourists. The district administration of Budgam has taken a number of initiatives to develop most of the parts of Doodhpathri, like accommodation for tourists and all the basic facilities for tourists. The tourist destination caters to the livelihoods of thousands of locals and has great potential to generate an economy for the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Facilities are needed to increase the flow of tourists throughout the year. ATM: Today, ATMs are one of the most demadable facilities. So the concerned authorities should take steps to provide the ATM facility to locals and tourists on a priority basis.

Raiyar-ich, sahilmanzoorbhati786@gmail.com

Book Review of 'Sang-e-Zar Se Zakhmon Ke Phool Tak'

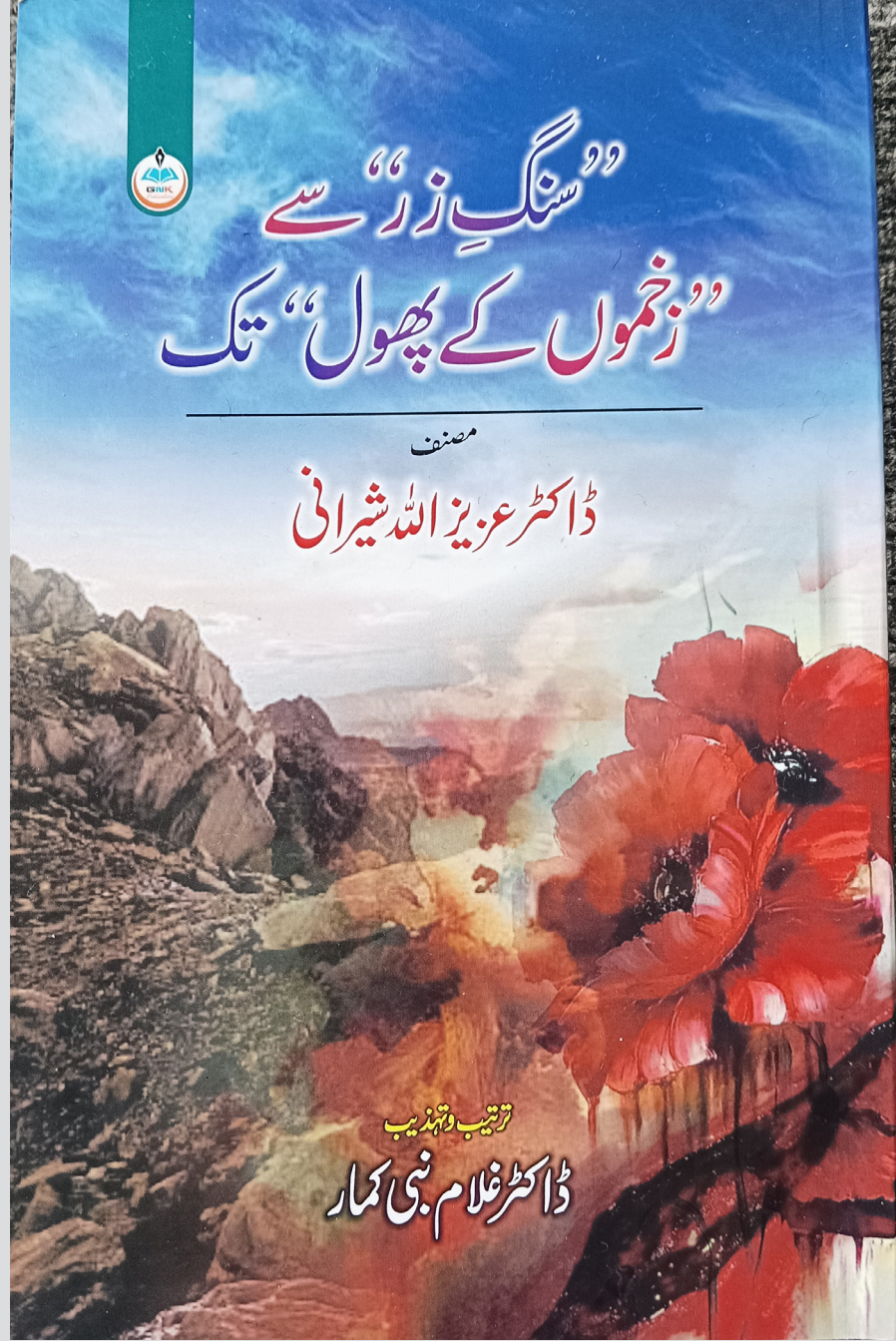
By Dr Azizullah Sheerani



Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Dr Azizullah Sheerani hailing from Tonk Rajasthan is a multidimensional and renowned literary personality. He has tried his luck in every genre of literature and has succeeded in writing simultaneously about research, criticism, fiction, translation, travelogues and book reviews. He was associated with teaching profession also in Rajasthan and for some time he held the post of educational officer too. There is a long list of his creative achievements. Most of his authored books were financially aided by government organisations and many times he has received awards and appreciation for his outstanding contribution to Urdu literature. Presently I am reviewing his short story collection 'Sang-e-Zar Se Zakhmon Ke Phool Tak' which is published by GNK Publications Kashmir and is a combined form of his two collections, one Sang-e-Zar which is the collection of 11 short stories published in 1990 by Rajasthan Urdu Academy and 2nd one Zakhmon Ke Phool Tak in 2012 a collection of 15 short stories. Its cover is eye catching while the qualitative paper has further adorned it. Noted fiction writer of Valley Noor Shah says "Dr Azizullah Sheerani has succeeded in illuminating his name in the world of literature. Though he has proved his mettle in every genre of literature but through fiction he is known all over the country. His magical and powerful pen has always remained nonstop to highlight the romantic, social and other issues of society through his writings". Dr Abul Faiz Usmani and Dr Rifat Akhtar also have highlighted the contribution made by Azizullah Sheerani in the field of literature. According to them Azizullah Sheerani has started writing short stories and essays from his college life which were published in monthly Urdu magazine Paasban and applauded by a wide readership. The opening short story of the book Sang

Reze (50-56) based on a romantic story of Arshi and Azar reflects Azizullah Sheerani's artistic prowess of creating best fictions through his pen encompassing emotions and aspirations of two young souls. Another story Ajnabi Ajnabi (57-66) is about a female nurse who works in a hospital to bear the expenses of his home and to live for others. However she looks lugubrious because she lacked a decent and kind relationship in her life as her dreams of tying her nuptial with Adnan were completely shattered by Adnan's Meternal aunt and Uncle who had raised him and were hellbent to marry him with their own daughter Azra. Masoom Siski(68-74), is skillfully crafted encompassing a myriad of social issues. Poverty which is the biggest curse and hurdle in one's educational journey forcing even tender aged children to work in factories and Mills to minimise the financial burden of their parents is clearly evident in this story besides parent's conservative ideology of restricting their sons to marry a girl of their choice just because her mother had committed a sin in her youth. Aajki Salma (82-88) - Dr Azizullah Sheerani has nicely composed this one compelling a reader to go through it's end. It manifests the fickle minded nature of women who seem to be loving a person but in reality they only swindle and mislead him. Poverty and humble family background always acts as an impediment in one's healthy relationship particularly the one's intending to marry as has been portrayed in this story. Kotahiyan (89-93), this one displays the avaricious and acquisitive nature of people who intend to marry their sons only in royal and affluent families to get plentiful of dowry. They completely neglect the value and principles of a good relationship. Love, compassion and mercy are almost alien to them who only care about accumulating huge wealth by whatever means. Dhalan(94-101), this one a romantic one has been artistically woven by Dr Azizullah Sheerani about Neelam a woman who anxiously craves for her lifetime companion but loneliness haunts her most and she almost makes an immortal friendship with Sun and Moon which rise and set at regular intervals of time without any illusion or deceit like men. Faisla (102-109), this one is a commentary of the court discourse between Faesal a lawyer and the supporters of girl who craves for a divorce from her husband. It is a clear reflection of the varied judgements at different



occasions to either disappoint or please the justice seekers in the court room. Maqtool koun(153-59), this one has been meticulously penned to make the expression of severe consequences of disturbance and armed conflicts of a region where the killer knows not why he has done a murder and the victim is unaware about his crime. Ye Jung Kab Khatam ho Gi (165-72), Azizullah Sheerani has skillfully written this one highlighting the devastation caused by wars and erecting borders to restrict the move-

ment of people through them. It is a detailed analysis of how wars transform happy homes into mere four walled houses by killing their guardians, women get widowed and innocent children become orphans due to bloodshed. In war torn regions of globe the dreams of young girls are shattered the moment their paramours cross borders to get armed training there and create an atmosphere of terror, chaos and confusion here. Darpok Lamhein (173-77), in a state of chous and confusion, terror

and panic people feel lugubrious and doesn't know the cause of uncertainty. This story reveals the malpractices in offices and how a boss is duped by his own subordinate staff. Zakhmon Ke Phool(189-93)- this one is the title short story depicting the predicament of a couple who had lost three children one after another in ten years of their marriage. It brings tears in the eyes of readers and the pain of losing one's child is felt while going through the lines of this story. Praying for years to get the tag of mother and then losing them one after another is the most challenging situation to bear. Farar(201-05), this romantic story revolves around Shamas a guy who makes intimacy with many girls and Shama a girl who solemnly declares that she loves only Shamas that too from the core of her heart but her statement proves wrong and inaccurate when Shamas discovers her with a young man Kashif. Thoker(206-08), meticulously penned story reflects the mere friendship between Faheem and Nargis proving a Mirage the moment he had thought to make her a lifetime companion but she actually had maintained a crystal clear friendship with him and never wanted to shatter the dreams of Shahida Faheem's legal spouse to whom Faheem never treated humanely. Bhola Kishan(223-27), delves into the world of illiteracy where people suffer at each step for being uneducated. They may be skilled and smart, but the lack of education haunts them most in life. Bhola Kishan an illiterate person feels handicapped to know about the bus he had to board but in his adult age he makes dedicated efforts to learn about reading and writing after being inspired by a passenger in the bus. Rang Chodti Hina(228-31), amidst an environment of suspicion and misgivings families get devastated as cracks develop among the blood relatives dwelling under a common roof as has been beautifully portrayed in this story about Hina and her brother's wife. After going through the stories of this book, I am of the firm belief that Dr Azizullah Sheerani is one among the leading and distinguished fiction writers of country who knows how to write fiction and what makes a story to be hailed by the readers.

Writer is a columnist hailing from Qazigund Kashmir.

Rising Leopard Attacks



Sahil Manzoor

Every living organism is a creature of nature. On this earth, there are giant to microscopic living organisms like elephants, lions, tigers, giant snakes, bacteria, viruses, etc. Every living creature has a role in different natural phenomena, like food chains and food webs. All the wild animals, like leopards, tigers, bears, monkeys, etc., live in forest areas in the upper reaches of the valley. As we know, forests cater to all the wild animals and take part in the food chain, etc., so the forests were considered a horrible place where no one could go alone. These days' forests are looking like barren lands due to human interference. It is all because of human



greed that the vicious wild animals are wandering in villages where they are causing deaths.

A couple of weeks ago, leopards mauled a minor girl in the Samsan area of Khansahib Budgam. After this vicious incident, the wildlife depart-

ment got active in the area and installed cages at different spots, but unfortunately, they did not have any success catching the predator leopard. On March 28, one more incident happened in the Harwaani area of Khansahib, where a 6-year-old girl,

Toiba Mushtaq, was mauled to death by a leopard, and it was quite heartbreaking for all of us. I wish the Almighty would bear the loss for the bereaved family.

Khansahib is a tehsil in the district of Budgam, about 40 km away from

Srinagar. The adjoining areas in Khansahib are remote and are in nearby forests. The villages are Mujpathri, Yarikah, Kralapthir, Raiyari, Arizal, Khaarian, Zoogu, Haarwani, Samsan, etc. The mentioned villages are predator-prone and need

the special attention of the wildlife department. Police station, Khansahib.

Spotting a leopard or bear in the area is common for the residents of the upper belt. Unfortunately, we have lost two lives in the current month. The concerned department should take the matter seriously and take frequent action.

Most people are complaining about why such predators are not being fired to death. We must have knowledge that such animals are endangered species in the country, so government officials are preserving or protecting them in wildlife sanctuaries in different locations.

How can we save lives?

Concerned wildlife departments can share their contacts at central public places on hoarding and can hold public awareness programs in prone areas. The Wildlife Department can alert the general public after finding predators in any area through any agency. The Wild Life Department should install cages at different locations in all such areas. All efforts should be made to save lives.

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PM Modi Sets Ambitious India Economic Goals For Probable 3rd Term

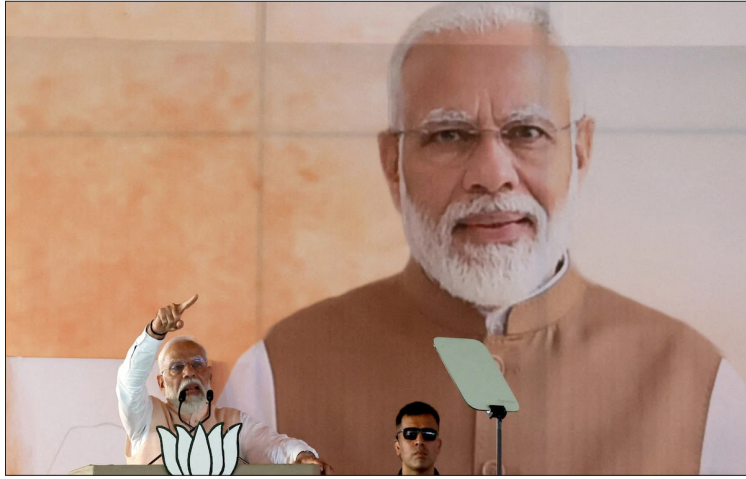
■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, confident of winning the national election starting this month, has set an ambitious target of roughly doubling the economy and exports this decade, according to a government document seen by news agency Reuters.

PM Modi has highlighted economic growth as one of his biggest achievements in election rallies and has "guaranteed" making the economy the third-largest in the world from fifth now if he wins a third term in a row as polls predict.

He has already asked officials to finalise plans by around May to expand the economy to \$6.69 trillion in nominal terms by 2030, from around \$3.51 trillion currently, according to the October document. Though short on concrete details of how to achieve that, it has been a basis for officials' meetings.

When he took office for a second term five years ago, PM Modi promised to take the economy to \$5 trillion by the current fiscal year, but partly due to COVID-19 related disruptions, meeting that target is virtually impossible now.



For the next six years, PM Modi's goal is to raise per capita income to \$4,418 from around \$2,500, the document says, without specifying the spending or reforms needed to achieve that.

PM Modi's office and the finance ministry did not reply to requests seeking comment.

Independent economist Saugata Bhattacharya said doubling the economy by the end of the decade would be a "very difficult feat" requiring 6 per cent-6.5 per cent growth for the next seven years along with inflation of 4.5 per cent.

The economy is, however, expected to have grown by around 8 per cent in the last fiscal year ended March 31, the fastest among major countries, on the back of strong manufacturing and construction activity driven by government spending. A former senior finance ministry official, Subhash Chandra Garg, said growth projections like those in the document are mostly based on "backward arithmetical calculations" and lack any "reform and investment plan". "Usually such mental gymnastics based on arithmetic calculations and assumptions are mean-

ingless unless there is serious reform and investment plan to test it for real economy dynamics," said Mr Garg, the Modi government's finance secretary until 2019.

The opposition Congress says India's economic growth in the past few years under PM Modi has done little to create jobs and alleviate rural distress, while the disparity between rich and poor has widened. The document says PM Modi's government wants exports of goods and services to jump to \$1.58 trillion by 2030 from around \$700 billion, which could double the share of Indian exports in global trade to more than 4 per cent. The government also plans to focus on 70 areas of improvement including workforce skills and vocational training, critical demands of industry leaders who often complain about the skill levels of the labour force. It wants the literacy rate to rise to 82 per cent by 2030 from about 78 per cent now, unemployment to fall to less than 5 per cent from 8 per cent, and labour force participation rate to jump to more than 50 per cent from 46 per cent now. He needs to remain in power to implement measures to take India towards a developed economy by 2047.

CAA "Trap" Or Is It "Rumour And Lies"?

Mamata Banerjee Vs PM In Bengal

■ HT News Network

Kolkata: Cooch Behar, the crucial north Bengal district, became subject to strong opposing political views today as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi held rallies within 30 km of each other. While Ms Banerjee labelled the BJP worse than a snake -- "You can trust a snake and even pet it, but not the BJP" --- the Prime Minister addressed what has come to be the burning political issue in the state, the Citizenship Amendment Act. But his defence was crouched in an attack on the ruling Trinamool Congress -- the CAA is being tarred to remove attention from corruption, he said, without naming Ms Banerjee or her party.

"They (INDIA bloc) never cared for the marginalised communities. Now that we have brought CAA, they are spreading rumours and lies. It is Modi ki guarantee to provide citizenship to those who have faith in Maa Bharati," he said this evening, addressing a rally at the Rash Mela grounds in Cooch Behar.

"I am saying remove corruption; the opposition is saying 'save the corrupt'. I will ensure the corrupt are punished, and the poor get justice. In the next five years, more stringent action will be taken against the corrupt," he added.

There was also a reference to Sandeshkhali, which has emerged as the hot button issue in this election. While Trinamool was trying to save the culprits of Sand-



eshkhali, "the BJP's focus is empowering the women. The culprits of Sandeshkhali will spend their lives in jail," PM Modi said.

The CAA issue was addressed by the Chief Minister, who was in Cooch Behar around noon. As soon as one registers under the Citizenship Amendment Act, one will be deemed to be from Bangladesh and they will lose all basic rights, she told her audience. "As soon as you submit your name for registration, you will be declared a Bangladeshi. This means you will not get the benefits under Lakhishree, Kanyashee, you will not be able to vote, you will not have citizenship rights, government rights. Think yourself whether it is good or bad," Ms Banerjee said. "The CAA is a trap to turn legal citizens into foreigners. Once you (BJP) implement CAA, NRC will follow... Remember CAA is the head of the fish, the tail is the NRC," Ms Banerjee said, citing the snake analogy to claim the Bjp is not to be trusted.

Think, Understand And Then Take Right Decision: Rahul Gandhi Urges Voters

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Amid the Lok Sabha polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today said India is currently standing at a "crucial juncture" and urged people to recognise the difference between those who "build the country" and those who "destroy" it.

In a post in Hindi on X, Mr Gandhi conveyed to the people ahead of the Lok Sabha polls that their future is in their hands, and that they must think, understand and then take the right decision.

The former Congress chief said the country is currently standing at a "crucial juncture".

Every section of the society will have to recognize the difference between those who "build the country" and those who "destroy" it, Mr Gandhi said.

The Congress and the INDIA bloc mean that youth's first job confirmed, guarantee of MSP to farmers, every poor woman a millionaire, minimum 400 per day for workers, caste census and economic survey and secure Constitution and rights of citizen, he said.

Will End "Draconian" Anti-Terror, Anti-Corruption Laws: CPI(M) Manifesto



"And, the BJP means: unemployment confirmed, debt burden on farmers, unsafe and without rights women, forced and helpless labourers, discrimination and exploitation of the underprivileged and dictatorship and sham democracy," Mr Gandhi said. "Your future is in your hands, think, understand and take the right decision," he said. The Lok Sabha polls will be held in seven phases beginning April 19. The counting of votes will take place on June 4. Every section of the society will have to recognize the difference between those who "build the country" and those who "destroy" it, Rahul Gandhi said.

"Let Democracy Take Its Course": Plea To Remove Arvind Kejriwal Rejected

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has junked - for a third time - a plea seeking the removal of Arvind Kejriwal as Chief Minister after his arrest last month over corruption allegations. In a significant observation, a bench led by acting Chief Justice Manmohan said "let democracy take its own course".

The court - a different bench of which will rule later today on Mr Kejriwal's plea for interim relief in this matter - also refused to counsel Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on forcing the Aam Aadmi Party leader to relinquish his post. "He (Mr Saxena) doesn't need our guidance. We are nobody to advise him. He will do whatever he has to, in accordance with the law," the High Court said.

The court was hearing a public interest litigation by the Hindu Sena, which sought direction to the Lieutenant Governor to direct Mr Kejriwal to resign. The petitioner was told to prioritise national interest over "personal issues" and, if it wanted to persist, to "raise this



issue before another forum". The court dismissed similar pleas last week and in January (weeks before Mr Kejriwal was arrested). Last week the acting Chief Justice said the removal of a sitting Chief Minister is outside the scope of judicial interference. "It is for the other wings of the government to examine, in accordance with the law, this issue," the court said. And for the plea before that, a bench led by then Chief Justice Rajendra Menon made a firm statement, noting "prosecution is going on... he may be acquitted".

Arvind Kejriwal was arrested March 21 in connection with the alleged liquor policy scam that has roiled the AAP weeks before the election. The opposition has condemned the arrest of a sitting Chief Minister and other senior political leaders, including the Bharat Rashttra Samithi's K Kavitha.

Arguing for interim relief Wednesday, Mr Kejriwal's lawyer questioned the timing of the arrests. "Why this urgency? I am not talking about politics... am talking about law," senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi said, arguing the arrest was meant to "demolish AAP before the first vote is cast".

public face and crowd-puller. After hearing Mr Singhvi and the counter by the arresting agency (the Enforcement Directorate), the High Court reserved its verdict for this afternoon.

Mr Kejriwal is currently in Delhi's Tihar Jail; he has been remanded to judicial custody till April 15.

"Even If 1% True, 100% Shameful": High Court Raps Bengal On Sandeshkhali

■ HT News Network

Kolkata: Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's government received a stern reprimand from the state's High Court Thursday as it heard affidavits seeking probes into the allegations of extortion, land grab, and sexual assault that have surfaced from Sandeshkhali ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

A bench led by Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam told Ms Banerjee's Trinamool Congress - which came under heavy fire after it was seen as shielding Sheikh Shahjahan, a local leader who is the primary accused - it could not shirk accountability in the event the allegations are found to be true.

"Even if one affidavit is correct, it is shameful. Even if one per cent is true it is absolutely shameful. West Bengal says it is safest for women? Even if one affidavit is proven to be right all of this falls," he said. "Entire district administration and ruling party have 100 per cent moral responsibility".

The court also ripped into the lawyer representing Sheikh Shahjahan, who



was arrested on February 29 after spending nearly two months evading the authorities. The delayed arrest triggered criticism of the Bengal government and prompted the High Court to issue a pointed order to the state.

In earlier hearings the court held Bengal Police to be "totally biased" and called for a "fair, honest, and complete investigation" into allegations against Sheikh Shahjahan. "There can be no better case than this... which requires to be transferred (and) to be investigated by the CBI," it observed.

In focus today were petitions seeking intervention in some form or the other

- either through a court-appointed commission or via the National Human Rights Commission - to allow the women of Sandeshkhali to make their complaints without fear of repercussion. BJP leader Priyanka Tibrewal, arguing for the petitioners, underlined the difficulty many face in filing those complaints.

"I have gone there... it is burdensome for them to come to Kolkata. I have suggested for a website to make it easier for them," she said in response to the court saying, "The suggestion is to have a commission where people can approach and voice grievances. Other is for NHRC to intervene."

"Must Learn From PM Modi": Hema Malini Reacts To Congress Leader's Remark

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Responding to the row over Congress leader Randeep Surjewala's remarks on Mathura MP Hema Malini, the actor-politician said Opposition leaders must learn how to respect women from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking to reporters before filing her nomination for the Lok Sabha election in the temple town, she said the Opposition targets only "popular people". "They target only popular people because targeting the unpopular ones won't do them any good. They should learn how to respect women from PM Narendra Modi."

The BJP has launched a scathing attack on the Congress over Mr Surjewala's remarks.

BJP leader Amit Malviya yesterday shared a video in which Mr Surjewala is seen addressing a public gathering. While saying that people elect leaders to raise their issues, he makes a remark on Ms Malini. In his post on X, Mr Malviya said it is the "most disgusting description someone can come up with". "This is Rahul Gandhi's Congress. It is misogynistic and abhors women," the BJP leader said. Under fire, Mr Surjewala said the BJP's IT cell has developed a habit of distorting facts and spreading lies. He shared another video from the same event, in which he is heard saying, "We respect Hema Malini ji because she is married to Dharmendra ji, she is our bahu." "Accusing the BJP of twisting facts and spreading lies, he said the ruling



party's objective is to divert attention from the Narendra Modi government's "anti-youth, anti-farmer, anti-poor policies and its conspiracy to finish the Constitution". "These pawns of BJP never asked the Prime Minister why he said '50 crore ki girlfriend', called a woman MP 'Surpanakha', trolled a woman Chief Minister, used the expression 'Congress's widow' and described the Congress leadership as a 'jersey cow'," he said.

Mr Surjewala said he only meant that every elected representative should be accountable to the people, be it him or (Haryana Chief Minister) Nayab Singh Saini and (BJP leader) Manohar Lal Khattar. "My intention was not to insult Hema Malini ji or to hurt anybody. That's why I clearly said we respect Hema Malini ji and she is our bahu. The BJP is anti-women, so it sees everything from its misogynist-tinted glasses and conveniently spreads lies," he said in the post.

Will End "Draconian" Anti-Terror, Anti-Corruption Laws: CPI(M) Manifesto

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The CPI(M) today released its manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections, promising to scrap "draconian" laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The CPI(M) appealed to voters to defeat the BJP, strengthen the Left, and ensure the formation of an alternative secular government at the Centre.

In its manifesto, the party pledged to fight for "an uncompromising adherence to the principle that religion is separated from politics". "The CPI(M) stands for the scrapping of all draconian laws like UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act) and PMLA," the manifesto stated. The party said it will "fight for a law against hate speech and crimes, is committed to scrapping" the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.

High Court Rejects Petition To Ban Cross-Genre Massages In Spas In Delhi

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has dismissed a petition seeking a direction to the authorities to ban cross-gender massages in spa and massage centres.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora noted that a single judge of the high court is already seized of the matter wherein the validity of Guidelines for Operation of Spas/ Massage Centers in Delhi dated 18th August, 2021, issued by the Delhi government has been challenged. "Since the single judge is already seized of the controversy, this court is of the view that the present public interest (litigation) .

Palestine revives bid to become UN member

HT News Network

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden announced on Tuesday that the United Nations will consider on Friday a draft resolution moved by Pakistan calling for an arms embargo on Israel, citing the "plausible risk of genocide in Gaza".

The Palestinians, who have had observer status at the world body since 2012, have lobbied for years to gain full membership, which would amount to recognition of Palestinian statehood. In a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, dated Tuesday and seen by AFP, UN envoy Riyad Mansour requested "upon instructions of the Palestinian leadership" that an application dating back to 2011 be reconsidered. The letter has been transmitted to the Security Council, and the Palestinians have asked that it be reviewed this month, according to the documents seen by AFP. Arab League, OIC, NAM tell Guterres 140 countries have recognised Palestinian statehood. Mansour has repeatedly said in recent months that given Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip



since October 7, UN membership is a priority for the Palestinians. "It was the international community that decided to create two states in Palestine since 1947," Mansour said in February. "It is the duty of the international community along with the Palestinian people to complete that exercise by admitting the state of Palestine to membership." Last month, he said the Palestinians would "start mobilising the largest number of countries

to support us" and expressed hope that the council would act in April, pointing to a council meeting set for April 18 on the situation in Gaza.

Malta, which holds the rotating Security Council presidency, said Mansour's letter was "received and circulated" to council members, adding that talks would be held "on a way forward".

The League of Arab States, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement sent a letter to Guterres on Tuesday, also seen by AFP, supporting the bid by the Palestinians.

"We wish to bring to your attention that, as of this date, 140 member states have recognised the state of Palestine," said the joint letter, which included a list of those countries. The 2011 application, launched by Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas, never came before the Security Council for a vote, and the General Assembly voted to grant the Palestinians observer status in November 2012. Any request to become a UN member state must first be recommended by the council, then endorsed by a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly.

Iftar at White House 'downgraded' after boycott by Muslims

HT News Network

WASHINGTON: The White House converted an Iftar-dinner into a meeting on Tuesday night to appease American Muslim leaders frustrated with the administration's Gaza policy. Originally slated as a dinner, the event was reshaped into a meeting format after a number of Muslim leaders declined the invitation, while others raised concerns over the situation in Gaza. CNN reported that the Iftar-dinner was changed to a meeting because "participants didn't feel comfortable having a celebratory meal while hundreds of thousands in Gaza are on the brink of famine".

The meeting was attended by Vice President Kamala Harris, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, administration officials, and a small group of Muslim community leaders. Later, Thaeer Ahmad, a Palestinian American physician, told CNN he went to the meeting but left abruptly, as did some other guests. Explaining his decision, Dr Ahmad said he told President Joe Biden, "It's disappointing that I'm the only Palestinian here, and out of respect for my community, I'm going to leave." The development underscores the strained relationship between the Biden administration and the Muslim American community over the war in Gaza. Rejected invitations and growing dissatisfaction over US support for Israel amidst the Gaza crisis have exacerbated tensions.

Crushing Loss In UK Polls Predicted For Rishi Sunak-Led Conservative Party

HT News Network

London: After holding power in the UK Parliament for nearly 15 years, the Rishi Sunak-led Conservative Party expects a massive defeat against the Labour Party in the upcoming elections. It reflects the public's growing dissatisfaction with the UK's worsening condition - repeated policy failures, unfulfilled promises, and rising cost of living. As the country battles recession, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak risks losing his seat. A recent public survey conducted by YouGov, interviewing 18,761 British adults between March 7-27, indicates a landslide victory for the Labour Party. To win a majority in the UK Parliament, parties have to secure 326 out of 650 seats. Labour is projected to secure 403 seats nationwide. In contrast, Conservatives are only predicted to win 155 seats. This puts them at 169 seats lower than the previous YouGov MRP released in January 2024. YouGov claims, "The coming tidal wave projected by this model would sweep away several major Conservative figures."

Poll of Polls in Politico highlights similar trends, with 44% of people intending to vote for Labour while Conservatives trail behind at 23%, as of March 31.

Mr Sunak's campaign outlines the Conservative Party's goals - to halve inflation, reduce national debt, improve the National Health Service (NHS), stop illegal migrants, and better the economy. Various measures like hikes in immigration costs and stricter refugee deportation laws have been tried, but have proven unsuccessful. He also announced tax cuts in March.

PhonePe Users Can Now Make Payments Through UPI In Singapore

HT News Network

New Delhi: Fintech firm PhonePe on Wednesday said its users can now make payments through UPI in Singapore under a pact signed by the company with the Singapore Tourism Board.

The collaboration has been built upon the existing Unified Payments Interface (UPI) linkage between India and Singapore, which allows customers to instantly make cross-border transactions between the two countries directly from their existing Indian bank accounts.

"Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and PhonePe enter a two-year strategic partnership to promote UPI payments for Indian visitors in Singapore," PhonePe, a decacorn, said in a statement. Privately-held companies with a valuation of over USD 10 billion are termed as decacorn.

As part of the partnership, STB and PhonePe will invest in joint marketing efforts across India and Singapore, to promote seamless UPI experiences across key tourism hotspots. "This partnership exemplifies our dedication to enhancing the Singapore visitor experience for discerning, tech-savvy consumers," STB Chief Executive Officer Melissa Ow said.

Under the collaboration, Indian travellers can now use the PhonePe app for instant, seamless, and secure payments across over 8,000 merchants in Singapore, enhancing their experience in the island city.

"Partnering with STB will facilitate ease of transactions for PhonePe users who now can just pay directly from their existing bank account by scanning a QR code when visiting the island city," Ritesh Pai, Chief Executive Officer, PhonePe, International Business for PhonePe Private Limited, said.

PhonePe also processes over 230 million daily transactions with an annualised Total Payment Value (TPV) of more than USD 1.5 trillion. Under the collaboration, Indian travellers can now use the PhonePe app for instant, seamless, and secure payments across over 8,000 merchants in Singapore, enhancing their experience in the island city.

"Partnering with STB will facilitate ease of transactions for PhonePe users who now can just pay directly from their existing bank account by scanning a QR code when visiting the island city," Ritesh Pai, Chief Executive Officer, PhonePe, International Business for PhonePe Private Limited, said.

UN rights body to mull call for Israel arms embargo

HT News Network

GENEVA: The UN Human Rights Council will consider on Friday a draft resolution moved by Pakistan calling for an arms embargo on Israel, citing the "plausible risk of genocide in Gaza".

If the draft resolution is adopted, it would mark the first time that the United Nations' top rights body has taken a position on the war raging in Gaza.

The text condemns "the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects by Israel" in populated areas of Gaza and demands Israel "uphold its legal responsibility to prevent genocide".

The draft resolution was brought forward by Pakistan on behalf of 55 of the 56 UN member states in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) - the exception being Albania.

Tabled by Pakistan on behalf of OIC, draft resolution condemns use of starvation as tool of warfare

The text is co-sponsored by Bolivia, Cuba and the Palestinian mission in Geneva.

The eight-page draft demands Israel end its occupation of Palestinian territory



and immediately lifts its "illegal blockade" on the Gaza Strip.

It calls upon countries to stop the sale or transfer of arms, munitions and other military equipment to Israel, citing "a plausible risk of genocide in Gaza".

The draft also "condemns the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare", calls for an immediate ceasefire and "condemns Israeli actions that may amount to ethnic cleansing".

"Collective punishment" Last week, the UN Security Council in New York passed a resolution calling for a ceasefire - thanks to an abstention from Washington, Israel's closest ally.

Trump calls migrants 'animals', intensifying focus on immigration

HT News Network

GREEN BAY (Wisconsin): Donald Trump called immigrants illegally in the United States "animals" and "not human" in a speech in Michigan on Tuesday, resorting to the degrading rhetoric he has employed time and again on the campaign trail.

The Republican presidential candidate, appearing with several law enforcement officers, described in detail several criminal cases involving suspects in the country illegally and warned that violence and chaos would consume America if he did not win the Nov 5 election.

In a later speech in Green Bay, Wisconsin, he struck a similarly foreboding tone, describing the 2024 election as the nation's "final battle." While speaking of Laken Riley - a 22-year-old nursing student from Georgia allegedly murdered by a Venezuelan immigrant in the country illegally - Trump said some immigrants were sub-human.

"The Democrats say, 'Please don't call them animals. They're humans.' I said, 'No, they're not humans, they're not humans, they're animals,'" said Trump, president from 2017 to 2021.

Researchers say migrants do not commit



more violent crimes than native-born citizens. In Grand Rapids, Michigan, Trump described meeting the family of Ruby Garcia, a local 25-year-old murdered last month by a suspect in the country illegally, according to police. Garcia's sister denied the former president spoke with the family, according to local media reports. In stump speeches, Trump frequently claims that immigrants crossing the border with Mexico illegally have escaped from prisons and asylums in their home countries and are fueling violent crime in the United States.

While available data on criminals' immigration status is sparse, researchers say people living in the US illegally do not commit violent crimes at a higher rate than native-born citizens.

Macron says he has no doubt Russia will target Paris Olympics

HT News Network

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday that he had no doubt Russia would malevolently target the Paris Olympics this summer.

"I have no doubt whatsoever, including in terms of information," Macron said in response to a reporter's question about whether he thought that Russia would try to target the Olympics.

Macron's comments, delivered at an event in Paris for the inauguration of the new Olympic Aquatic Centre, represent his



most explicit acknowledgement to date of foreign threats to the security or smooth running of the games.

The Games will take place amid a complex global backdrop, with Russia's war in Ukraine and Israel's military campaign in Gaza complicating efforts to safeguard the Olympics.

Macron has in past months adopted a tougher stance against Russia, vow-

ing that Moscow must be defeated, and has not ruled out that European troops may one day go to Ukraine, although he has made clear that France has no intention of instigating hostilities against Russia.

His government has also adopted a tougher line against alleged Russian disinformation efforts across Europe.

Earlier this week, Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne said France will propose EU-wide level sanctions on those behind spreading disinformation amid what Paris sees as growing efforts by Russia to destabilise the bloc.

5 Iran security personnel dead in attacks claimed by Jaish al-Adl

HT News Network

At least five Iranian security personnel have been killed in two attacks claimed by a militant group in the Sistan-Baluchistan province, state media reported on Thursday.

"Five member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the police died as martyrs during two night-time terrorist attacks against a Guards base in Rask and a police post in Chabahar," Majid Mirahmadi, vice minister of the interior, told state TV. General Mohammad Pakpour, who heads the Guards' land forces, said on television that 15 attackers were killed during clashes with security forces. Mirahmadi said more than 10 security force members were hurt during the clashes that began Wednesday evening.

The Jaish al-Adl ('Army of Justice' in Arabic) claimed the attacks on its Telegram channel. Formed in 2012, the organisation is listed as a "terrorist" group by Iran and also by the United States.

Jaish al-Adl claimed an attack in December that killed 11 officers, one of the deadliest attacks in years, at a police station in Sistan-Baluchistan's city of Rask.

Helicopter plucks miners to safety as Taiwan searches for missing after quake

HT News Network

A helicopter plucked six miners to safety from a Taiwan quarry on Thursday as rescuers worked to free scores of people trapped in highway tunnels after the island's biggest earthquake in a quarter of a century.

Nine people were killed and more than 1,000 injured in Wednesday's magnitude-7.4 quake, but strict building regulations and widespread public disaster awareness appear to have staved off a major catastrophe on the island. Dozens

of residents of the worst-hit city spent a night outdoors rather in apartments still being shaken by aftershocks, and a massive engineering operation was under way to fix damaged roads and prop up tilting buildings. Dramatic video released on Thursday by the island's Central Emergency Operation Centre showed a helicopter flying two sorties to pluck six miners trapped in a gypsum quarry in Hualien county, near the epicentre of the quake. Rescuers knew the whereabouts of dozens more people trapped in a network of strongly built tunnels in the county, a



feature of the roads that cut through the scenic mountains and cliffs leading to

Hualien City from the north and west.

"I also hope that we can use today's time to find all people who are stranded and unaccounted for and help them settle down," Premier Chen Chien-jen said after a briefing at an emergency operation centre in Hualien.

The island has been shaken by over 300 strong aftershocks since the first quake, and the government warned people to be wary of landslides or rockfalls if they ventured to the countryside for Qingming, a two-day public holiday that began Thursday.

Cong undermined dignity, honour of Maharaja Hari Singhji: Rana

■ HT News Network

JAMMU APRIL 04: Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today lashed out at the Congress for compromising with the dignity and honour of Maharaja Hari Singhji, whose benevolent rule is even now considered as the golden era of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Driven by the policy of appeasement, the Congress under the leadership of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru undermined the aspirations of the people to fulfill the ambitions of National Conference", Mr Rana said while addressing the public meetings at Malpur and Seri Panditan in Amb-Gharota Mandal along with former Minister

and Sr BJP Leader Sham Lal Sharma, DDC Chairman, Mr. Bharat Bhushan and District President Jammu North, Omi Khajuria.

He said the Congress and the successive governments ignored the contribution of the Maharaja Bahadur in bringing about social and religious reforms and it was only the BJP that not only acknowledged his devotion and dedication towards the people but also declared public holiday on his birth anniversary. The Maharaja was the unifying force who devoted all his life towards welfare and progress of the largest state during the Dogra rule, he added.

Mr Devender Rana said history will never forgive the Con-



gress for its regressive role in dividing the people, differentiating between the regions and indulging in worse type of

appeasement that brought Jammu and Kashmir to a situation of morass. But for the course correction by the BJP as

per its cherished agenda of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas, things would not have been

what they are now, he said adding that even the adversaries of the BJP are now publicly acknowledging the discernible change in the overall scenario and hoping that the upcoming elections would witness active voter participation.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a remarkable journey of transformation, marked by significant shifts in governance, security, and development under the forward looking leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. From the restoration of peace and stability to the empowerment of marginalized segments and women, the region has witnessed tangible progress and positive change, the notable feature of which is holistic

development and opportunities of progress to all, irrespective of region or religion, caste or the social status. Mr Rana called for continued support to the BJP for steering the nation in general and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in particular to new heights of progress and development. While challenges remain, these can be met by collective efforts. He stressed the need for maintaining unity that is imperative to build trust among the people at large. The BJP has been striving and is committed to address socio-economic disparities and the path forward is defined by resilience, determination, and a shared commitment to building a brighter future for the people of J&K, he added.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Launches Urban Cruiser Taisor

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, April, KNT: Toyota Kirloskar Motor launched the All-New Toyota Urban Cruiser Taisor, a dynamic addition to its robust and full range of versatile SUV lineup in India. Marking the company's re-entry into the A-SUV segment, the All-New Toyota Urban Cruiser Taisor is positioned to offer a sense of prestige derived from the modern styling, cutting-edge features and advanced technologies, which also makes it a perfect choice for Indian customers.

It is available in 1.0L Turbo, 1.2L Petrol and E-CNG options. The 1.0L Turbo is available in 5 Speed Manual Transmission and 6 Speed Automatic Transmission, thus offering a versatile choice for customers who prioritize both power and performance preferences. Masakazu Yoshimura, MD and CEO of Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Regional CEO at Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) said, "The Indian market has always been of paramount importance to us, both in terms of product offerings and introduction of advanced technologies. This emphasis was further underpinned by the recent creation of a new region where the Indian market plays an even more crucial role acting as the hub of the new 'India, Middle East, East Asia & Oceania Region'.

Tadashi Asazuma, Deputy Managing Director - Sales-Service-Used Car TKM & Lexus said, "Over the years, our focus has been to deliver unparalleled customer delight by constantly adapting to evolving mobility requirements and lifestyle preferences. In line, our efforts have also been to ensure that we enhance accessibility to our world-class products and benchmark value propositions thus energizing our mission of 'Leave No One Behind'.

Mehndi Art Competition under SVEEP held at GDC Khansahib

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, MARCH 04: As part of the ongoing Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign, a Mehndi art competition was today organized by the Electoral Literacy Club of GDC Khansahib.

The aim of the competition was to raise democratic awareness among the newly eligible voters. The activity, apart from beautiful designs, focused on themes like Mera Phala Vote-Desh Ke Liye, My Vote - My Choice, Vote for a Better India, etc.

The female students of college, particularly the NSS volunteers, took active part in this activity and also pledged to cast their vote without any fear or favour.

Dr. Nargis Bano, Principal of the institution, and Dr Sajad Padder, NSS Programme Officer and ELC officer appreciated students' enthusiasm and commitment towards democratic values and traditions.

Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference President Sajad Gani Lone Unveils Bold Vision for Region's Future in Press Conference

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Handwara, In a resolute and candid address to the press at Handwara, Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference President Sajad Gani Lone shed light on critical issues facing the region and articulated his party's vision for a better future. Lone commenced by unequivocally asserting his late father's innocence regarding any involvement in militant activities, emphasizing that militancy erupted post the 1987 rigging incident. He reiterated his party's unwavering commitment to non-violence and its significant role in safeguarding lives amidst challenging circumstances. Drawing attention to the political landscape, Lone held the National Conference accountable for its decades-long governance, alleging significant deals with the Central



government. He pledged to pursue justice for the victims of the 1987 rigging by seeking the registration of an FIR against those responsible. Responding to queries regarding alleged affiliations with the BJP, Lone reaffirmed his party's Kashmiri identity and distanced himself from such accusations. He vowed to champion the rights of the local youth in Parliament, questioning disparities in treatment and advocating for the removal

of discriminatory laws like AFSPA. In a poignant moment, Lone emphasized the urgent need to address the denial of passports and harsh treatment faced by Kashmiri youth, highlighting the glaring disparities in rights and opportunities. Regarding the prospect of contesting Assembly elections without the restoration of statehood, Lone expressed unwavering confidence in participating in democratic processes, underscoring his belief in the eventual restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. In conclusion, Sajad Gani Lone's address reflects a commitment to justice, accountability, and empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir. His words resonate as a call to action, urging stakeholders to address longstanding grievances and work towards a future of peace, equality, and prosperity for all inhabitants of the region.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 DNO MCC Kulgam reviews functioning of FSTs & SSTs for strict enforcement of MCC

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, APRIL 04: The District Nodal Officer (DNO), Model Code of Conduct (MCC), Ab Rashid Dass today chaired a review meeting of 09-Flying Squad Teams (FSTs) and 12 Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs) for proper enforcement of the MCC in the district.

The Nodal Officer urged FSTs and SSTs to strictly enforce the guidelines of MCC issued by the Election Commission of India which lays down a list of Do's and Don'ts for political parties, political leaders, political Workers and Govt Officers/officials to be observed during entire process of General Election to Lok Sabha-2024.

The Nodal Officer impressed upon the magistrates to work with zeal and zest and beef up the searching and frisking process to check the



misuse of Drugs, Liquor, Cash, Gifts etc used for influencing the voters.

The FSTs were directed to play a proactive role in timely disposal of election related complaints through C-vigil App/ESMS App as well as complaints received through offline

mode. The teams were directed to coordinate and cooperate with each other for successful enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct in the district.

Voters Awareness program under SVEEP held at Gutlibagh

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APRIL 04: A mega voters awareness programme was today organized at Gutlibagh, here under the aegis of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

The awareness programme was aimed to raise awareness about voting-related activities and promote electoral literacy among citizens, especially first-time voters in run up to the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections, 2024.

The program was presided over by the ACR Ganderbal (ARO 18-Ganderbal) who, on the occasion highlighted the significance of electoral literacy in empowering citizens and urged everyone, especially first-time voters, to exercise their franchise responsibly in the upcoming elections.

Meanwhile, a pledge taking ceremony under SVEEP was also held to vote enthusiastically in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

IRCS J&K organises First-Aid awareness programme at Jammu airport

■ Dr Abdul Qayoom

JAMMU, APRIL 4: In a significant move towards bolstering emergency response capabilities at the airport, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), J&K organized a comprehensive First Aid awareness programme for the employees of Civil Airport, Jammu today.

The initiative, aimed at equipping airport staff with essential lifesaving skills, underscores a commitment to public safety and health preparedness.

Indian Red Cross Society's First Aid training programme gives the information and skills one need to help adults and children during many emergency situations.

The awareness programme was inaugurated by Director Airport, Sanjeev Kumar Garg.

The training session focused on practical first aid techniques, emergency response strategies, and critical care methods to address common medical emergencies, CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), wound management, and handling of sudden illnesses.

The awareness was imparted to the participants by the Red Cross team of Dr. Manpreet Kaur, Medical Officer, Ravi Kant Magotra, Supervisor Pharmacist and Vironica Marwah, Field Officer.

The training witnessed enthusiastic participation from wide range of airport personnel, like operations staff, security staff, customer service representatives, and maintenance teams, all of whom play a pivotal role in the day-to-day operations of Jammu Airport.

On the occasion, the Director Airport commended the team Red Cross for providing such vital information to the staff which will enhance the safety of passengers as well as empower staff to handle emergencies confidently.

Police Arrest 02 Drug Peddlers in Handwara, Contraband Substances Recovered

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Handwara, April, 04: In an ongoing effort to combat the proliferation of drugs within society, Handwara Police have successfully apprehended two drug peddlers in Handwara and seized contraband substances from their possession. A police team from Police Station Handwara, led by SHO Handwara, conducted a checkpoint at Chotipora. During the inspection, two individuals identified as Suhail Ahmad Shagoo, son of Habibullah Shagoo, resident of Phorupeth, and Javid Ahmad Sheikh, son of Ab Ahad Sheikh, resident of Hanga, were intercepted. Upon search, 23 grams of a substance resembling charas were discovered in their possession. Consequently, a case has been registered under the appropriate sections of the law at Police Station Handwara, and an investigation has been launched.

We encourage members of the public to report any instances of drug peddling or other criminal activities to the nearest police station or by dialing 112. Cooperation from the community is essential in the ongoing efforts to eliminate the scourge of drugs from society. We assure the public that the police will take stringent action against criminals in accordance with the law.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024

SVEEP Awareness programme empowers Women Voters at Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APRIL 04: Government High School Gutlibagh today hosted a significant event aimed at enhancing voter awareness and participation through the SVEEP programme, and a rally of local Pakthoon women folk.

Led by the Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) 18-Ganderbal and the Nodal Officer SVEEP Ganderbal, the programme prioritised engaging women voters from the Pakthoon community, emphasizing their pivotal role in shaping democratic processes.

During the event, key stakeholders engaged in insightful interactions with women voters, highlighting the importance of their active participation in elections.

ARO 18-Ganderbal and the Nodal Officer SVEEP Ganderbal underscored the



significance of women's voices in shaping the nation's future, encouraging them to exercise their electoral rights with confidence and conviction.

The programme also featured discussions led by District Level Master Trainers

(DLMTs) on the modern democracy's reliance on women's voting rights.

Their deliberations aimed to inspire and empower women, recognizing their indispensable role in fostering inclusive and participatory democratic practices.

The event witnessed a diverse turnout, including Booth Level Officers (BLOs), female teachers, (AAYAs), BAGs and girl students, showcasing a collective commitment to nurturing informed and engaged citizenry. During the event, key stakeholders engaged in insightful interactions with women voters, highlighting the importance of their active participation in elections.

ARO 18-Ganderbal and the Nodal Officer SVEEP Ganderbal underscored the significance of women's voices in shaping the nation's future, encouraging them to exercise their electoral rights with confidence and conviction.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements for celebration of upcoming religious festivals

HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 04: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of Officers at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the arrangements for the celebration of upcoming religious festivals of different communities.

DC comprehensively reviewed the arrangements to be put in place for the observance of Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and celebration of Eid ul-Fitr, Baisakhi and Navratra in the district.

Addressing the meeting, Ayushi emphasized upon all the officers to ensure availability of all requisite services and facilities to the people including electricity, drinking water, sanitation, cleanliness and other essentials.

The DC directed the line departments to take elaborate measures for the smooth celebrations of the festivals and ensure all basic arrangements are put in place for the devotees well in advance.

On the occasion, the DC passed



directions to the PDD and PHE departments to ensure uninterrupted supplies of power and water to the Masjids, Temples and Gurudwaras particularly in wake of the upcoming religious festivals like Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr, Eid, Navratra and Baisakhi in the district.

She enjoined upon the PDD authorities that there should be no power cuts during Sehri and Iftar.

She instructed PDD officers to

make the defunct transformers functional within 24 hours positively.

The DC directed Tehsildars to intensify the market checking and instructed the concerned departments to undertake intensive market checking in all important markets so that illegal profiteering is controlled and no hoarding is done.

Similarly, EO MC Kupwara was directed to activate the Municipal staff and ensure sanitation, clean-

ing measures and Chooa marking outside the Masjids, Eidgahs and other religious places.

DC instructed EO, MC to cover the open manhole at Hospital road and make fully functional the toilet blocks at Rigipora.

She also asked Health authorities to ensure a medical team headed by a Medical Officer with ambulance services remains available on call.

DC also had interaction with traders and members of the Auqaf committees and listened to their issues. ACD Kupwara was directed to pass directions to Secretary Panchayats to ensure sanitation and cleanliness near Masjids, Eidgahs, temples and Gurudwaras located in rural areas of the district.

Meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Muhammad Rouf Rehman; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather; PO ICDS, FM DC, Additional SP Kupwara, EXen PHE, EXen PDD, CMO, AMO, Tehsildars, DY, SP Traffic, EO MC and other concerned Officers.

DC B'la reviews arrangements for Eid-ul-Fitr, Jumat-ul-vida, Shab-e-Qadr, Besakhi & Ramnavami festivals

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, APRIL 04: In view of the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-fitr, Jumat-ul-vida, Shab-e-Qadr, Baisakhi, and Ramnavami festivals, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, conducted an extensive tour of several religious places in district Baramulla today to review arrangements put in place for the seamless celebration of these festivals.

He was accompanied by SSP Baramulla, Amod Nagpure, and other officers during his tour. During the tour, the DC visited several important religious places, including Eidgah Jadeed and Eidgah Qadeem in Baramulla, Eidgah Sopore, Syed Janbaz Wali Shrine, Chati Padshahi Gurdwara and Shelputri Mandir in Baramulla to



inspect the arrangements thoroughly and ensure that devotees do not encounter any difficulties on the days of celebration. The DC interacted with the local representatives, attentively listened to their concerns, and issued immediate directives to the concerned officers for the prompt resolution of their genuine issues. On the occasion, the DC directed the officers of all the line departments to ensure all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance so

that devotees do not face any difficulty during the observance of the holy occasions. Meanwhile, Minga Sherpa directed officers for enhancement of facilities at the Eidgahs, emphasizing the need to ensure all services are fully operational for the convenience of devotees gathering for Eid-ul-Fitr prayers. Furthermore, the DC instructed the PDD authorities to ensure an uninterrupted power supply, while the PHE department was entrusted.

PC President Sajad Lone extends warm greetings on Jumat-ul-Vida

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 04 (KNS): Peoples Conference President Sajad Lone has extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Jumat-ul-Vida.

In a statement issued here, Mr. Lone remarked that Jumat-ul-Vida holds significant spiritual importance as people worldwide offer prayers on this day symbolizing the imminent culmination of the holy month of Ramadan.

"Let's come together in prayer on this sacred day, seeking forgiveness for our sins and fostering unity to cultivate a society rooted in charity, brotherhood and compassion," he said.

He further urged the administration to ensure smooth facilitation of prayers in all Jamia Mosques across the Valley, emphasizing the importance of hassle-free religious observance for all. (KNS)

DDC Ganderbal reviews functioning of DDRC

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APRIL 04: In a bid to enhance services for beneficiaries and improve accessibility for people with disabilities, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the DC office, here to assess the functioning of the District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC) Ganderbal.

The meeting aimed to address various challenges encountered by the Centre in implementing services and ensuring a barrier-free environment for individuals with disabilities in the district.

Head of programmes at the She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs, Mudassar Ashraf presented a detailed overview of the services provided to beneficiaries by DDRC Ganderbal, the implementing agency.

The DC stressed for correction in the collection of data regarding the issuance of UDID cards, personnel training for accurate data collection, creating a barrier-free environment in Sonamarg, a popular hill station, as a pilot project to make it a barrier-free tourist destination, making buses more accessible for individuals with disabilities, addressing the lack of disability-friendly washrooms in schools, colleges, and universities in the district.

Expressing concern over discrepancies in data available with various departments regarding UDID card beneficiaries, the DDC proposed a pilot method involving Asha and Anganwadi workers or National Social Service (NSS) in selected Panchayats for data collection, with plans for replication in other areas.

ARTO Bandipora Takes Tough Stance on Traffic Violators: Dozens of Vehicles Blacklisted, Fine Realized

HT News Network

JBandipora, April 04 (KNS): A stringent crackdown on traffic violations led to the blacklisting of dozens of vehicles and the collection of fines totaling thousands of rupees in Bandipora district of north Kashmir on Thursday.

The drive as per KNS, spearheaded by Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Bandipora, Anees Ahmad, in collaboration with the Tehsildar Bandipora, CEO Municipal Council Bandipora and the Station House Officer Bandipora, resulted in the immediate blacklisting of over a hundred vehicles for various traffic infractions.

Officials said that vehicles found parked improperly, leading to traffic congestion, overloaded vehicles, and those lacking necessary documentation or fitness certificates were promptly blacklisted and fined on the spot.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Jumat-ul-vida, Shab-e-Qadr & Eid-ul-Fitr

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, APRIL 04: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today reviewed arrangements for auspicious occasions of Jumat ul Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid ul Fitr in a meeting with officers of line departments at mini-secretariat, here.

On the occasion, the DC reviewed availability of poultry, ration and LPG in the district, besides other essential commodities in markets.

Meanwhile, DC directed concerned departments to ensure smooth supply of drinking water and electricity, and to press water tanker service in the areas where required during these days.

He also directed concerned to conduct sanitation and cleaning drives at Masjids and Shrines.

Regarding transport facility to the devotees who will be thronging to shrines/mosques for congregational prayers, DC directed concerned officials to ensure that devotees do not



face any inconvenience.

He also stressed on intensifying market checking to curb black marketing and profiteering to ensure sale of safe quality food items.

The DC directed the Health Department to set up medical camps with paramedical staff, critical care ambulance and medicines at main congregation places and major Shrines.

He emphasised all concerned officers to work with added zeal, energy

and close coordination for the successful and hassle-free culmination of large congregations of Shab-e-Qadr, Jamat-ul-Vida & Eid-ul-Fitr across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Bashir Ahmad Wani; ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; Add.SP, Tanveer Ahmad; JD-Planning, ACD, ACR, ACP, CMO, AD-FCS&CA, Tehsildars and other officers, besides members of Auqaf and traders association attended the meeting.

J&K Bank advises people not to get duped by fraudsters selling jobs

HT News Network

Srinagar, Mar 04 (KNS): According to few reports received from various parts of the UT, some miscreants have been trying to entrap general public in the name of providing jobs at J&K Bank. On closer scrutiny, it has come to the fore that some unscrupulous elements posing as senior bank officials are misleading gullible people by enticing them with 'job opportunities at J&K Bank'.

On taking up the matter with the bank authorities, the bank's spokesperson termed the miscreants as fraudsters selling jobs to the gullible, and said, "Through this medium, let me inform general public that whenever the Bank plans to conduct recruitment/s, we always issue a proper advertisement notice, which is circulated widely not only in the print media but also uploaded on the Bank's official website and all its social-networking pages." "Therefore, regarding these disturbing reports, we would like to request all the concerned to remain vigilant and for any news regarding recruitment in the Bank, please keep visiting our website and official social-media pages. And don't pay heed to any fraudster out there to dupe people impersonating as a senior official of the Bank and tarnish Bank's image in the process. Kindly be smart to be safe", the spokesperson said. (KNS) Among the attendees were Deputy District Election Officer Mohd. Saleem; District Informatics Officer, Narinder Singh; SDM Surankote (ARO) Farooq Khan; SDM Mendhar (ARO), Imran Rashid Kataria.

SVEEP: DEO Gbl reviews arrangements for mega Voter Awareness programme to be held at Sonamarg

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APRIL 04: In a bid to bolster public participation in the forthcoming General Elections, the District Administration Ganderbal has slated a mega voter awareness event to be held at the picturesque locale of Sonamarg.

Under the umbrella of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative, this event aims to engage and educate citizens about the importance of exercising their franchise in a democratic setup.

Today, the District Election Officer, Shyambir, chaired a meeting to meticulously review and coordinate the arrangements for the impending event. The meeting was



attended by key stakeholders and officials vested in ensuring the success of this significant endeavor.

It was unanimously decided that the event will be under the astute supervision of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan,

tasked with orchestrating seamless preparations encompassing date finalization, venue selection, and the duration of a comprehensive itinerary for the event.

Numerous activities and arrangements were deliberated upon during the meeting, reflecting the diverse spectrum of engagement planned for attendees. These include awareness workshops, cultural extravaganzas, community gatherings, innovative snow art exhibitions, captivating painting and quiz competitions, enthralling skits, and spirited rallies.

The event aims to inform and also to inspire citizens to actively participate in the democratic process, thereby fostering a robust and inclusive electoral culture within the district.

Lal Ded Hospital gets J&K Bank ATM

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 04 (KNS): Enhancing convenience for patients, visitors, and medical staff, J&K Bank today commissioned a permanent Automated Teller Machine (ATM) at valley's LD Hospital to replace its ATM van.

The ATM was inaugurated by the Principal of Government Medical College & Associated Hospitals Dr. Iffat Hassan in presence of Medical Superintendent LD Hospital Dr. Mohammad Muzaffar Jan, Zonal Head (Srinagar) Shabir Ahmad amid a good gathering of valuable customers besides other officials of the Bank and the Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Iffat Hassan thanked the Bank for providing hi-tech banking facility at the hospital, saying, "The facility will not only help the patients and their attendants in times of emer-

gency but will also meet the banking needs of the medical staff and other visitors to the hospital round the clock."

She commended the Bank for its proactive approach in collaborating with public institutions and facilitating banking access for all.

Reiterating the Bank's commitment to serve people, Zonal Head said, "placement of this ATM within the premises of LD Hospital underscores our commitment to serve the patients and their families, who can now access essential banking services conveniently and round the clock in the hospital itself. Moreover, medical professionals and hospital staff can also benefit from seamless banking facilities right at their workplace."

Hailing the Bank's efforts, people present on the occasion also expressed their gratitude to the Bank's management for the much-needed facility. (KNS)

Altaf Bukhari felicitates people on Jummat-ul-Vida

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 4 (KNS): Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has extended his warmest greetings to the people, especially to the Muslim community, on the auspicious occasion of Jumat-ul-Vida.

In his message, the Apni Party President said, "On the auspicious occasion of Juma-tul-Vida, I extend warmest greetings to the people of J&K, especially to the Muslims. This revered occasion holds special significance and great spiritual importance for Muslims across the world. On this day, Muslims around the world pray for the acceptance of their prayers and good deeds done in the holy month of Rmdaan and also seek blessings from Almighty Allah for their families,



friends, and humanity at large."

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari appealed to the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir to pray for the peace and prosperity of this land on this revered occasion. He said, "I request Muslims to pray for sustainable peace and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir." "May this revered occasion be a harbinger of peace, harmony, and prosperity for the people of J&K.



Maxwell on Mayank: You don't often see someone of his pace

BENGALURU: Glenn Maxwell has described the pace of Mayank Yadav as "pretty formidable" and believes the speeds he produced were the equivalent of former Australia quick Shaun Tait in his prime. Maxwell was one of Mayank's three victims in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's loss to Lucknow Super Giants at home on Tuesday. Mayank's stunning display earned him his second straight player of the match award and sent shockwaves to Australia given he bounced out Maxwell and castled Cameron Green with two deliveries above 150kph. Speaking on ESPN's Around

the Wicket, Maxwell said he had paid close attention to Mayank while watching LSG's previous game against Punjab Kings but nothing could prepare him for the real thing. "I thought it was really impressive," Maxwell said. "He hurried on a few of the Punjab batters and I certainly did a little bit of homework before coming up against him. But it's nothing doing homework against someone until you actually see it coming out of the hand and have to try and pick up the length. "He bowled me the first one which was just a high bouncer and the wicket that we've been producing at [Bengaluru] has

been a little bit two-paced and it sort of came through a bit slower than I thought it was going to. And I was like, ah, that wasn't too bad. "And then the next one was hard length and skidded on probably faster than I thought it was going to be and as you saw I went to pull thinking that I picked up the length really well and before you know it, it's on you, hitting the shoulder the bat and ballooning up in the air. "He has some real extra speed that you don't really see a lot of around world cricket at the moment. You see guys bowl pretty consistently around the 140s [kph] or high 140s. But to have mid-150s consistently in

your arsenal is pretty formidable." Maxwell said that the closest comparison he could draw in terms of pace was to Tait, who he faced in Australian domestic cricket in the second half of his career. "It's such a beautiful smooth action," Maxwell said. "He [Mayank] sort of glided through the crease really nicely. I think pace-wise, the only one that I can sort of really resemble it to is a little bit like Shaun Tait when he was in his heyday. "I think when he was at the peak of his powers it was extremely hard to pick up the extra zip it feels like it has off the wicket. I think that's as close

as it probably comes to it." Maxwell admitted that he and RCB had not started well after losing three of their first four games. Maxwell has bowled impressively but has scores of 0, 3, 28 and 0. He said that RCB's overseas batters in particular were having trouble adjusting to some unexpected surfaces in Bengaluru in particular. "It obviously hasn't been a great start for us or myself individually," Maxwell said. "It's been a little bit of a struggle. I think we've been probably caught a little bit behind with our conditions that we've probably produced in the first few home games as well.

Starc: 'Personal stuff aside, the team's start has been fantastic'

NEW DELHI: The price tag of INR 24.75 crore (US\$2.98 million approx.) almost ran in with him as Mitchell Starc bowled in his first two IPL 2024 matches, where he went for a combined 0 for 100 in eight overs. It might have on Wednesday in Visakhapatnam too, but with the batters scoring an almost-record IPL score of 272, the pressure was perhaps a little off. And Starc, one of the best in the modern-day game, struck in his second over, getting Mitchell Marsh to slap one to cover point, and then again in his third, when he got David Warner to under-edge an attempted cut on to his stumps.

Figures of 2 for 25 look a lot better than 0 for 53 or 0 for 47, and while Starc didn't quite admit to feeling a bit out of place in the previous matches, he did say that those returns weren't what he had hoped for.

"In a game of T20, we all need a little bit of luck, a few edges go by, a dropped catch or two, that's T20 cricket," he said on the host broadcast after the game. "You move on pretty quickly, because the games come thick and fast. Yeah, probably not the start I wanted, but we've been winning games, so that's what it's about. We're three-nil. And tonight, with bat and ball, we were pretty good, I think.

"It can be brutal at times, particularly on the bowlers [in T20 cricket]. I think we've seen on some of the grounds, some of the scores... so yeah, you take a little bit of luck here and there. Yeah, we're three-nil at the start of the season, and tonight we were pretty clinical with bat and ball. Personal stuff aside, the team's start has been fantastic."

That's the bigger picture. The fact that almost every Knight Rider has put in at least one performance of note in taking KKR to three wins on the trot and the top position on the table after all the teams have played at least three games.

As for the smaller picture, getting Marsh and Warner must have felt good? "It's nice to have those ones in the pocket," Starc said with a laugh.

But before Starc got into his act, it was Vaibhav Arora, 26 years and just 34 T20 matches old and not really anywhere near international cricket, who created a flutter, getting rid of Prithvi Shaw in his first over as Delhi Capitals chased a mammoth 273 for victory. Arora did it at his mid-130s pace with a lot of swing into the right-hand batters and the occasional well-directed bouncer, and finished with 3 for 27.

"That's all him, he was fantastic tonight, and I thought he used the short ball really well," Starc said when asked if he had a role to play in Arora's success. "For me, it's probably more conversations around training, around bowling meetings, when we're taking on Dave and Mitch, who some of these guys haven't played before. So just talking a bit around that sort of thing. Just see how they go about their business in the nets, and if they ask questions, just little conversations around that. Certainly not me telling them how to bowl and tonight I thought our whole bowling attack was fantastic."

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