

Mustafizur sparks club vs country debate ahead of T20 World Cup

PJ12

Man-Animal Conflict: Div Com Kashmir calls for coordinated efforts to tackle attacks

PJ3



# LG Sinha Stresses Upon Promotion Of Start-Ups In J&K

HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 18: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday stressed upon promotion of Start-Ups in the Union Territory.

Sinha was chairing a review meeting of the Department of Industries and Commerce and the Department of Geology and Mining here.

Sinha while stressing upon promotion of Start-Ups in J&K, further instructed for impact assessment of various initiatives like GI Tagging and QR code based labelling and scanning.

He also reviewed district-wise availability, requirement of minor minerals and the issues related to time-bound operationalization of minor mineral blocks.

Detailed discussion took



place on investment proposals, implementation of projects and schemes of the Department of Industries and Commerce.

The Lt Governor directed the senior officials to hold regular meetings with Investors and Industry bodies to address the crucial issues.

The chair was briefed on the steps taken for proper utilization of Land in existing Industrial Estates.

The Lt Governor also reviewed the progress achieved under New Central Sector schemes, One District One Product, PMEGP, PM Vishwakarma, Ease of Doing Business/ Gati Shakti, development of new industrial estates, Handloom and Handicrafts sector, development of Tattoo Ground, promotion of MSMEs, activities of JKTPO etc.

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# Rain Lash Plains, Snowfall On Higher Reaches Of Kashmir

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 18: Rains lash the plains of Kashmir valley while some upper reaches experience a fresh snowfall

disrupting normal activities on Thursday.

Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir valley were lashed by light to moderate rains and some upper reach-

es including Zojila Pass on the Srinagar-Ladakh highway experienced a fresh light snowfall on Thursday.

Reports of snowfall were

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## NEWS BRIEF

### Authorities Crack Whip On Traffic Violators In Gulmarg

SRINAGAR, APR 18: Authorities cracked a whip against traffic violators at the tourist resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir on Thursday.

A joint team of officers led by Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Waseem Raja and accompanied by Tehsildar Gulmarg, officers of Motor Vehicle department, Traffic Department, Police and municipality today launched enforcement drive in Gulmarg to curb the problems of traffic Jam, wrong parking and to ensure hassle free flow of traffic for convenience of tourists.

"The enforcement drive was carried out to encourage active engagement from the community, including

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### Police Arrests Drug Peddler In Shopian

SRINAGAR, APR 18: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police arrested a drug peddler in Shopian and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A police party from Police Station Zainapora under the supervision of SSP Shopian Tanushree-IPS arrested a drug peddler during routine checkpoint at Babapora crossing. The drug peddler was carrying a nylon bag and tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended by the alert police party. From his possession, charas like substance weighing about 2Kg 150grams was recovered. He has been identified as Ghulam Mohd Dar son of Ab Raheem

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### FIR Registered Against Congress Candidate In Kathua

JAMMU, APR 18: An FIR has been registered against Congress candidate Choudhary Lal Singh under various sections of the IPC for alleged misbehaviour with a police party in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district two days ago, an official said on Thursday.

The FIR against Singh was registered at Kathua police station on Tuesday following a written complaint by Sub-Inspector Swarn Singh Manhas, in-charge police post Industrial Estate Kathua, the official said.

He said that four sections of IPC, including section 353 (obstructing the duty of a public servant by assault or use of criminal force), section 500

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### Embracing Healthy Life Style Helps In Managing Stress: Justice Tashi

HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 18: Continuing its efforts in imparting awareness among the Judicial Officers, Advocates, LADCs, Panel Lawyers, PLVs, staff members and other stakeholders regarding importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle to counter unwanted stress and ailments, the J&K Legal Services Authority in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority today organised an awareness cum sensitization programme on "Life-style Strategies and Stress Management" at District Court Complex Jammu.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who is also Administrative Judge for

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# Mehbooba Mufti And Mian Altaf File Nomination Papers For Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha Seat

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 18: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti and National Conference (NC) leader Mian Altaf on Thursday filed nomination papers for the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat.

This has virtually set the stage



for a direct fight between NC and PDP- which till recently were constituents of the Opposition INDIA alliance.

While Ghulam Nabi Azad, Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party, has decided not to contest from the constituency, the BJP has yet not

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

# IGP Kashmir Asks Officers To Enhance Anti-Terrorist Operations To Neutralize The Remaining Threats

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 18: The Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone V K Birdi on Thursday directed the district heads of police to analyze and reassess the existing strategies to prevent any potential terror



incidents.

The directions were issued by IGP while chairing a meeting to review the necessary security arrangements put in place for the smooth and successful conduct of upcoming elections.

The meeting was attended

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

# Braving All Odds, Polling Parties Reach Their Destinations

HT News Network

DESSA (DODA), APR 18: Braving all odds including heavy downpour and tough terrain, polling parties along with security forces moved towards polling stations established in remote and far off areas of Udhampur-Doda parliamentary constituency.

This Kashmir News Observer (KNO) correspondent trekked alongside few polling parties in the far off Dossa area of district Doda amid heavy rain in the area due to which the trek became slippery.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), to conduct smooth and free and fair elections, Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 2637 polling stations across the constituency, of which 2,457 are situated in rural areas and 180 in urban areas, ensuring accessibility and convenience for voters from all corners of the constituency.

This constituency is spread in

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## LOK SABHA ELECTIONS-2024

### Returning Officer 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency Issues Election Notification

Last Date Of Filing Nomination Papers  
**April 25**, Scrutiny On  
**April 26**, Withdrawal By  
**April 29**, Polling On  
**May 13, 2024**

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, APR 18: Returning Officer (RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today issued Election Notification for the upcoming Parliamentary Elections-2024 in the Srinagar Constituency comprising 18 Assembly segments of Ganderbal, Srinagar, Pulwama,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Government employee placed under suspension for violating MCC

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 18: Acting tough against the violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) guidelines an employee was placed under suspension by the authorities in Srinagar today.

The order issued in this regard reads that "one Government employee namely Javid Ahmad Sofi working in SKICC has been found violating the MCC guidelines by participating and facilitating the political party meetings".

The order further reads that 'the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

# 16.23 Lakh Voters Eligible To Vote In Udhampur Constituency Today

HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 18: The Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency is all set to go to polls in the first phase of Lok Sabha election on Friday, with a total of 16.23 lakh voters, including 8.45 lakh male and 7.77 lakh female, were eligible to exercise their franchise.

"Among the total electorate, around 23,637 persons are

with disability besides 403 persons above 100 years of age who have been enrolled to participate in the electoral process", said Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer, PK Pole in an official communiqué.

He said that around 2,637 polling stations are completely ready for first phase of the Lok Sabha polls to be held across five districts of Kathua, Udhampur, Kishtwar,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

# J&K Govt To Literate 3.5 Lakh Adults Through New India Literacy Programme In 2024-25 Fiscal Year

Accreditation of Eight colleges, Completion of five newly established colleges among Plans

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 18: In a bid to enhance education and infrastructure, the Jammu and Kashmir government will literate 3.5 lakh adults through New India Literacy Programme in 2024-25 Fiscal Year.

Apart from this, the govt has array of initiatives which are set to be implemented in the fiscal year 2024-25 to uplift schools, colleges, and educational standards across the Union Territory.

As per the official document available with the Kashmir News Service



The New India LITERACY Programme

(KNS), under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, schools from primary to senior secondary levels will receive annual grants from 5,000 to 20,000

for the purchase of books, a move aimed at improving access to quality education and enriching the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

**LG Sinha.....**

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce and Mining Department; Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, Public Works (R&B); HoDs and senior officials. (UNI)

**Rain Lash.....**

also received from Tulail, Gurez Valley Razdan top, Sadhna Pass, and Sinthan Top bringing down the temperatures and disrupting normal life, said an independent forecaster, Kashmir Weather.

It was still raining in most parts of the plains and snowing on higher reaches over Jammu and Kashmir when this report was filed.

Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Thursday predicted widespread rain and light snow over higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

The MeT office said the weather will generally remain cloudy with light to moderate rain and light snow over higher reaches at most places coupled with thunder, and lighting from today evening to late night Friday.

The weather is very likely to remain generally dry from April 21 to April 25 with afternoon thundershower activity can't be ruled out as there is the possibility of light rain with thunder at many places during April 26 and 27.

The day and night temperatures improved in Kashmir valley and were recorded above normal during the past 24 hours.

The minimum temperature recorded at Srinagar during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday at 12.5 degrees Celsius against the 9.4 degrees Celsius. It was 4.6 degrees Celsius above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 7.2 degrees Celsius against the 2.1 degrees Celsius the previous night and it was 3.8 degrees Celsius above normal for the south Kashmir's tourist spot. It also received 0.4mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours, the MeT office said.

Kupwara had a low of 10.9 degrees Celsius against 6.2 degrees Celsius recorded a day ago and it was 4.1 degrees Celsius above normal for the frontier north Kashmir district.

Gulmarg settled at 3.2 degrees Celsius against the 1.6 degrees Celsius on the previous night and it was 0.9 degrees Celsius above normal for the ski resort of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. The ski resort also received 0.2mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours, the MeT office said. (UNI)

**Embracing.....**

district Jammu and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, was the chief guest on the occasion. He was received by Jatinder Singh Jambwal, 3rd Additional District & Sessions Judge, Jammu also holding the charge of Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA, Jammu) along with other senior judicial officers, Vikram Sharma, Bar President and his team.

It may be recalled that the J&K Legal Services Authority on the directions of Chief Justice, N. Kotiswar Singh, organised similar programmes in the recent past for the jail staff and inmates of Central Jail Kot Bawal and District Jail Ambphalla Jammu to ensure overall physical and mental wellbeing of prisoners and those who are guarding them.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, in his address, applauded the efforts of J&K Legal Services Authority in organizing this innovative awareness programmes. He underlined the significance of embracing a healthy lifestyle, not only to boost work efficiency but also to manage stress, prevalent in today's society due to various factors like environmental pollution, adulterated and unhygienic food besides lifestyle diseases. He urged upon all the participants to prioritize their own health and the health of their family members, as this would significantly reduce stress levels. He highlighted that maintaining a good health and a stress-free state is essential for delivering peak performance in one's professional life. He emphasized that the techniques demonstrated today by the distinguished Resource Person, if incorporated into one's daily routine, have the potential to lead to a healthier and more serene existence.

In an engaging and informative Audio-Visual presentation, Dr. T. R. Raina, Former Professor and Head of the Department of Blood Transfusion Medicine, as well as Programme Director at the Advanced Yoga Center, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, GMC Jammu, provided an in-depth analysis of the prevalent stress-related challenges faced by individuals in today's fast-paced world. His discourse delved into the innumerable ways in which stress manifests within the human body and psyche, and the consequential impact it has on one's personal and professional life.

Dr. Raina, leveraging his extensive experience and knowledge in both medical science and yogic practices, elucidated the profound benefits of integrating yoga into daily routines as a holistic approach to combat stress. He expounded on specific yogic techniques that can be adopted by individuals of all ages and professions to foster mental clarity, emotional stability, and physical well-being.

Furthermore, Dr. Raina highlighted the often-overlooked aspect of dietary influences on mental health, drawing attention to the detrimental effects of consuming impure and adulterated food. He emphasized the significance of maintaining a diet rich in natural and unprocessed foods to support a healthy mind and body, thereby reducing stress levels.

Those who were present during the program included Bala Jyoti, Special Judge (CBI) Jammu, Y. P.

Bourney, Director, J&K Judicial Academy Jammu, T. K Raina, Special Judge (Anti-Corruption) Jammu, Rajiv Gupta, Member, J&K Special Tribunal Jammu, Rajinder Sapru, Registrar Rules, Rafiq Chak, Presiding Officer, Sales Tax Tribunal, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Rajni Sharma, Joint Registrar Judicial/Protocol, High Court of J&K and Ladakh besides other judicial officers, LADCs, Panel Lawyers, PLVs, Staff of Legal Services Authority and Staff of District Courts.

Smriti Sharma, Secretary, DLSA Jammu conducted the proceedings and expressed gratitude to the attendees for their active participation in the program.

**Mehbooba.....**

announced a candidate for the seat.

The last date to file the nominations in the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat is April 19

The first to file nomination papers on Thursday was influential Gujjar leader and NC candidate Mian Altaf. He was accompanied by party Vice President Omar Abdullah and General Secretary All India Congress Committee (AICC) Ghulam Ahmed Mir.

"Mian Altaf sahib is the joint candidate of INDIA bloc and he is the best candidate and we are hopeful that he wins with a huge margin from Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat," Congress leader Mir told reporters in Anantnag.

Mir said that PDP president Mehbooba Mufti contesting the polls was not a setback for the INDIA bloc.

Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah hoped that with the support of every party, the INDIA alliance candidate would win by a huge margin.

"On behalf of the party president Farooq (Abdullah) sahib, I thank Mir sb who came from Delhi leaving his busy engagements to be present here when Altaf sb filed his nomination party," Omar said.

PDP President Mehbooba Mufti accompanied by her daughter Iltija and other senior party leaders submitted her nomination papers to the Returning Officer.

Before filing her nomination, she visited the grave of her father, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, at Bijbehara in Anantnag.

"At Dara Shikoh. Missing my father the most today," she posted on social media.

After filing the nominations, Mufti appealed to people not to boycott the polls as the general elections are not about "bijli, paani, sadak" and it is to stand against the "assault" launched on "dignity, identity, land and resources" of Jammu and Kashmir after 2019.

"This is not about NC and PDP or any other party. The issue right now is that Jammu and Kashmir has been turned into an open-air prison. Today all our resources and land are being snatched from us and an attempt is being made to turn us into bonded labourers. We will not allow this to happen to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This land and jobs in this land belong to us. We will not allow the attacks on our identity," she said.

"For that, I appeal to all people of Jammu and Kashmir that they should not boycott the elections. In south Kashmir, they are trying to enforce a boycott. Their conspiracies should be exposed. Come out and vote for the candidate that you feel will raise the voice for oppressed people," she said.

Apni Party candidate Zaffar Manhas also submitted his nominations for the Anantnag Rajouri parliamentary seat.

"The public will ultimately decide the outcome of an election, and there are no big or small candidates," he said, adding people can't forget those who committed wrongs in the past 70 years. (UNI)

**IGP Kashmir.....**

by officers of Police, Intelligence agencies, CRPF, SSB, ITBP, Army & BSF including Joint Director IB Srinagar.

A police spokesman said the meeting delved into strategies aimed at safeguarding the safety and security of the general public while maintaining the integrity of the electoral process.

IGP Kashmir directed the district heads to analyze and reassess the existing strategies to prevent any potential terror incidents. The meeting emphasized the importance of revisiting and reinforcing area domination strategies to address any gap areas.

Birdi stressed the need to keep the bad elements and terrorist associates out of circulation and to neutralize their threats effectively.

He further maintained strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including guidelines for movement of security personnel across the valley, to ensure operational efficiency and safety. He reiterated to ensure a secure environment for the movement of territorial officers and security personnel to ensure their safety.

Furthermore, the range Deputy Inspector Generals of police were tasked to meticulously monitor respective areas to facilitate safe passage for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) across districts. Coordination with counterpart DIGs of CAPFs for route planning was also discussed.

Special emphasis was laid on intensifying cordon and search operations (CASOs) & generating actionable intelligence inputs, particularly in areas near highways, to counter potential threats, the spokesman said. The officers were directed to establish high-level checkpoints at entry points to Srinagar and inter-district boundaries adjoining the city to enhance security measures.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve so as to strengthen anti-terrorist operations and enhanced security measures to ensure peaceful and incident free elections. (UNI)

**Braving All.....**

five districts of Kathua, Udhampur, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar districts and consists of 18 Assembly segments including Udhampur West,

Udhampur East, Chenani and Ramnagar (SC) of Udhampur, Bani, Billawar, Basohli, Jasrota, Kathua (SC) and Hiranagar of Kathua, Inderwal, Kishtwar and Padder-Nagseni of Kishtwar, Bhadarwah, Doda and Doda West of Doda and Ramban and Banihal of Ramban.

There are 16,23,195 registered voters in Udhampur Lok Sabha seat including 8,45,283 male, 7,77,899 female and 13 transgender electors.

In hilly districts of Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar, parts of Udhampur and Kathua districts, polling parties have to trek a few kilometers to reach their destination. Most of the polling stations are near the road side but some are far away and it took three to five hours for these polling parties to reach there.

In the Dessa area, district electoral office Doda had provided mules and horses to the polling staff to ferry Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and other election related material whereas at few places polling parties had to lift the election material on their heads to reach their destination.

Talking to KNO, Tehsildar Bhagwah, Babu Ram Choudhary, who was looking after the arrangement here, said, "We have deputed 11 polling parties to upper reaches of Dessa which are five to six kilometers from Gai, the nearest road link, and provided one horse to each polling party. As it was raining today, we have covered EVMs and VVPATs to ensure that they don't face any technical issue and polling is held smoothly tomorrow."

"Once these polling parties reach their destinations, booth level officers, Lambardars and Asha workers will ensure that they get food and other material required for their smooth stay," he added.

He said that on the polling day, palanquins have been kept ready in far off areas to ferry aged voters who wanted to cast their votes in polling stations.

**Returning Officer.....**

Budgam and Shopian Districts.

The Nomination papers can be filed by contesting candidates or their proposers before Returning Officer (Deputy Commissioner) or Assistant Returning Officer (Additional Deputy Commissioner-M) at Deputy Commissioner's Office, Srinagar between 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM on any day (other than public holiday) not later than April 25, 2024 (Thursday).

The Scrutiny of the Nomination papers filed by the Candidates will take place on April, 26, 2024 (Friday) at 10:30 AM at Deputy Commissioner's Office Srinagar.

The Candidates have the option to withdraw their candidature by or before April 29, 2024 (Monday) until 03:00 PM.

The Polling day for the 2-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency is scheduled for May 13, 2024 (Monday) and the Polling will be conducted from 07:00 AM to 06:00 PM.

Later, in a Press Conference addressed in this regard, the Returning Officer (RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat informed that as many as 1743845 registered electorates are exercising their franchise in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency including 873426 male 870368 Female and about 51 Transgender.

The RO added that, the Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency comprises of 02 Assembly segments of Ganderbal District including 17-Kangan and 18-Ganderbal, 08 Assembly segments of Srinagar viz 19-Hazratbal, 20-Khanyar, 21-Habbakadal, 22-LalChowk, 23-Chanapora, 24-Zadibal, 25-Eidgah 26-Central Shaleng, 03 Assembly Segments of Budgam District viz, 29-Khansahib, 30-Char-i-Sharief and 31-Chadoora, 04 Assembly Segments of Pulwama District including 32-Pampore, 33-Tral, 34-Pulwama and 35-Rajpora and 01 Assembly segment of Shopian District viz 37-Shopian.

Similarly, Returning Officer informed that 2135 Polling Stations have been setup up at 1323 designated location across all 18 Assembly Segments of the 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency including 260 Polling Stations in two Assembly Segments of Ganderbal District, 929 Polling Stations in eight Assembly Segments of Srinagar District, 345 in three Assembly Segments of Budgam District, 479 Polling Stations in 4 Assembly Segments of Pulwama District and 122 Polling Stations in one Assembly Segments of Shopian District.

The RO also informed that Model Polling Stations have also been set up at various locations across the Parliamentary Constituency to facilitate the voters on the Poll day and welcome them to experience a festive-like environment. He added that dedicated facilities for voters including clean drinking water and ramps for persons with disabilities (PWDs) are also meticulously arranged to enhance the voting experience.

The RO urged all eligible Contesting Candidates and stakeholders to adhere to the guidelines of Election Commission of India and election schedule and procedures outlined in the Election Notification. He also appealed for active participation and cooperation of all concerned parties to ensure a free, fair and transparent election in 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

The RO also emphasized encouragement of first-time voters so that they exercise their democratic right and make the poll process more participative. He said in 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency has more than 2.0 lakh first-time voters in the 18-20 age group who are eligible to vote in the Lok Sabha Elections on May 13, 2024 in the Constituency.

**Government.....**

said employee has been placed under suspension with immediate effect."

Needful to mention that Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by Election Commission of India to provide a level playing field in favour of all political parties.

The Model Code of Conduct comes into force from the day and time the election schedule is

announced by the Election Commission of India and remains in operation till the completion of election process as per the election notification.

District Election Officer, Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi ud Din has issued instructions for strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct and dealing strictly with any violation by any employee which comes to the notice of the authorities.

**16.23 Lakh.....**

Doda and Ramban. Of these, he added that 136 polling stations are P-2 while 31 polling stations belong to P-7 to P-3 category.

Among the districts, Pole added that Kathua has 25 polling stations along the international border. In total, more than 11000 polling staff including reserve will be deployed on duty.

The communique said that the polling will be held from 7 am to 6 pm before which there will be mock poll in presence of the polling agents.

The voting will continue even after 6.00 pm, in case voters are still waiting for their turn in the polling station premises.

Every polling station will be provided with Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) besides wheel chairs will also be provided to the needy. The ballot units will have list of contesting candidates in brail script.

"Where ever required there will be separate queue for senior citizens and specially abled persons facilitating them for early voting," he added and said that additionally, there will be voter help desk, manned by concerned Booth Level Officer (BLO) to extend necessary help to the needy.

There will be 19 polling booths manned by women (also called as pink polling stations), 14 polling booths manned by specially abled persons and 17 polling booths will be looked after by youths and also in order to spread message about environmental concern, there will be 20 green polling stations, said the CEO.

Aimed to facilitate voters in identification and increase voter turnout, all voters have been provided with voter information slip with all requisite details like Polling Station name, date and time of poll, serial number of voter in the list, his full name, QR code but not the photograph of the voter, he said.

He added that hence, Voter Information Slips will not be allowed as proof of the identity of voters.

"The concerned BLOs have already distributed voter information slips among all the electorates. Also, the citizens can view details of the Polling Station, Parliamentary Constituency, and get the contact details of the Booth Level Officer, Electoral Registration Officer among other services, through Voter Helpline App (VHA). This mobile app is available on the Google Play store and Apple App Store," said Pole.

In addition to Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), 12 types of documents will also be allowed to verify a voter and allow him for voting as EPIC card is not mandatory for voting. These documents included Aadhaar Card, MGNREGA Job Card, Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office, Health Insurance Smart Card issued under scheme of Ministry of Labour, Driving License, PAN Card, Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR, Indian Passport, Pension document with photograph, Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies, Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs and Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card, issued by Union Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment.

The Voter Turnout App will be used to display estimated provisional voter turnout details of each Parliamentary Constituency entered by the RO. The media can also use the same application to capture estimated voter turnout data. Approximate voter turnout data of each phase of the elections will be displayed through this app, he said and added, "there will be two hourly reporting of voting percentage from 9.00 am to the end of poll. The concerned ARO and RO will share the data with media accordingly. Even the updated figures will be placed in voter turnout app."

Around 1440 polling stations in phase I will have CCTV cameras for live webcasting to control rooms established at District and CEO office. Besides, 200 polling stations will have two cameras, for inside and outside surveillance. Around 2100 vehicles of polling parties and sector officers will be equipped with GPS system so as to locate the vehicle and monitor movement. Also, Satellite Phones, Wireless sets and Special Runners have been put in place for about 95 polling stations which are in communication shadow areas.

In the entire Union Territory, from the date of announcement of election to till date material/ cash of around Rs 5.34 crore has been seized by various enforcing departments.

The J&K Election office is implementing Model Code of Conduct in letter and spirit by facilitating the general masses to exercise their right to vote in a free and fair manner. The public campaigning in areas of Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency has concluded on April 17 evening, allowing the voters a peaceful break from being influenced by the election campaigns.

Till date, 75 grievances have been received

on C-VIGIL app and more than 50 percent resolved in time while others are under resolution. For filing Model Code of Conduct Violation cases by the citizens, C-VIGIL app provides time stamped evidentiary proof of the Model Code of Conduct/ Expenditure Violation by empowering every citizen to click a photo or video using his or her smartphone.

Likewise, to monitor various election related activities and check model code of conduct compliance, a 24x7 working Command and Control Room has been established at CEO office, Jammu and similar mini control rooms have been set up at every DEO office.

Apart from looking for MCC violations, the Control room also has live feed of more than 55 percent polling stations and all vehicles being used for poll parties movement. (UNI)

**J&K Govt To.....**

learning experience for students of all ages.

Recognizing the importance of early childhood education in laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning, the government plans to establish 2000 kindergartens in 2024-25, it said.

Approximately 8.43 lakh elementary-level students will benefit from fortified rice meals under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme to ensure improved nutritional health among school children, it added.

It further said that 233 schools are also slated to undergo upgrades under the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India Scheme, an initiative aimed at to modernize school facilities and create conducive learning environments for students and teachers alike.

To support girl students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, the government will provide a scholarship of 5000 each under the Beti Anmol Scheme to enable access to education and empower young girls to pursue their academic aspirations, it said.

To encourage physical activity and boost a culture of sportsmanship among students across the Union Territory, 18723 schools will be equipped with sports equipment, with a financial allocation of 18.50 crore, it added.

On the higher education front, the government plans to complete the construction of five newly established colleges during the 2024-25 fiscal year, it said adding that two hostel blocks, two science blocks, and additional lecture blocks in various colleges will be finalized to enhance infrastructure and accommodate growing student populations.

Eight colleges are slated for assessment and accreditation in the 2024-25 fiscal year to ensure quality higher education opportunities for students across Jammu and Kashmir, it added. (KNS)

**Authorities.....**

pedestrians, and public transport users in promoting a culture of responsibility and adherence to traffic laws," officials said.

During the drive, the team checked hundreds of vehicles and also imposed Challans of Rs 35000 to many offenders for wrong parking and other traffic violations, they said.

As per a statement the enforcement drive was part of measures aimed to address issues such as illegal parking, traffic flow management, and pedestrian safety enhancements.

In upcoming days, such drives will be conducted twice a week to curb the menace of wrong parking and other traffic violations, it added. (UNI)

**Police Arrests.....**

Dar resident of Darbagh Wachi. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 30/2024 under section 8/20 NDPS Act was registered in Police Station Zainapora and investigation was taken up.

Community members are requested to come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers in their neighbourhood. Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt as per law.

Our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of drug menace.

**FIR Registered.....**

(punishment for defamation), section 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and section 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), were included in the FIR.

Kathua is part of the Udhampur parliamentary constituency going to polls in the first phase on Friday to seal the fate of Singh, Union Minister Jitendra Singh and 10 others.

In his complaint, the police official said that he was performing official duty along with other officials at Kalibari chowk in Kathua on April 16 during the road show of the contesting candidate when he started shouting at him and other deployed police officials with "intention to defame" them publicly.

"He has intentionally insulted us publicly, used unparliamentary language thereby causing injury to my reputation as well as to the police organisation. He also defamed, criminally intimidated, threatened me and caused obstruction in the discharge of lawful duties. So, it is, therefore, requested that cognizance in this regard may kindly be taken," the official said, quoting the FIR.

The official said that a case was accordingly registered and investigation entrusted to Sub-Inspector Sudershan Kumar. (Agencies)





# Man-Animal Conflict: Div Com Kashmir calls for coordinated efforts to tackle attacks

Emphasizes on filtration of information regarding sighting of wild animals to curb spread of rumours

**SRINAGAR, APR 18:** In the wake of rising incidents of Man-Animal conflict, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today impressed on orchestrating well-knitted strategy and making coordinated efforts to tackle the attacks by wild animals especially by leopards and bears across the valley.

In this regard, Div Com convened a meeting which was attended by the Additional Chief Conservator of Forests, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, Regional Wildlife Warden and Conservators of forests.

While elaborating a slew of measures to address the issue, Div Com emphasized on filtration of information regarding sighting

of wild animals to curb rumors and disinformation so the wildlife teams remain focused and the resources do not get overburdened. It was given that out of total calls received by the wildlife department regarding the presence of leopard or other animals, ninety percent calls were based on rumors.

Stressing on adopting a proactive approach, Div Com exhorted on creating a centralized helpline number for receiving the first hand information for quick response without wasting time.

He also directed the Wildlife Department for capacity building of staff and augmentation of logistics in all districts besides operation of Control



Rooms at District Level.

To ensure that wildlife teams execute their assignments in a professional manner, Div Com asked SSPs to help the teams by providing police personnel when required for crowd management and safety of civilians.

He called for building close coordination between district administrations, Police, Wild-

life Department, Community Leaders, Lumberdars, Chowkidars and shepherds for processing the factual information and capturing the wild animals.

Bidhuri directed concerned officers of Urban Local Bodies to keep the areas clean from litter and dispose-off waste in a proper manner so the stray dogs do not get attracted to the



habitations. It was informed that the leopards prey on stray dogs for food because of which they visit to habitations.

Meanwhile, Div Com asked people not to leave their children alone at pre-dawn and post-dusk durations and advised them to move in groups in the rural areas where wild animal sighting has been confirmed.

It was informed that the Wildlife Department is using cages to trap wild animals by luring them through baits and is installing camera traps besides conducting drone surveys to catch the wild beasts.

The contact numbers of Control Rooms of Wildlife Department: Budgam & Hokersar area, 9906614750; Control Room

Dachigam, 9622518733; Control Room Shar Shali Khrew 9541622620; Control Room Ganderbal (Wayil) 8825088526; Divisional Office near SDH Hospital, Sopore 8899012071; Dragmulla (Water Khani) Kupwara 9103630305; Tangmarg near Police Station 7006602656, Bazi-pora Ajas Bandipora 9796171787; Baramulla near Mini-Secretariat 9622455153, Handwara 8899952303, Langate 9797278014; Bijbehara 9596177461; Srigufwara 7889844194; Saliya Aishmuqam 9906538932; Kulgam 9622913391; Achabal 7006979446; Lower Munda 8491842464; Hirpora Shopian 9906967104; Tral 9797112912 and Khangund 8082197452.

## Persistent Joinings Reflect Public Approval Of PC's Vision: Sajad Lone

**SRINAGAR, APR 18:** J&K Peoples Conference, under the dynamic leadership of Party President Sajad Lone, experienced a monumental surge in support as hundreds of influential socio-political activists & dozens of families from various areas of Kupwara & Baramulla districts pledged allegiance to the party.

The prominent leaders besides party President present at these crucial joining ceremonies included Party Vice President Abdul Gani Vakeel, Senior Leader and former MLA Adv. Bashir Ahmad Dar, VC DDC Kupwara Haji Farooq, State Secretary Farooq Chi Chi, Abdul Ahad Kashmiri, Constituency Incharge Sheikh Ashiq Hussain, among others.

Lone extended a warm welcome to all the new members, attributing the ongoing surge in memberships to the triumph of public consensus over divisive political strategies.

"These joinings signify a voluntary commitment from individuals across various backgrounds, united in their pursuit of positive change in J&K. Their decision reflects an endorsement of Peoples Conference's vision and strategy to steer the region away from developmental stagnation towards economic prosperity and a dignified existence," he said.

In the first joining event, multitude of renowned socio-political activists belonging to diverse ideologies from Machil area were given a warm welcome into the party, among whom the notables included former BDC Machil Ghulam Rasool, Block President Mohammad Jamal Shiekh, former ZEO Ghulam Ahmad Lone, former Sarpanches Ghulam Nabi Khan, Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Ghulam Rasool Shiekh, Abdul Rashid Khan and Habibullah Haray. Moreover, Retired Master Abdul Wahab Lone and Haji Bashir Ahmad Tantray also joined the party cadres.

In another ceremony, former Sarpanch Mohammad Qasim Bhat & Fareed Ahmad Bhat from Trathpora area of Handwara Constituency led a significant joining of over 70 families from diverse political backgrounds pledging their allegiance to JKPC.

Furthermore, many prominent individuals from Jundinambal, Rafiabad joined the party rank and file expressing their appreciation & praise for the party leadership and its ideals. In another joining event, Saifuddin Phafda from Shumryal, accompanied by scores of other prominent workers, Sarpanchs and Ward members, also aligned themselves with PC.

Lastly, many individuals from Kupwara town, belonging to various political spectrums embraced the JKPC exhibiting their dedicated support towards the party.

The newly joined members commended the party leadership for its effective roadmap & public-centric ideology, citing it as their primary motivation for the joining. They pledged to contribute even more towards achieving the collective party objectives, which they emphasized are aligned with the best interests of the general public.

## Centre Stands Behind those who represents aspiration of people of J&K: Bukhari

**SRINAGAR, APR 18:** Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari on Thursday said that New Delhi stands behind those who represent the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"One who represents the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, India stands behind him and those who do not have no place in India", Bukhari told media persons in Srinagar.

He said that he stands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and there is no denying about this fact.

"New Delhi which abrogated Article 370 has given me land and

jobs protection and restoration of statehood is in my core agenda and will get that from them too", the Apni Party President said.

Bukhari said they have remained steadfast in truthful politics for the last five years.

"If peace prevails in Jammu and Kashmir it is because of the people who are in front of you", he said.

He said the Apni Party faced criticism and abuses in 2020 but they remained steadfast in truthful politics.

"Don't you see outpouring for the Apni Party everywhere, it is just for its truthfulness", he said.



Bukhari recalled that the Home Minister said that political

leaders who drenched Jammu and Kashmir in troubles have to be exposed.

"Someone had said that truth and reconciliation commission. I am saying that we will hold a commission on truth to expose the truth about who and by whom the people were killed in Jammu and Kashmir.", the Apni Party Chief said.

"The people of Srinagar have fed up with the lies. Today they are feeling one man has got standing who speaks bitter, but truth. Those who are against our ideology will be surprised when the results are declared on June 4",

Bukhari affirmed.

Asked about National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah contesting the LS elections from Baramulla, he said "Omar belongs to the people of the city as I, but why did he leave the people of the city when they were in dire need of him".

He said Omar might have assessed that he would not win the elections from Srinagar. "If one loses the election people still remain their own", Bukhari said and added "the biggest punishment in democracy is when the people decide by ballots". (UNI)

## No surprise after Azad decides not to contest LS elections from Anantnag- Rajouri seat: Omar

**SRINAGAR, APR 18:** National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on Thursday said there was no surprise that Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) President Ghulam Nabi Azad won't contest polls. He said they were aware that Azad was not going to contest the Parliament elections.

"We were aware that he will not be contesting the elections", Omar told reporters after NC candidate Mian Altaf submitted his nomination papers for the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary seat at the office of the Returning Officer in Anantnag on Thursday.

"When he (Azad) did not contest elec-

tions from Doda how could he contest from Anantnag," Omar said.

DPAP on Wednesday announced that Azad won't be contesting from Lok Sabha polls from Anantnag and announced Mohammad Saleem Parray as the party candidate for the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat. The NC leader said that now Azad's party has fielded a candidate to show his presence and it will be made known by the public in polls how much support they have.

Asked that BJP has not yet fielded any candidate for the Anantnag- Rajouri parliamentary seat, Omar said, "There are still 24 hours to submit the nomina-

tions...let us see if they could get any person to field".

Reacting to Home Minister Amit Shah's statement wherein he accused NC and the Peoples Democratic Party of promoting militants, Omar said that "everybody knows where the gun culture came to Kashmir". The National Conference has been the biggest victim of gun culture. "More than 3000- National Conference leaders, workers, and legislators became the target of the gun. If the Home Minister does not see the sacrifice of these people or ignores them, I could not say anything about that...that is very unfortunate", he added. (UNI)

### Youth found dead under suspicious circumstances in Pulwama

**SRINAGAR, APR 18:** A 22-year-old youth was found dead under suspicious circumstances in Palpora area of Pulwama on Thursday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the youth identified as Junaid Ahmed Mir (22) son of Nazir Ahmed Mir of Palpora Nownagri was found dead in Palpora under suspicious circumstances. He said that cognisance has been taken and inquest proceedings under section 174 Crpc has been started.

## Srinagar Boat Tragedy: Athwas Group of Humanity sets up relief camp in Gandbal amid rescue operation

**SRINAGAR, APR 18:** Athwas Group of Humanity has set up a camp in the Gandbal area of Srinagar, where they are distributing food items and water to rescuers and other people who have come from distant places to assist in the ongoing operations.

Speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News

Observer (KNO), Rouf Elahi, Chairperson of Athwas Group of Humanity, said that immediately after the tragic incident, their NGO established a camp to provide food items to those in need. He highlighted the importance of maintaining humanity by supporting and aiding those involved in rescue efforts and those affected by the

tragedy. Elahi said the camp will continue as long as the rescue operation continues in the area.

Sheikh Firdous, Chairman of the Rahmatan Lil Alameen Foundation, has also been actively participating in the camp's activities and contributing to the rescue operation for the past three days.

### مرحوم قریشی صاحب کی گیارہویں برسی

گیارہ برس قبل آج یعنی 16 اپریل کو ہم نے ہمارا سابق چمن گیارہویں برسی منائی اور خوشنہن من سے ہمیشہ ہمیشہ کے لئے بھجھ کر گئے اسی روز ہمارے والد مرحوم محمد یوسف قریشی صاحب ہمیں ہمیشہ کے لئے داغ مفارقت دے گئے۔ آپ کو ہم سے بھجھنے عیار مائل ہو گئے لیکن آج بھی ابراہیمس ہو رہا ہے کہ آپ ہمارے پاس ہی نہیں بلکہ ہماری ہر سانس میں ہے۔ یہاں اور ہماری زندگیوں میں محسوس ہوتے رہے ہیں۔ آپ کی یاد میں ہماری سانسوں میں رہتی ہے اور ہر سانس آپ کی یاد دلاتی ہے۔ آپ کو ہم سے بھجھنے سے اتنے برس ضرور ہو گئے ہیں لیکن ایک لمحے کے لئے بھی آپ ہم سے بھجھنے نہیں لگتے۔ ہماری گردنوں میں ہمیں آپ کی آہٹ ضرور مٹانی دے رہی ہے اور ہمارے دل آپ کی یاد میں باہر دھرتے رہتے ہیں۔ آپ کی شفقت کو بھولنے کا سوال ہی پیدا نہیں کیونکہ آپ نہ صرف شفقت کا تھے بلکہ ایک مشورہ دینے والے میٹر بھی ہمدرد ساتھی بھی تھے۔ ساتھ ہی ساتھ آپ زندگی بھر ہمارے لئے رہبر بھی رہے۔ آپ ایک منٹ کے لئے بھی ہم سے ہدایت نہیں دیں اور گھر کے ہر فرد کا دل و دماغ گیارہ برس بعد بھی اس بات کو ماننے کے لئے تیار نہیں کہ آپ ہمارے بیٹے ہیں۔ آپ کی زندگی کا ایک لمحہ ہمارے لئے باعث شعل راہ ہیں اور آپ کی دی ہوئی نصیحت اور مشورے ہمارے لئے انمول تحفے ہیں۔ جو ہم زندگی بھر محفوظ رکھیں گے اور اسی خواہنے کو بنیاد بنا کر ہم اپنی زندگی گزارنے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔ آپ نے اپنی زندگی میں ہمیں وہ سبق دیا ہے جو کبھی بھی ذہن سے مٹ نہیں سکے گا۔ لانا آپ کو جو رحمت میں جگہ دے اور جنت الفردوس عطا کریں۔

بذریعہ

## Congress would have sacrificed one seat for PDP: G.A Mir

**SRINAGAR, APR 18:** Former Congress Chief and senior leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Thursday said that unlike NC, Congress would have sacrificed one seat for PDP President Mehbooba Mufti had the Anantnag- Rajouri seat been with the Congress party.

A tussle between PDP and NC was earlier witnessed when latter remained adamant on contesting on all three LS seats of Kashmir, compelling the PDP to breakaway from pre-poll alliance and field its own candidates in the fray.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) correspondent, Mir while accompanying Mian Altaf—the NC candidate, who submitted his nomination papers in Anantnag on Thursday, told reporters that the PDP President Mehbooba Mufti contesting the elections is not a setback for the India alliance. "NC and PDP had to fight together for this seat. Because it was understood from the beginning that the constituent parties of the India Alliance would field candidates on those seats, where they

had won in the 2019 elections. The valley seats were last won by NC. In such a situation, this decision had to be taken only between PDP and NC. Had this seat been with the Congress, we would have been willing to sacrifice it to accommodate the PDP. Now Mian Altaf is the candidate of India Alliance," Mir told reporters.

The former JKPC Chief alleged that the BJP has tried to use one or the other religious issue in every election so that it does not have to answer for its governance. "This is

the first election in which the BJP has not been successful in its strategy of diverting from the real issues facing the country," Mir said.

Accompanying Mian Altaf, senior Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir expressed confidence in the India Alliance's prospects. "People are tired of BJP's policies. This election is a direct contest between the India Alliance and the NDA. There's no room for other parties. J&K voters are politically astute; Congress candidates will secure both Jammu seats," Mir said.



### ازنائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ فٹ کلاس چرار شریف بہ اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف محمد شفیع کو بیعتوان: درخواست منجانب شاکت اکرم ولد محمد اکرم و گے ساکنہ کنڈر چرار شریف بغرض یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) بحق دختر نابالغ آمنہ جان

#### اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل شاکت اکرم ولد محمد آمنہ جان کی کارروائی و تحقیقات ہے۔ رپورٹ چوکیدار علاقہ سے عیان ہے کہ سائل کی دختر آمنہ جان مورخہ 24-02-2021 کو پیدا ہوئی ہے۔ اب سائل کو اپنی دختر کی یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو اس بارے میں کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر عدالت حذا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

### اسلامک ایجوکیشنل انسٹیٹیوٹ بگروڈ گام

ہر غاس و عامر کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ ہوش اشرف ڈنڈہ محمد اشرف شیخ سکینہ بڈگام جس کا داخلہ ہمارے اسکول میں 01/12/2017 کو ہوا تھا اور والدین کی نقلی کی وجہ سے اسکول ریکارڈ میں اسکا یوم پیدائش 04/03/2012 ہوتی ہے جبکہ اسکی اصلی یوم پیدائش 16/04/2008 سے اور اسکی درجہ کرنی مطلوب ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو اس بارے میں کوئی اعتراض ہوگا تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر پری پرنسپل اسلامک ایجوکیشنل انسٹیٹیوٹ بگروڈ گام کے ساتھ رابطہ کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشتر

پرنسپل اسلامک ایجوکیشنل انسٹیٹیوٹ بگروڈ گام

### اطلاع عام

مے The Silver cloud Home stay کی رجسٹریشن محکم نورازم پہلنگام میں کرنی مطلوب ہے۔ اگر اس بارے میں کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اسسٹنڈ ڈیپوٹورازم پہلنگام کے دفتر میں پیش کرے یا اس فون نمبر رابطہ کرے 7006265428 بعد معاد کوئی اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشتر

زینہ بانود دختر علی محمد گانانی ساکنہ پہلنگام

### اطلاع عام

مے The Destination Home stay کی رجسٹریشن محکم نورازم پہلنگام میں کرنی مطلوب ہے۔ اگر اس بارے میں کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اسسٹنڈ ڈیپوٹورازم پہلنگام کے دفتر میں پیش کرے یا اس فون نمبر رابطہ کرے 7006580997 بعد معاد کوئی اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشتر

المشتر غلام نبی ولد علی محمد گانانی ساکنہ پہلنگام

### ازنائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ فٹ کلاس چرار شریف بہ اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف محمد شفیع کو بیعتوان: درخواست منجانب حراج الدین بٹ ولد محمد عبدالغذبت ساکنہ چرار شریف بغرض یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) بحق پسر نابالغ طعیب حراج

#### اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل حراج الدین بٹ دفتر حذا میں زیر کارروائی و تحقیقات ہے۔ رپورٹ چوکیدار علاقہ سے عیان ہے کہ سائل کا پسر طعیب حراج مورخہ 19-03-2016 کو پیدا ہوا ہے۔ اب سائل کو اپنے پسر کی یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو اس بارے میں کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر عدالت حذا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost Date of Birth (DOB) certificate of my Son Sheikh Murtaza Mumtaz. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Registrar office BB Cantt board office srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

NAME..SHEIKH MUMTAZ AHMAD F/O SHEIKH MURTAZA AHMAD R/O FRASTHAR KREERI.

### از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کریری

مضمون: درخواست منجانب سائل غلام احمد تاترے ولد عبدالرشید تاترے ساکنہ ٹھنڈہ تحصیل کریری ضلع باہمولہ بمراد حصول EWS certificate بحق حارس احمد تاترے

#### اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں کارنات درخواست دفتر حذا میں زیر کارروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں رپورٹ پڑھی معلقہ سے طلب کیا گیا ہے جسے عیان ہوتا ہے کہ سائل کی کنڈر سالانہ آمدنی 68000 تک ہے سائل دھرم کورکا منتقل باشندہ ہے سائل کے افراد نامدرجہ ذیل ہے

- 1.... غلام احمد تاترے ولد عبدالرشید تاترے 40 سال مردوری
- 2.... عائشہ بیگم زوجہ غلام احمد تاترے 45 سال گھریلو کام
- 3.... عاقرت احمد تاترے ولد غلام احمد تاترے 19 سال زیر تعلیم
- 4.... قررت لعین دختر غلام احمد تاترے 16 سال زیر تعلیم

اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد میں بتایا گیا ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر شہرہ ابرہہ کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر دفتر حذا میں پیش کریں معاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار کریری

### ازنائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ فٹ کلاس چرار شریف بہ اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف محمد شفیع کو بیعتوان: درخواست منجانب محمد شفیع ہرہ ولد محمد فضل ہرہ ساکنہ تیلہ سرہ تحصیل چرار شریف بغرض یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) بحق پسر نابالغ شاہد شفیع ہرہ

#### اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل محمد شفیع ہرہ دفتر حذا میں زیر کارروائی و تحقیقات ہے۔ رپورٹ چوکیدار علاقہ سے عیان ہے کہ سائل کا پسر شاہد شفیع مورخہ 04-05-2012 کو پیدا ہوا ہے۔ اب سائل کو اپنے پسر کی یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو اس بارے میں کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر عدالت حذا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

### ازنائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ فٹ کلاس چرار شریف بہ اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف محمد شفیع کو بیعتوان: درخواست منجانب باسط اکبر ولد محمد اکبر لاوے ساکنہ ہرہ و ڈھلون فٹلی پورہ تحصیل چرار شریف بغرض یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) بحق خود باسط اکبر

#### اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل باسط اکبر ولد محمد اکبر لاوے والدہ کا نام ساجد بانو ساکنہ ہرہ و ڈھلون فٹلی پورہ دفتر حذا میں زیر کارروائی و تحقیقات ہے۔ رپورٹ چوکیدار علاقہ سے عیان ہے کہ سائل کا باسط اکبر مورخہ 07-03-2012 کو پیدا ہوا ہے۔ اب سائل کو اپنی یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو اس بارے میں کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر عدالت حذا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

### ازنائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ فٹ کلاس چرار شریف بہ اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف محمد شفیع کو بیعتوان: درخواست منجانب عبدالرشید ڈار ولد امد اللہ ڈار ساکنہ کنڈر تحصیل چرار شریف بمراد عطانی یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) بحق دختر نابالغ آمیر رشید

#### اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل عبدالرشید ڈار دفتر حذا میں زیر کارروائی و تحقیقات ہے۔ رپورٹ چوکیدار علاقہ سے عیان ہے کہ سائل کی دختر آمیر رشید مورخہ 18-07-2007 کو پیدا ہوئی ہے۔ اب سائل کو اپنی دختر کی یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو اس بارے میں کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر عدالت حذا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for my Discharge certificate of Class 10Th session 2003 under roll no 39, admission no 755. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Headmaster Govt Girls High School Kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

NAME..SUMMAI JAN D/O \*GH HASSAN DAR R/O DOLIPORA \*KREERI

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

I, Mohammad Shafi Pandow S/o Habib ullah pandow R/o Dangerpora Tailbal P/a Baran pather Batamaloo Srinagar do hereby affirms and solemnly declares on oath as: I Mohammad Shafi Pandow doesn't have any objection if Masarat w/o Mohammad Shafi Bhat will avail the electric connection bearing consumer ID 0201030007443 of my leaved residential house situated at dangerpora tailbal Srinagar on her name.

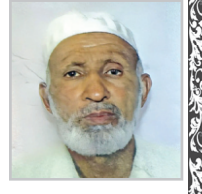
Mohammad Shafi Pandow R/o Dangerpora Tailbal P/a Baran pather batamaloo Srinagar Tl: +917006589873

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

**Accountant Assistant**  
We're hiring an Accounts Assistant to join our growing team.  
Responsibilities: Assist with accounts payable and receivable functions Perform bank reconciliations and maintain financial records.  
**Qualification:** Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or related field. Proficiency in MS Office in general and MS Excel in particular and accuracy in accounting software's. Excellent communication and organizational skills with ability to work effectively in a team environment.  
If you're ready to take the next step in your career, submit your resume and cover letter to alliedconstruction@gmail.com. Join us in shaping our financial future! Equal Opportunity Employer.  
**Allied Construction Co.**  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Chinar Commercial Complex The Band, Residency Road, Srinagar 190061 | +91-9419801022 | +91-9149659689

### SAD DEMISE

With profound grief, we inform the demise of Gulam Mohammad Bhat S/o Late Abdul Khaliq Bhat R/O H.No. 729, Lane No. 12 Iqbal Colony, Sonwar Srinagar, who left for heavenly abode on 16 April 2024 (Tuesday). May Almighty Allah bless him with Jannat-ul-Firdous and endurance to the family to bear this irreparable loss. No Rasm-e-Chahrum will be held. Mourning will be observed till Friday Only.



**Bereaved Family**  
Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, Fayaz Ahmad Bhat (Sons)  
7780822248, 9682331709

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

### ازنائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ فٹ کلاس چرار شریف بہ اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف محمد شفیع کو بیعتوان: درخواست منجانب محمد آسن ڈار ولد علی محمد ڈار ساکنہ ہرہ و ڈھلون فٹلی پورہ تحصیل چرار شریف بغرض یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) بحق پسر نابالغ ارسلان آسن

#### اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل محمد آسن ڈار دفتر حذا میں زیر کارروائی و تحقیقات ہے۔ رپورٹ چوکیدار علاقہ سے عیان ہے کہ سائل کا پسر ارسلان آسن مورخہ 08/05/2011 کو پیدا ہوا ہے۔ اب سائل کو اپنے پسر کی یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو اس بارے میں کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر عدالت حذا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

### ازنائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ فٹ کلاس چرار شریف بہ اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف محمد شفیع کو بیعتوان: درخواست منجانب بنیر احمد کھار ولد علی محمد کھار ساکنہ چرار شریف بغرض یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) بحق پسر نابالغ محمد عاقب کھار

#### اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل بنیر احمد کھار دفتر حذا میں زیر کارروائی و تحقیقات ہے۔ رپورٹ چوکیدار علاقہ سے عیان ہے کہ سائل کا پسر محمد عاقب کھار مورخہ 13/07/2019 کو پیدا ہوا ہے۔ اب سائل کو اپنے پسر کی یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو اس بارے میں کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر عدالت حذا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

### ازنائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ فٹ کلاس چرار شریف بہ اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف محمد شفیع کو بیعتوان: درخواست منجانب ریاض احمد گوجرام ولد انت الدین گوجرام ساکنہ برائے پتھری تحصیل چرار شریف بغرض یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) بحق پسران عزیز احمد گوجرام و زبیر احمد گوجرام و دختر عزیز بیجان

#### اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

عاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل ریاض احمد گوجرام دفتر حذا میں زیر کارروائی و تحقیقات ہے۔ رپورٹ چوکیدار علاقہ سے عیان ہے کہ سائل کے پسران عزیز احمد گوجرام مورخہ 23/03/2017 و زبیر احمد گوجرام مورخہ 03/08/2018 و دختر عزیز بیجان مورخہ 18/01/2011 کو پیدا ہوئے ہیں۔ اب سائل کو اپنے پسران و دختر کی یوم پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ (D O B) نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو اس بارے میں کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر عدالت حذا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف

**Hiring**  
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ORTHODONTIST  
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Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division- Ganderbal. Email: Edgbl123@gmail.com Tel No. 0194-2416237 Fax No. 0194-2416237

### e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Electric Division- Ganderbal invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Electrical Contractors/firms for as under:

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)
1	providing/installation/testing/commissioning of LED Street lights , mini Gen Sets and other illumination as a backup power supply arrangements along Y- Junction to Sangam Down and Sangam Top yatra Track Including Additional Security Installations to facilitate SANJY-2024	8.53

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	12.04.2024; 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	12.04.2024; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date and time of bidding queries/clarifications	12.04.2024; 16:00 Hrs to 26.04.2024; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	13.04.2024; 16:00 Hrs to 26.04.2024; 16:00 Hrs
v)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	27.04.2024 at 13:00 Hrs
vi)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
vii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement System website <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a>
viii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred Only) (Non-refundable) [Treasury Receipt/Demand Draft]
ix)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.17052/= (Rupees Nineteen Thousand six Hundred Seventy only)

DIPK-NB-74/24  
Apr 18 2024

Executive Engineer  
Electric Division  
Ganderbal



# All the 348 poll parties dispatched and reached their designated stations safely in Ramban district

HT News Network

Ramban, April 18: Today, all 348 polling teams have securely and successfully reached their designated polling stations under the meticulous supervision of District Election Officer, Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary, for smooth conduct of Lok Sabha 2024 elections in Ramban district as a part of 04-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, going to poll tomorrow on 19th April 2024, from 7am to 6pm.

The District Election Officer informed, "Polling parties equipped with EVMs and necessary materials, accompanied by dedicated security personnel have reached their destinations safely, despite moderate rainfall in the district". Over 2.19 lakh registered voters are empowered to exercise their right to vote in the district, he added.

To ensure the integrity of the electoral process, around 2211 polling staff and 2539 personnel from CAPF and Police have been deployed across the



district including Zonal Magistrates, Sector Magistrates, Micro Observers, Zonal Officers, and Sector Officers. 12 special/ model polling booths including Pink polling stations, Youth Polling stations, PwD Polling Stations, operated by women, youth, and Persons with Disabilities (PwD) employees respectively, have been established across the district.

Comprehensive arrangements for transportation, accommodation, and

other essential facilities have been meticulously put in place in both assembly segments, AC-54 Ramban and AC-55 Banihal, catering to the needs of all polling staff and security personnel. The District Administration has reaffirmed the provision of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at all 348 polling stations across the district, ensuring Voter's convenience remains a top priority. Following the flagging off of polling parties from

the Election Strong Room Ramban, the District Election Officer reiterated the importance of voter participation in shaping the government and strengthening democracy. As the polling teams embark on their mission to conduct the General Election Lok Sabha 2024 in Ramban district, DEO Ramban urged voters to recognize their pivotal role in this democratic process. With the assurance of foolproof security and comprehensive arrangements in place, the DEO encouraged all eligible voters to exercise their right to vote on April 19, 2024, and contribute towards building a stronger, more inclusive society. Later, DEO and the Deputy Inspector General of Police, DKR Range, Shridhar Patil, along with SSP, Anuj Kumar, ADC, Varunjeet Singh Charak, and other senior officers visited Pink Polling Station, at Maitra-A and inspected election arrangements. The DEO appreciated the arrangements made by the concerned staff in polling stations, especially in pink and other special booths.

## LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024: DEO Kupwara reviews preparations for SVEEP activities, upcoming plantation drive in all polling stations of the district

HT News Network



Kupwara, April 18; In order to review the progress of preparations being put in place with regard to mega plantation drive and SVEEP activities across 607 Polling stations of the three forest divisions of the district on 20 and 21, April across all polling stations of the district, a meeting was today held under the Chairpersonship of the District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan, at DC Office Complex Kupwara.

The DEO took a detailed appraisal from all DFOs about the arrangements being made regarding mega plantation drive and SVEEP activities across 607 Polling stations of the three forest divisions of the district on 20 April and 21 April (Saturday and Sunday).

On the occasion, the DEO stressed upon DFOs and Nodal Officer SVEEP to formulate a comprehensive action plan for mega plantation drive on 20 April, 21 April in consultation with concerned AROs and ensure arrangement of requisite plant saplings as 20 to 25 plant saplings of plants preferably apricot saplings and other fruit based plant saplings preferably apricot plant to give a blossom effect and semblance will be planted in the premises of each polling stations during the upcoming plantation drive to incorporate sustainable practices to minimize environmental impacts. The DEO directed the Nodal Officer SVEEP/CEO Kupwara to collaborate with DFOs regarding mega plantation drives and activate VAFs (village level awareness groups and BAGs (Booth level awareness groups) preferably Teachers, AWWs, ASHAs to encourage sustainable practices of forest conservation and ecological balance. The DEO directed DFOs to organize trekking camps for students at various locations of Kupwara district in consultation with concerned AROs and Nodal Officer, SVEEP to motivate young voters for maximum voting turnout in the district. The DEO directed all the concerned to work with utmost coordination to make mega plantation drive and SVEEP activities successful and impactful. On the occasion, chair was apprised that six polling stations of 6 different assembly segments of the district including 36-Teetwal (Government Higher Secondary School Teetwal), 33-Dardehara (Government Higher Secondary School Lone Harai, (64 Salkote (Government Boys Middle School Salkote), 83- Margi Diver-A (Govt. Girls Middle School Margi Diver), 100-Wadipora-A (Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School). The DEO directed all the concerned to work with utmost coordination to make mega plantation drive and SVEEP activities successful and impactful. On the occasion, chair was apprised that six polling stations.

## Kotwal Interacts With Disabled Persons At Bhallessa, Bonjwah

Amir Iqbal Khan

Ajit Singh Kotwal, Vice President J&K Saksham visited different remote areas of Districts of Doda and Kishtwar. During his tour, he visited Alni, Gangotta, Tipri, Seru, Tara pur of Kahaljogasar; Smai, Thaloran, Butt market, Changa, Soti, Dudwar, Gwari, Gandow, Amrit Pura, Jakyas, Bamoo, Dugrun, Kahara and Piakul falling in district Doda and Nagni, Pashalla, Kewah villages of Kishtwar District to aware Divyangjan about the power of their vote.

On this occasion, he said that many of Specially abled persons are still unregistered. "Under such situation, how can they cast their votes as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India," he said. "You should fulfill your duty by casting votes and elect the representative of your choice who can help you in solving the problems and grievances," Demanding facilitative means for these persons, he further added.

## IUST launches Masters program in Philosophy

HT News Network

Awantipora, April 18 - Enriching the basket of academic courses, IUST shall also offer Masters program in philosophy from the Academic Session 2024-25.

In this regard, Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo said that the programme has been curated to align with the NEP 2020 wherein offering of courses in languages, philosophy etc. have been emphasized for achieving the objectives of multidisciplinary learning. He said that a balance in the course offerings is aimed whereby besides programmes in frontier areas of AI/ML, entrepreneurship development, courses in traditional knowledge systems such as AYUSH, Philosophy, Indian languages, etc. shall be offered to help students and scholars to gain holistic perspectives of learning.

Prof A H Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, said that the course shall be offered through Averoes Center for Philosophical Studies and shall be open to students from all branches. Regarding the program, Prof. Lily Want, Director, Averoes Centre for Philosophical Studies said that the major thrust of the program shall be on the distinctive character of philosophical inquiry, debates in metaphysics, epistemology, logic and ethics. She said that while UG program in Philosophy was being offered in Kashmir but students who wanted to pursue advanced studies in the subject often faced the challenge of limited options within the valley.

## No question of leaving Apni Party, says Chowdhary Zulfiqar Ali

HT News Network



Srinagar, Apr 18(KNS): Apni Party senior leader and former minister Chowdhary Zulfiqar Ali Thursday refuted rumors of joining BJP, saying there is no question of leaving Apni Party. "We have formed Apni Party, and I am true soldier of it and will continue to be the part of it. Why I should leave Apni Party," he told KNS over phone.

He said there are some vested interested elements who float such rumors for running their political agenda. "I was in Delhi for some personal engagements. It doesn't mean whoever will visit Delhi is going to join BJP," he said. Rumors were rife that Apni Party senior leader Chowdhary Zulfiqar Ali is likely to join BJP ahead of Lok Sabha elections. (KNS)

## DC Kupwara reviews progress of ABPS under MGNREGA

HT News Network

Kupwara, April 18: The District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of Officers of Rural Development Department (RDD) and heads of different Banks operating in the district to review the progress of ABPS (Aadhaar-based Payment System) under MGNREGA.

While reviewing the performance indicators of ABPS/NPCI mapping under MGNREGA, the District Development Commissioner asked all the concerned officers to gear up their efforts to achieve the projected targets, so that the objective of the scheme is achieved. Evaluating the ABPS mapping issues, Ms.



Ayushi Sudan directed Branch Heads of banks to facilitate the process so that 100% progress under ABPS/NACH is achieved under MGNREGA.

She directed the BDOs to ensure all requisite documents are sent to banks.

Earlier, the Assistant Commissioner Development Kupwara, Muzaffar

Ahmad Sheikh while apprising the chair said that out of total 1,57,000 MGNREGA job card holders, the Aadhar authentication of 99.8% job card holders, has been done. NCPL/ABPS mapping of 88% has been completed while as NCPL/ABPS mapping of 18,500 job cards of the district are pending. Meeting was attended

by LDM, Mehboob Illahi Khan, Cluster Head Kupwara, Mehboob Shadab, BDOs of the district and other concerned.

Pertinently, APBS is helping the genuine beneficiaries to get their due payment and is instrumental in weeding out fake beneficiaries. Mahatma Gandhi NREGS has opted for Aadhaar Based Payment Bridge system. Earlier, the Assistant Commissioner Development Kupwara, Muzaffar Ahmad Sheikh while apprising the chair said that out of total 1,57,000 MGNREGA job card holders, the Aadhar authentication of 99.8% job card holders, has been done. NCPL/ABPS mapping of 88% has been completed while as NCPL/ABPS mapping of 18,500 job cards of the district are pending.

## Ajaz Jan urges people to Support National Conference Candidates to combat BJP's misrule

HT News Network

POONCH 18th April: In a resounding call to action, Ajaz Jan, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Youth, urged people of district Poonch to rally behind the National Conference candidate to counter the misrule of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the country.

The senior NC leader was speaking during a



significant gathering held today, where he emphasized the imperative need to address the challenges posed by the BJP's governance. The event, which convened at Jan's residence in Kamsar, Poonch,

drew a large turnout of dedicated workers and supporters. Highlighting the importance of collective action, Jan welcomed Ch. Mohd Akram, Former MLA of Surankote, who recently joined the

National Conference, into the party fold.

Ajaz Jan and Akram, along with other leaders present, articulated a clear directive for all party workers to mobilize and strategize for the upcoming elections. With an eye on achieving success for Mian Altaf, the designated candidate, discussions revolved around the concerted efforts required to ensure victory in the upcoming electoral battle.

The senior NC leaders

## Congress maligning constitutional office of ECI by spreading canard about EVMs: Chugh

HT News Network

Chandigarh, April 18 (KNS): BJP national general secretary Tarun chugh today said the Opposition, particularly the Congress, was deliberately spreading a disinformation campaign against the EVM to mislead and hoodwink the people of the country.

Chugh said since the Congress and the other Opposition parties are facing an overwhelming defeat in the coming Lok Sabha election they are trying to digress the mind of the people to flimsy issues.

Chugh said the opposition parties

are not only trying to fool people but are also trying to insult the constitutional office of the Election Commission of India.

He said it was a blatant effort of the Congress to malign the office of the ECI without realising that same EVMs have won the Congress win in Karnataka, Telangana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and other states, besides AAP winning in Delhi.

The promises and the achievements highlighted in the "sankalp patra" released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi have rattled them and now they are floating jittery expressions. (KNS)

## LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024: Impressive SVEEP activities by students at famous fresh Water body Mawar captivates, motivated young voters, other participants

HT News Network

KUPWARA, April 18: To encourage citizens especially first time voters to exercise their right to vote and ensure maximum voter turnout, during upcoming Lok Sabha elections, District administration Kupwara today organized voter awareness programmes under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative at different polling booths in the district.

Mega voter awareness programmes were organised today at Langate assembly segments which included Govt. Degree college, Langate, Grils Higher secondary Langate and at Dand kadal Mawar the famous fresh water body which were aligned to world Heritage day. April 18, each year is celebrated as World Heritage Day which is also known as the Interna-



tional Day for Monuments and Sites. It aims to raise awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage and the efforts required to protect and conserve it for future generations. Students raised awareness on the banks of famous fresh water body Mawar by organizing different

activities which included "MY RIGHT MY VOTE" by arranging boulders. A plantation drive was organised a on the occasion to raise awareness regarding maximum voter turnout out in the district during upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Impressive Voter awareness events at Langate

were presided over by ADC Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather and occasion was graced with the presence of ARO Langate/ ACP Kupwara, Dr. Mudasir Ahmad, ASP Handwara, Principal GDC Langate, Exen R&B Handwara, Exen Irrigation & Flood Control, Dy. CEO, SDPO Handwara, EO Handwara / Langate, Tehsildar Handwara, Tehsildar Langate, SHO Handwara, students and staff of different educational institutions of the Langate. Meanwhile, Mega Voter Awareness rallies under the SVEEP initiative were organized at other polling booths of Kupwara District. The concerned Zonal Education Officers and Principals of the Institutions presided over the Voter Awareness Programmes in their concerned jurisdictions. The awareness programmes witnessed the active participation of general public Teachers and students, besides, officials from various departments, first time voters, community leaders.

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EDITORIAL

## Festival of democracy is on

As the Lok Sabha elections are commencing from today all eyes are on June 4 when the counting of votes will be taken up across the country. More than 97 crore people are eligible to vote in these elections and polls will be held for 543 votes across the length and breadth of the country. All preparations have been completed and on hopes that elections would be conducted in a free and fair manner.

The Election Commission of India has termed the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as a festival of democracy. The Commission is ensuring that nobody misses out on the right to franchise and there is maximum participation of people in these elections. Campaigns have been carried out in the different states and union territories so as to ensure that first time voters are encouraged to come out and cast their votes.

In addition to this special arrangements have been made for the special people and elderly citizens. For the first time in the history of Indian elections the concept of vote at home has been introduced according to which elderly people above the age of 85 years have been given the opportunity to vote at their respective homes. This move has been hailed by one and all irrespective of their political ideologies.

The first time voters are very enthusiastic to cast their votes and they want to play their part in the nation building. This time around the Election Commission of India has set up different facilities at the polling booths and no stone has been left unturned in this regard. Since long queues of people are seen at the polling booths it is important that adequate number of washrooms is made available.

This would ensure that the voters cast their votes without any problem and the festival of democracy is celebrated in the real sense. At the same time it is also important that drinking water facilities are made available for both the voters as well as the personnel who are posted at the polling booths. In the past complaints have come about lack of arrangements by the polling staff posted at the polling booths.

Since elections are held after every five years it is important that there is maximum participation of people in the same. It has been observed that people living in the countryside generally cast their votes while as those living in the cities and towns are not serious about this constitutional obligation. This trend needs to be changed and all the people should come out and cast their votes so that there is maximum possible participation.

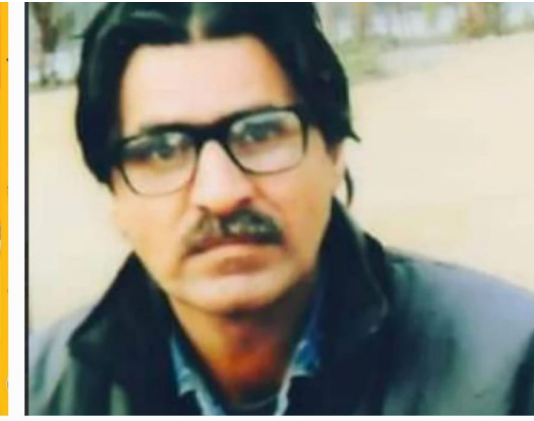
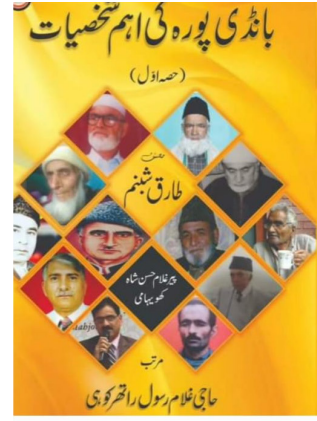


■ Dr Basharat Khan

Tariq Ahmed Sheikh, also known as Tariq Shabnam, emerges as a literary force from the idyllic village of Ajas in Bandipora, Kashmir, India. Renowned for his ability to craft captivating short stories and insightful essays, Tariq's literary journey is deeply entrenched in the vibrant cultural heritage of his homeland.

Having pursued horticulture studies at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Kashmir, Tariq seamlessly intertwines his passion for writing with his professional commitments in the Department of Horticulture. His influence transcends the boundaries of his individual works, evident in his leadership roles within literary organizations like the Wular Urdu Literary Forum and the Urdu Academy Jammu and Kashmir.

Among Tariq's notable works are Gumshuda Daulat a collection of short stories and the compilation of short stories "Muntakhib Afsanay". His literary works have graced the pages of prestigious publications such as "Shiraza Urdu," "Nageena International, Urdu Academy (Srinagar, Kashmir), "Lafz Lafz" (Anantnag, Kashmir), "Tariyaq Mumbai," "Alami Miras" (Pune), "Tehreek Adab" (Banaras, India), "Nida-e-Gul" (Pakistan), "Beeswin Sadi" (New Delhi), "Sukhan Shanasi" (Frankfurt, Germany), "Salis" Mongir Bahar, "Koh Maran" Srinagar Srinagar International Story Forum, Roznama Kashmir Azmai, Siri Nagar, Roznama Chitan, Tameel Irshad, Information and Aftab, Srinagar Kashmir, Lazawal (Jammu),



National Organization (Ranchi), and New Theory (Ajeen, Bhopal) resonating with readers across the spectrum from Mumbai to the serene valleys of Kashmir.

In 2020, Tariq Shabnam unveiled his inaugural Urdu short story collection, "Gumshuda Daulat," marking his entry into the literary realm with a flourish of storytelling finesse. With a portfolio spanning newspapers, magazines, and the digital domain, Tariq Shabnam has earned acclaim for his narrative dexterity and incisive insights.

In the realm of creative expression, consistency breeds refinement. Each story in "Gumshuda Daulat" reflects Shabnam's journey of exploration and growth. Despite his academic background in science and his professional path in agriculture, his foray into Urdu literature serves as a testament to his diverse influences and eclectic sensibilities.

Within the collection 27 stories, each a vignette of human experience delicately rendered with empathy and depth. Through his prose, Shabnam beckons readers to navigate the complexities of contemporary life, grappling with themes that resonate with universal truths.

At the core of "Gumshuda Daulat" lies a profound engagement with societal realities, particularly within the backdrop of Kashmir's tumultuous landscape. Shabnam's narratives serve as a mirror to our collective consciousness, urging introspection on the intricacies of human relationships and the dynamics of power.

Beyond mere storytelling, "Gumshuda Daulat" stands as a testament to his literary creativity to enlighten, challenge, and inspire. As readers delve into its pages, they are prompted to confront the complexities of life and ponder the essence of human resilience

in the face of adversity.

Renowned fiction writer, and critic Dr. Reyaz Tawheedi Kashmiri praising his creative approach to societal issues. He cites examples like "Dahshat Ke Saiye," highlighting the threats faced by rural Kashmiris from wild animals. DR Reyaz Tawheedi applauds the imaginative depth seen in "Gumshuda Daulat," where characters like "General Tom" seeks solutions amidst human progress. However, he cites technical flaws, such as inconsistencies in "Sunehra Phanda." Despite this, he lauds Tariq Shabnam's storytelling for its emotional impact and lasting impression on readers. The book features insights from Noor Shah and Dr. Ashraf Asari.

Mushtaq Barq, another renowned writer, translator, provides profound insights into Tariq Shabnam's literary achievements in the "Personality of the Week" column. Mushtaq Barq acknowledges Shabnam's distinguished standing as both a fiction writer and essayist. He admires Shabnam's adeptness in selecting themes that resonate deeply with readers and skillfully portraying internal conflicts, as evidenced in stories like "Messiah Ki Talash." Barq's commentary serves to underscore Shabnam's significant contributions to Urdu literature and his widespread recognition among readers.

Qaiser Ul Haq a research Scholar commends Tariq Shabnam's storytelling finesse, highlighting standout narratives like "Kahani Ka Almiya," "Dahshat Ke Saiye," "Eitbar," "Pashemani," "Chadhte Sooraj Ke Pujari," "Maseeha Ki Talash," "Sunehra Phanda," and others within Shabnam's collection. He acknowledges Shabnam's adeptness in weaving intricate stories and sustaining narrative impacts.

Despite Shabnam's agricultural background, his literary contributions continue to garner praise, reflecting his unwavering dedication to crafting captivating stories rich in artistic depth.

The author is a writer, columnist, and critic. He can be reached at [chogalwriter76@gmail.com](mailto:chogalwriter76@gmail.com) / [Devnalwhispers.in](https://www.facebook.com/Devnalwhispers.in)

# FUELING EQUITY THROUGH INNOVATION: A PATH TO COMBAT INCOME INEQUALITY



■ By Mool Raj

Income inequality stands as one of the most pressing challenges of our time, exacerbating social divisions and hindering economic progress. Despite concerted efforts to address this issue, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. In this context, incentivizing innovation emerges as a potent strategy not only to spur economic growth but also to combat income inequality by creating opportunities for all individuals to thrive.

At its core, innovation embodies the spirit of progress and possibility, offering novel solutions to age-old problems. By fostering an environment conducive to innovation, societies can unlock untapped potential and harness the talents of diverse individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic background. However, for innovation to serve as a catalyst for equity, it must be accessible to all, breaking

down barriers that impede participation and stifling inequality at its roots.

Incentivizing innovation begins with nurturing a culture of creativity and entrepreneurship from an early age. Investing in education that prioritizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and technological literacy equips individuals with the skills necessary to innovate and adapt in an ever-changing landscape. Moreover, initiatives aimed at increasing diversity and inclusivity in STEM fields and entrepreneurship not only broaden the talent pool but also challenge entrenched disparities by providing marginalized communities with opportunities for economic empowerment.

Furthermore, providing support and resources for aspiring innovators, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds, is essential in leveling the playing field. Accessible funding mechanisms, mentorship programs, and incubators tailored to the needs of marginalized entrepreneurs can help bridge the gap between aspiration and achievement, enabling individuals to transform their innovative ideas into tangible reality. By democratizing access to resources and networks, these initiatives empower individuals to overcome systemic barriers and unleash their creative potential.

Incentives for innovation also extend to the realm of policy and



governance, where forward-thinking regulations and incentives can spur inclusive economic growth. Policies that prioritize research and development, incentivize

investment in emerging industries, and foster a supportive ecosystem for startups create an environment conducive to innovation-driven entrepreneurship. Moreover, mea-

sures such as progressive taxation, social safety nets, and targeted subsidies can redistribute wealth more equitably, ensuring that the benefits of innovation are shared

by all members of society.

Crucially, incentivizing innovation as a means to combat income inequality requires a shift in mindset from competition to collaboration. Rather than viewing innovation as a zero-sum game, where success for some necessarily entails failure for others, societies must embrace a collective vision of progress that prioritizes shared prosperity. Collaborative innovation ecosystems that encourage knowledge sharing, cross-sector partnerships, and open innovation platforms not only drive technological advancement but also foster a culture of solidarity and mutual support.

In conclusion, incentivizing innovation represents a potent strategy for combating income inequality by unlocking human potential, fostering economic empowerment, and promoting shared prosperity. By nurturing a culture of creativity, investing in education and infrastructure, and enacting inclusive policies, societies can harness the transformative power of innovation to build a more equitable future for all. Ultimately, the pursuit of equity through innovation is not only an economic imperative but also a moral imperative, reflecting our commitment to justice, fairness, and human dignity.

The author is a columnist and freelance writer

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# Tagore as Gurudev

The Oxford English dictionary defines 'Guru' as a "Hindu spiritual teacher. Also, each of the ten first leaders of the Sikh religion. The word comes from Sanskrit meaning 'weighty', 'grave', hence 'elder, teacher". It must be the third sentence of this definition that must have irked Rabindranath Tagore.

■ Sanjukta Dasgupta

The Oxford English dictionary defines 'Guru' as a "Hindu spiritual teacher. Also, each of the ten first leaders of the Sikh religion. The word comes from Sanskrit meaning 'weighty', 'grave', hence 'elder, teacher". It must be the third sentence of this definition that must have irked Rabindranath Tagore.

To be 'weighty, grave', 'elder' and 'teacher' were signifiers that were antithetical to the spontaneous sparkle of his empathetic temperament. The Guru on a pedestal was anathema to Tagore; lifelong he had tried to reach out to all and sundry through the stream of his writings in multiple genres, poems, songs, fiction, plays, essays among others.

So Tagore was neither being unduly modest nor deceptive when he stated in a letter written in 1931, "The position of a Guru, is not mine, not mine..." Also in the widely celebrated long essay Religion Of Man Tagore wrote, "I am neither a scholar nor a philosopher". Recently when Rabindranath Tagore's Santiniketan - the heritage abode of peace - was going through unprecedented anarchy, all Tagore aficionados were not just shocked but felt gored and scarred. However, human civilization has repeatedly proved that truth temporarily defeated is greater than evil triumphant.

As an Old English poem stated reassuringly - 'that passed away so may this'. Though the exit of the former Vice Chancellor did not take place at lightning speed, the exit is now a reality and it is now time to repair and rebuild all the tangibles and intangibles that had been fractured and destroyed during the stormy session of bizarre unreason. During this period of turmoil, the poet's contribution in setting up Visva Bharati University as its founder, administrator, financier seemed to be a matter of inconsequence.

Tagore was both the chancellor and vice chancellor of his beloved Visva Bharati, though he was never known to have used such designations. Though widely addressed as Gurudev both in Bengal and elsewhere, Tagore was always sceptical about being regarded as gurudev, an appellation that could be synonymous with teacher, professor, Principal, Director or Chancellor.

In his outstanding short narrative Tota Kahini (The Parrot's Tale) Tagore unequivocally underscored that the pedagogue's dense and abstract discourse had the potential of killing the intellectual curiosity in young impressionable minds. He had emphatically stated that he had always run away from rote learning and cut and dried pedagogy and therefore addressing him as Gurudev seemed to him both absurd and inappropriate in terms of the image he endeavoured to create for himself. In fact, Gurus implying pompous pedagogues have been the butt of ridicule in many of his writings.

In a letter addressed to Ajit Kumar Chakravorty, published in Pravasi 1931, Tagore had categorically rejected the adulations showered on him as a prophet, sage and spiritual mystic. He emphasized in no uncertain terms that he was a poet and it was as a poet that he wished to be assessed. Tagore wrote in his letter, "The upward limit to a poet's claim can be in embraces - pranam (worshipful adulation) however ostracizes the poet; I have no doubts that I am nothing but a poet."

I want to be there in your heart's domain... do not install me in the wrong seat... I am a friend of all of you, I'll give some, I'll take some too... The position of a Guru, is not mine, not mine, not mine. I haven't learnt anything, nor can I teach others". Poet and scholar Sankha Ghosh cited several such assertions by Tagore in his Letters (Chithi Patra) where the poet stated categorically, "I am not a guru, I am a poet" (23 April 1926). In a more explanatory mode the poet wrote in a letter on 17 April 1926, "I am neither a guru nor a political leader - I am a poet, I create in various modes and rhythms - these are my creative toys, this is my job."

If people derive pleasure from these creations, I feel fulfilled. That's my dharma, my commitment, and I take total responsibility about maintaining my dharma. Those who have expected political wisdom and labour related skills from me, they have made a mistake, yet in their disappointment they have accused me of betrayal of trust." In three other letters cited by Sankha Ghosh the poet reiterates the same desire to distance himself from the expectation that he should play the role of Gurudev.

In a humorous tone Tagore writes on 30 April 1931, "I have always kept a wide distance from gurus, escaping from institutions is my habit - ultimately I myself will posture as a guru moshai, there cannot be anything more ridiculous." On 17 November 1932, the poet wrote, "I am certain that the designation of guru is not for me. I can feel, I can express that is my swadharna, my commitment to my selfhood."

I have spoken in your letter and it has seemed like an instruction. Expressing is part of my nature, but preaching is not." (ibid 156). Earlier, in 1921 in several letters Tagore had struggled with his aversion to being described as a mystic sage, a guru. So in a letter written on 24 February 1921, he remarked, "Why should I be anything else but a poet? Was I not born a music-maker?" There is a sense of despair in the letter written two days later on 26 February 1921: "Pushing the wheelbarrows of propaganda from continent to continent - is this going to be the climax of a poet's life? It seems to me like an evil dream from which I occasionally wake up in the dead of night..."

In a more analytical mode, almost identifying a split-image of himself, Tagore writes in a letter dated 7 July 1921, "In this modern age of the philosophy of relativity I suppose I cannot claim for myself the quality of absolute poetdom. It is evident that the poet in me changes its features and spontaneously assumes the character of the preacher with the change of its position." Tagore's emphatic desire to distance himself from the elevated position of a spiritual messiah when particularly the West looked upon him as an inspirational guru is indeed significant. In fact, even the rest of India other than Bengal regarded him as a cultural prophet. That gained further encouragement from his being hailed as Gurudev by both Gandhi and Nehru, the two icons of political activism in colonial India. His sartorial choice of a free flowing robe also contributed to the image of a religious preacher.

This was often compared to the sartorial style of a Rabbi that perhaps in a way did not make him seem very alienated and ethnic to Western eyes. In fact, on many occasions he had been compared to a Christ-figure, understandably much older but having a similar

physical image. Essentially however, Tagore was a poet-philosopher, a litterateur and songster, in other words he had the disposition of the artist, for whom fixity of location and fixed ideas could only lead to a feeling of being entrapped and suffocated.

It is his effusive bohemian spirit not unlike the bauls of rural Bengal, the wandering minstrels who played and performed with words and music, that exuded a homegrown philosophy of love, patience and tolerance towards the world and all its creatures. It is an undeniable fact that Tagore primarily desired to remain a poet in the hearts and memories of the people. This has been reiterated by him on many occasions. In an interesting if not ironic episode, on 19 March 1923, Tagore was given a huge reception in Karachi where the assembled crowds cheered him chanting, "Mahatma Gandhi ki Jai".

Hailing Mahatma Gandhi as Tagore's inspiration or mistaking him to be Gandhi himself or his alter ego may not have pleased the sensitive poet, according to Tagore's biographer Prasantakumar Paul. Tagore delivered a very long speech in that function wherein he pointedly stressed that he was a poet and wanted to reach out to the people as a friend.

He said, "As a poet I claim comradeship. I feel this is not my seat. I wish to be on the same level with you. When you ask me to come before you, you should share with me and do not banish me to a higher platform. I have come to you as your comrade. I wish I could sing to you in the language of your own or that which is my own. This is the barrier between you and me and it hurts me". However, it was the inimitable Nirad C Chaudhuri who in his chapter on Tagore, included in his book Thy Hand, Great Anarch!, summed up to a certain extent the difference between Tagore as a cult figure worshipped in blind faith as a Gurudev and a "hagiographical legend in Bengal", instead of focusing on a complete, critical assessment of Tagore's contribution to literature and culture and as a thinker and public intellectual.

The writer is Professor and former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Calcutta University

## UTOPIA REBORN

"PROGRESS IS REALIZATION OF UTOPIA", SO BELIEVED OSCAR WILDE. UTOPIA IS NO FLIGHT OF INFANCY; IT IS THE ROADMAP OF THE FUTURE AND THE LIFE BLOOD OF SOCIETAL CHANGE.

■ Ash Narain Roy

"Progress is realization of utopia", so believed Oscar Wilde. Utopia is no flight of infancy; it is the roadmap of the future and the lifeblood of societal change. Modern ideas like shared living, equality, justice and a yearning for a better society have influenced both philosophers and political leaders. Utopia may be universal but in the contemporary world, Latin America is considered to be a fertile ground for utopian projects, movements and experiments. For many, utopia is a process of making a better tomorrow.

Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes writes, "we have clung to utopia because we were founded as a utopia." Memory of a good society "lies in our origins and also at the end of the road, as a fulfilment of our hopes." Hundreds of social, political and ideational experiments are currently under way in Latin America. Political leaders never fight shy of experimenting with both progressive and regressive development strategies, even untested new policy measures. Civil societies and ordinary citizens are experimenting with alternative forms of governance creating both public and institutional spaces for democratising and deepening democracy.

There may be failures and frustrations but that has not stopped them from imagining alternative utopias. Latin America is building what Zapatistas of Mexico would say, "un mundo donde quepan muchos mundos" (a world where many worlds fit in). Latin American thought leaders have made seminal contributions in the fields of inquiry like resistance and liberation movements, race, pedagogy, coloniality and indigenous epistemologies. To a great extent, the political space that the new left in Latin America has created is largely the product of utopian visions and its new imaginations.

The new left in its various avatars has drawn inspiration from the core premise of Marx, "things don't have to be the way they are." Globally, the left is facing a dilemma that American cultural critic Greil Marcus sums up beautifully: "your own history was lying in pieces on the ground, and you had the choice of picking up the pieces or passing them by." Only



the Latin American left seems to have picked up the pieces and the result is there for all to see. The origin of the Latin American left is distinctly Latin American.

One has seen the demise of the 'Bourbon' left and the 'doctrinaire' left and the 'infantile' left too has been buried. It is not easy to define the new left. The left is a combination of small parties and groups, trade unions, social movements and indigenous organisations. Its emphasis is inclusion and reform, not revolution. The centrality of democracy is another feature. It is democracy deepening, not mere democracy's expansion.

F L Schuster and Armando Bartra therefore suggest that we speak of 'lefts' in the plural. New terms have emerged such as 'liberal left', 'interventionist left' and 'extractivist left'. The new left has

different historical trajectories and ideological nuances than the conventional left. The multiplicity of social bases and political agendas are specific to individual countries. Hence, while the new left is radically different from the traditional left, ideological diversities and historical trajectories of the new left themselves are different.

Just as Hugo Chavez was no Fidel Castro, Chile's Gabriel Boric is no Lula. In pure academic terms, describing recent and current Latin American leaders and parties as "leftist" doesn't pass a rigorous analysis. The worldviews and policies of left leaders are so different from one another. Years before getting elected president of Colombia, Gustavo Petro praised Hugo Chavez as a "great Latin American leader".

However, while campaigning for

president, Petro dismissed Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro as a "very conservative member of the most regressive factions in global politics." Lula too has been critical of Maduro saying he supports free elections in Venezuela so that it can see "the alteration of power." President of Chile Gabriel Boric too has been critical of Maduro's leadership. He said that the "policy of exclusion doesn't offer authentic or lasting results." Mexico's Zapatista movement is the most iconic antiglobalisation guerrilla movement.

It acquired global attention as it swept the battle for public opinion. The Zapatista movement became the lighthouse that illuminated the left. The Zapatistas have a lot to offer to the left. They don't reject democracy but they define it in the indigenous cosmological term. They have

offered a decolonial definition, "we are all equals because we are all different." In their limited areas of influence in Chiapas, they have practiced the 'socialisation of power' by extending it to all spheres of social existence like schools, hospitals, communities and other enterprises."

Today many of the old ideas have lost their marbles. In the present age, the magic of ideas is fizzling out. The left needs better stories. The age of theory is coming to its end. Both liberalism and socialism are going through a phase of decline and exhaustion. The post-fascist universe is expanding. There is a social meltdown. The new left in Latin America knows that 'how to do nothing' is not an option. The left's appeal has grown thanks to the support it has garnered from social movements, political-cultural struggles and their fight against social stigmas.

The Zapatista revolution has been a movement of movements. In their own small way, they have proved that other models are possible. As Peter Rosset, Maria Elena Martinez-Torres and Luis Hernandez-Navarro contend, "the Zapatistas gave the new movements new forms, methods and ideologies with roots in the history of subaltern indigenous communities." The left needs new stories to tell and new cards to play. It must give voice to stories that have been silenced. Democracy is broken today.

The traditional leftist thinking that the working class was the agent of change and that the intellectuals were the radical agency of change has no traction. Where is the working class today, much less their faith in the revolutionary mission? The proletariat is now the new precariat. The universities no longer prepare students for citizenship.

There was once romance with revolution. Today, 'Love is a Revolution' as the title of Renee Watson's book suggests. It will be naive, if not foolish, to expect that the students of elite universities will transform into a new working class as the University of California, Berkeley, once actually believed.

The writer is director, Institute of Social Sciences, Delhi



# Supreme Court Asks If Voters Can Get VVPAT Slip, Poll Body Flags Big Risk

HT News Network

New Delhi: There has to be sanctity in the electoral process, the Supreme Court told the Election Commission of India today, asking the poll body to explain in detail the steps followed to ensure free and fair polls. "This is (an) electoral process. There has to be sanctity. Let nobody have apprehension that something which is expected is not being done," the bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta said. The court is hearing petitions seeking cross-verification of votes cast on Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) with paper slips generated through the VVPAT system. Senior Advocate Maninder Singh, the poll body's counsel, and poll officials are in court to respond to the questions. Appearing for one of the petitioners, Advocate Nizam Pasha said a voter should be allowed to take the VVPAT slip after he votes and deposit it in a ballot box. When Justice Khanna asked if such a process won't affect the voter's privacy, Mr Pasha replied, "Voter privacy cannot be used to defeat



voter's rights." Advocate Prashant Bhushan then said that the light on the VVPAT machine should remain on at all times -- it now stays on for seven seconds. "One possible solution is if they can't change glass at this stage, at least the light should remain on at all times, so I can see the slip cutting and falling. No privacy will be compromised." Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde, also appearing for petitioners, said there should be a separate audit to add greater credibility to the counting process. Mr Bhushan cited a report on mock

poll results in Kerala, where extra votes were recorded for the BJP. The court asked Mr Singh to explain this. The Election Commission later said that the report is completely false. In its explanation of the voting process, the poll body said the EVM's control unit commands the VVPAT unit to print its paper slip. This slip is visible to the voter for seven seconds before it falls into a sealed box, Mr Singh said. The machines are checked before polling in the presence of engineers, it added. When the court asked if there was

any software in the VVPAT printer, the poll body replied in the negative. "There is a 4 megabyte flash memory in every PAT which stores symbols. The returning officer prepares electronic ballot, which is loaded into the symbol loading unit. It will give a serial number, name of the candidate and symbol. Nothing is preloaded. It's not data, it's image format." When the court asked how many Symbol Loading Units are created for the polling, a poll body official replied, "Normally one in a constituency. It's in custody of Returning Officer till conclusion of poll." The court then asked if this unit is sealed to ensure no tampering, the Election Commission replied that no such process is currently in place. The Election Commission told the court that all voting machines pass through the mock poll process. "Candidates are allowed to pick up randomly 5 per cent machines. The process is repeated on poll day. VVPAT slips are taken out, counted and matched. All machines have different kind of paper seals. At the time when a machine arrives for counting, seal number can be checked," an official said.

# AAP Claims "Conspiracy To Kill" Amid "Arvind Kejriwal Eating Mangoes" Row

HT News Network



New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party leader Atishi Thursday evening alleged a "conspiracy to kill Arvind Kejriwal", claiming the Delhi Chief Minister - a Type 2 diabetes patient - "is not being given insulin despite repeated requests". The charge came hours after the Enforcement Directorate - which arrested Mr Kejriwal in the alleged liquor policy scam on March 21 - opposed a request for a video consult with his regular doctor. "If the BJP is not able to defeat Arvind Kejriwal in three elections (three Delhi Assembly elections) then a plan is being hatched to kill him by keeping him in jail," Atishi said. "Everyone knows Arvind Kejriwal is a patient of severe diabetes... he has been suffering for the past 30 years. To keep his sugar level under control he takes 54 units of insulin daily," she continued. "Ask any doctor... only someone who has such severe diabetes

takes this much insulin. That is why the court allowed Arvind Kejriwal to eat home-cooked food... and eat food prescribed by the doctor." "But today the Bharatiya Janata Party, through its affiliate (the ED), is trying to spoil the health of Kejriwal... Today the ED lied repeatedly," she said, hitting back at the agency's arguments in the court. Opposing the plea for a consult with his doctor, the ED argued the Chief Minister endangered his life by regularly eating mangoes and sweets, and drank tea with sugar, none of which is advised for diabetics. "(Mr Kejriwal's) diet chart has mangoes and sweets on it... it has been placed before the court. (Mr Kejriwal) is regularly consuming foods not permitted for any diabetic patient," the agency's lawyer said. Atishi hit back at that argument, saying, "This is a complete lie... Kejriwalji is allowed to tea and sweets with a sweetener (as) prescribed by the doctor. This is a low-calorie sweetener given to diabetics." She also slammed the ED over claims Mr Kejriwal is eating bananas to increase his blood sugar level, which reportedly fell to dangerously low 46 Mg when he was first incarcerated. "I would like to say to the ED... talk to any diabetes doctor. Patients are told to keep banana and some kind.

# Space Will Cast Its Influence On Air, Maritime, Land Domains: Defence Chief

HT News Network

New Delhi: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan has said he believes that space is already an established domain of warfare and it will "cast its influence" on air, maritime and land domains.

In a recorded video address that was played at the inaugural session of the three-day Indian Defence Space Symposium in Delhi on Thursday, General Chauhan also said that "space diplomacy" will soon become a reality.

In his address, General Chauhan underlined the role of space evolving in future warfare.

"I will touch upon where we are and where we need to go," he said.

"Space is called the final frontier. Space is infinite in its expanse and is also expanding. Like all other frontiers, it is difficult to define its edges very clearly. Mankind has a long way to go to unravel the mystery of space. India wants to be part of that journey," the CDS said.

He also spoke about the four "cosmonauts under training" as part of India's "Gaganyaan" programme.



"Space is also referred to as an emerging domain of warfare. I believe that it is already an established domain of warfare. My belief is premised on the fast-paced development occurring in this particular domain," he said. Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Chairman Samir V Kamat and other senior officers of the armed forces attended the event held at the Manekshaw Centre in Delhi. General Chauhan said the history of warfare has "taught us that in any war, the initial contest generally occurs in a new domain".

# Woman, Part Of Indian Crew On Board Ship Seized By Iran, Returns Home

HT News Network

New Delhi: An Indian sailor who was among the crew of a cargo ship that was seized by Iran's Revolutionary Guards near the Strait of Hormuz on April 13 has safely reached home, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said today.

"With the concerted efforts of the Indian mission in Tehran and the Iranian government, Indian deck cadet Ann Tessa Joseph from Thrissur, Kerala, who was among the Indian crew members of container vessel MSC Aries, has landed safely at Cochin International Airport," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

"The Indian mission in Tehran remains seized of the matter and is in touch with the remaining 16 Indian crew members of the container vessel. The crew members are in good health and in contact with their family members in India," the MEA said in a statement.

Indian deck cadet Ms. Ann Tessa Joseph from Thrissur, Kerala, a member of the crew on ves-



sel MSC Aries returned home today. @India\_in\_Iran, with the support of Iranian authorities, facilitated her return. Mission is in touch with Iranian side to ensure the well being of the... pic.twitter.com/iE932Y4F4y

The government said India is also in touch with Iranian authorities for ensuring the well-

being of the remaining crew members. Earlier, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had spoken to his Iranian counterpart Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian on the matter. After Ms Joseph landed in India, Mr Jaishankar in a post on X said, "Great work, Indian mission in Iran. Glad that Ms Ann Tessa Joseph has reached home. Modi ki guaranteee always delivers, at home or abroad."

The seizure of the vessel comes amid heightened tensions in the Middle East. There are apprehensions of an Israeli counterattack on Iran, which had launched 300 missiles at Israel. Before that, Israel struck the consular section of Iran's embassy in Syria's Damascus almost. Seven people, including two Generals, were killed in the airstrike.

Iran has said the vessel is "related to the Zionist regime (Israel) in the Gulf". Two websites that track shipping traffic, vesselfinder.com and marinetraffic.com, had said MSC Aries is a Portuguese-flagged container ship and its last reported position was in the Gulf.

# 80 Maoists Killed, 125 Arrested, 150 Surrendered In Chhattisgarh In 4 Months

HT News Network

New Delhi: At least 80 Maoists have been killed and more than 125 arrested while 150 have surrendered in this year so far in Chhattisgarh, where 29 ultras were gunned down two days ago in a fierce encounter with security forces, officials said today. Left-Wing Extremism-related violence has declined in the country by 52 per cent and the number of deaths by 69 per cent from 6,035 to 1,868 in 2014-23 compared to 2004-14, according to Union home ministry data.

Since the formation of the Vishnu Deo Sai government in Chhattisgarh in December 2023, pro-active operations have been carried out and, as a result, at least 80 Maoists have been eliminated and more than 125 arrested while 150 have surrendered since January, an official said. Late last year, following a detailed review of the security situation in Maoist-affected states, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had directed security forces to carry out operations against Maoists



pro-actively.

Shah's direction led to the formation of a high-powered committee, the members of which included director generals of police, director generals of the Central Reserve Police Force, the Border Security Forces, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Intelligence Bureau, and other officials of the anti-Maoist grid.

The result of the pro-active action against Maoists is now visible on the ground, the official said. On Tuesday, security personnel gunned down 29 Maoists, including some senior members, in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district in the biggest ever encounter in the state.

This was the highest number of fatalities suffered by Maoists in a single encounter in the history of

the state's fight against Left Wing Extremism (LWE).

Three security personnel suffered injuries in the fierce gun-battle that also led to a large quantity of weapons being seized.

Security forces started setting up camps in Maoist-dominated areas since 2014. More than 250 such camps were set up after 2019, ending the security vacuum. According to home ministry data, LWE incidents have reduced from 14,862 to 7,128 in 2004-14 compared to 2014-23.

The number of deaths of security personnel due to Left Wing Extremism has declined by 72 per cent from 1,750 in 2004-14 to 485 during 2014-23, while the number of civilian deaths has declined by 68 per cent from 4,285 to 1,383.

# Businessman Raj Kundra's Properties Worth Nearly Rs 100 Crore Seized

HT News Network

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized properties worth 97.79 crore belonging to Raj Kundra in probe linked to a Bitcoin Ponzi scam. Raj Kundra is the husband of Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty.

The attached properties include a residential flat located in Juhu, currently registered in the name of Shilpa Shetty, a residential bungalow in Pune, and equity shares owned by Raj Kundra.

"There is no prima facie case made out against my clients Mr Raj Kundra and Mrs Shilpa Shetty Kundra. I believe when we make our fair representation before the Honourable Enforcement Directorate, even the investigation agencies may grant justice to us. We have faith in the fair investigation," their lawyer Prashant Patil said. A Ponzi scheme is a fraud where investors are promised huge profits at little or no risk. But the money is not invested. Instead, the conman focuses on luring more people and pays profits to the initial investors with funds from more recent ones. The ED launched a probe based on multiple complaints filed by Maharashtra and Delhi Police against Variable Tech Private Limited, late Amit Bhardwaj, Ajay Bhardwaj, Vivek Bhardwaj, Simpy Bhardwaj, Mahender Bhardwaj and others. The investigation alleges that the accused collected approximately 6,600 Crore in Bitcoins in 2017 by deceiving investors with promises of 10% monthly returns through Bitcoin investments. The promoters cheated the investors and have been concealing the ill gotten Bitcoins in obscure online wallets, the ED alleged.



During investigation, the probe agency learnt that Raj Kundra had received 285 Bitcoins from Amit Bhardwaj, the mastermind behind the 'Gain Bitcoin' Ponzi scheme. These Bitcoins were intended for establishing a Bitcoin mining farm in Ukraine. However, the deal did not materialize, leaving Mr Kundra in possession of the Bitcoins, currently valued at more than 150 Crore. Raj Kundra has been arrested in 2021 in a case involving production and distribution of pornographic films using a subscriber-driven mobile app called 'Hotshots'. He got bail in that case by the Supreme Court. A Ponzi scheme is a fraud where investors are promised huge profits at little or no risk. But the money is not invested. Instead, the conman focuses on luring more people and pays profits to the initial investors with funds from more recent ones. The ED launched a probe based on multiple complaints filed by Maharashtra and Delhi Police against Variable Tech Private Limited, late Amit Bhardwaj, Ajay Bhardwaj, Vivek Bhardwaj, Simpy Bhardwaj, Mahender Bhardwaj and others. The investigation alleges that the accused collected approximately 6,600 Crore in Bitcoins in 2017 by deceiving investors with promises.

# Will Supply Cauvery Water To Bengaluru "By Hook Or By Crook": DK Shivakumar

HT News Network



Bengaluru: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said that he will make sure the supply of Cauvery river water to the residents of Bengaluru by "hook or by crook". His reaction came after he allegedly told voters that he would provide Cauvery waters to them if they voted for his brother D K Suresh, who is seeking re-election from Bangalore Rural.

"We are there to solve the problems... It is our duty; we are doing it. I want to communicate to them that we are there to sort out their problem, by hook or by crook we will serve them water," he told reporters here.

In a video clip surfaced on social media DK Shivakumar was purportedly heard saying to the residents of an housing society in his brother's constituency that he had come for a "business deal" and if they voted for his brother he will ensure the supply of Cauvery river water to them. Sharing the video clip, Amit Malviya, the BJP IT department head, attacked DK Shivakumar, the state Congress chief, and said that irrespective of who the people choose to vote for, it is his responsibility as a minister to provide amenities to the people.

"DK Shivakumar, Deputy CM of Karnataka, in a brazen abuse of power, holds voters of a large housing society in his brother DK Suresh's constituency, to ransom. Sounding every bit menacing, he wields a threat, couched in crass humour, that if the residents don't vote for his brother, he would know (since their vote is in 2/3 booths) and not provide water and CA site..."



# China Accuses US Of Hypocrisy Over Joe Biden "Xenophobic" Claims

■ HT News Network

Beijing: Beijing on Thursday accused the United States of hypocrisy in response to accusations by President Joe Biden that China is "xenophobic" and "cheating" on trade. "I would like to ask him: are you talking about China or the US itself?" foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said, when asked about the comments.

In a speech Wednesday to union members, Biden called for a hike in steel tariffs on China, accusing it of cheating as he courted blue-collar voters on an election campaign trip to the battleground state of Pennsylvania. "They're not competing, they're cheating. They're cheating and we've seen the damage here in America," the 81-year-old Biden said to cheers at the headquarters of the United Steelworkers union in Pittsburgh.

The Democrat said Chinese steel companies "don't need to worry about making a profit because the Chinese government is subsidizing them so heavily".

Biden said he had called for the US Trade Representative to triple the tariff rates for Chinese steel and aluminium if Beijing was confirmed to be using anti-competitive practices.



"They're xenophobic," he added. "They've got real problems. I'm not looking for a fight with China, I'm looking for competition -- but fair competition."

Beijing and Washington have clashed in recent years on flashpoint issues from technology and trade to human

rights as well as over the self-ruled island of Taiwan and the disputed South China Sea.

Relations have stabilised somewhat since Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping met in San Francisco in November for talks that both sides described as a qualified success.

The two held a follow-up telephone call this month in which they clashed over US trade restrictions on technology and on Taiwan, which Beijing claims.

But they also agreed that two high-level US officials would soon travel to China -- Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen visited last week, with top diplomat Antony Blinken due in Beijing soon.

The United States also this week announced a probe into China's trade practices in the shipbuilding, maritime and logistics sectors. China's commerce ministry hit back, saying the probe was "full of false accusations, misinterpreting normal trade and investment activities as harming US national security and corporate interests, and blaming China for its own industrial problems". In a speech Wednesday to union members, Biden called for a hike in steel tariffs on China, accusing it of cheating as he courted blue-collar voters on an election campaign trip to the battleground state of Pennsylvania.

## Maldives Ex-President Freed From Jail After Court Overturns Conviction

■ HT News Network

Male: Jailed former Maldives president Abdulla Yameen was freed Thursday after the High Court overturned his conviction and 11-year prison sentence on graft and money-laundering charges.

A three-judge High Court bench in the Indian Ocean archipelago nation held that Yameen's 2022 trial had been unfair and ordered a new trial.

"The lower court ruling was not fair," Judge Hassan Shafeeu said while reading out a lengthy decision that was broadcast live.

The decision came ahead of Sunday's parliamentary elections, in which Yameen is fielding candidates from a political party he formed while serving his sentence.

Yameen was convicted on two charges after a court found he accepted a bribe to grant a lease on a small islet for tourism development while he was in power between 2013 and 2018.

Thursday's ruling set that verdict aside. Yameen's co-accused Yusuf Na'eem, a businessman who was said to have paid the alleged bribe of \$1 million, was also freed.



Yameen, 64, was held at the high-security Maafushi prison but was transferred to house arrest the day after his ally, Mohamed Muizzu, won the presidential elections last September.

The pro-China former leader had borrowed heavily and built thousands of houses and other infrastructure in the small but strategically placed Indian Ocean archipelago during his five-year tenure. The decision came ahead of Sunday's parliamentary elections, in which Yameen is fielding candidates from a political party he formed while serving his sentence.

Yameen was convicted on two charges after a court found he accepted a bribe to grant a lease on a small islet for tourism development while he was in power between 2013 and 2018.

## Iranian commander says Tehran could re-view 'nuclear doctrine' amid Israeli threats

■ HT News Network

Iran could review its "nuclear doctrine" following Israeli threats, a senior Iranian Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) commander said on Thursday, raising concerns about Tehran's nuclear programme which it has always said was strictly for peaceful purposes.

Israel has said it will retaliate against Iran's April 13 missile and drone attack, which Tehran says was carried out in response to a suspected Israeli strike on its embassy compound in Damascus earlier this month.

"The threats of the Zionist regime (Israel) against Iran's nuclear facilities make it possible to review our nuclear doctrine and deviate from our previous considerations," Ahmad Haghtalab, the Guards commander in charge of nuclear security, was quoted as saying by the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has the last say on Tehran's nuclear programme, which the West suspects has military purposes.

In 2021, Iran's then-intelligence minister said Western pressure could push Tehran to seek nuclear weapons, the development of which Khamenei banned in a



fatwa, or religious decree, in the early 2000s. "Building and stockpiling nuclear bombs is wrong and using it is haram ... Although we have nuclear technology, Iran has firmly avoided it," Khamenei reiterated in 2019. Iran's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. "If the Zionist regime wants to take action against our nuclear centres and facilities, we will surely and categorically reciprocate with advanced missiles against their own nuclear sites," Haghtalab said.

Indirect talks between Tehran and Washington to revive Iran's 2015 nuclear pact stalled since 2022. The accord, aimed at keeping Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, required Tehran to accept restrictions on its nuclear program and more extensive United Nations inspections.

## Google terminates 28 employees for protest of Israeli cloud contract

■ HT News Network

Google said on Thursday it had terminated 28 employees after some staff participated in protests against the company's cloud contract with the Israeli government.

The Alphabet unit said a small number of protesting employees entered and disrupted work at a few unspecified office locations.

"Physically impeding other employees' work and preventing them from accessing our facilities is a clear violation of our policies, and completely unacceptable behavior," the company said in a statement.

Google said it had concluded individual investigations, resulting in the termination of 28 employees,



and would continue to investigate and take action as needed.

In a statement on Medium, Google workers affiliated with the No Tech for Apartheid campaign called it a "flagrant act of retaliation" and said that some employees who did not directly participate in Tuesday's protests were also among those Google fired.

"Google workers have the right to peacefully protest about terms and

conditions of our labor," the statement added.

The protesting faction says that Project Nimbus, a \$1.2 billion contract awarded to Google and Amazon.com in 2021 to supply the Israeli government with cloud services, supports the development of military tools by the Israeli government.

"Google has built custom tools for Israel's Ministry of Defence," and has doubled down on contracting with the Israeli occupation forces, since the start of its genocide against Palestinians in Gaza," the group said in the statement on Medium.

In its statement, Google maintained that the Nimbus contract "is not directed at highly sensitive, classified, or military workloads relevant to weapons or intelligence services".

## China Hiding Military Presence In Space: NASA Head Bill Nelson

■ HT News Network

Washington: The chief of US space agency NASA has told lawmakers in Washington that China is using civilian programmes to hide military objectives in space.

"China has made extraordinary strides [in space] especially in the last 10 years, but they are very, very secretive," Bill Nelson told the appropriations committee of the US House of Representatives as he testified on the US space agency's 2025 budget request.

"We believe that a lot of their so-called civilian space programme is a military programme. And I think, in effect, we are in a race."

Nelson also stressed that it was "incumbent on us" get to the moon, first as he warned: "my concern is if China got there first and suddenly said 'ok this is our territory, you stay out.'" The NASA chief said that the US was not going to lose its "global edge" in space, "but you got to be realistic that China is really throwing a lot of money at it and they've got a lot of room in their budget to grow."

"I think that we just better not let down our guard," Nelson added.

## Palestinian woman with dead niece image wins World Press Photo award

■ HT News Network

Reuters photographer Mohammed Salem won the prestigious 2024 World Press Photo (WPP) of the Year award on Thursday for his image of a Palestinian woman cradling the body of her five-year-old niece in the Gaza Strip.

The picture was taken on October 17 at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, where families were searching for relatives killed during the Israeli bombing of the Palestinian enclave. Salem's winning image portrays Inas Abu Maamar, 36, sobbing while holding Saly's sheet-clad body in the hospital morgue.

"Mohammed received the news of his WPP award with humility, saying that this is not a photo to celebrate but that he



appreciates its recognition and the opportunity to publish it to a wider audience," Reuters Global Editor for Pictures and Video Rickey Rogers said at a ceremony in

Amsterdam.

Palestinian woman Inas Abu Maamar, 36, embraces the body of her five-year-old niece Saly, who was killed in an Israeli strike, at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on October 17. — Reuters

"He hopes with this award that the world will become even more conscious of the human impact of war, especially on children," Rogers said, standing in front of the photo at the Nieuwe Kerk in the Dutch capital.

Announcing its annual awards, the Amsterdam-based WPP Foundation said it was important to recognise the dangers facing journalists covering conflicts.

It said 99 journalists and media employees had been killed covering the fighting between Israel and Hamas since the latter

attacked southern Israel on October 7 and the former responded by launching a military offensive in Gaza that has killed close to 34,000 people, mostly women and children, according to the health ministry in the besieged territory.

Several countries and international unions have criticised Israel's response to the attack as "disproportionate".

"The work of press and documentary photographers around the world is often done at high risk," said Joumana El Zein Khoury, the organisation's executive director.

"This past year, the death toll in Gaza pushed the number of journalists killed to a near-record high. It is important to recognise the trauma they have experienced to show the world the humanitarian impact of the war."

## Hindu Leader's Murder In Punjab Leads Cops To Pak Spy Agency Sleeper Cell

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: In a significant development in the murder case of Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Vikas Bagga in Punjab's Nangal, police have unearthed a plot involving Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI.

Vikas Bagga, the president of VHP's Nangal unit, was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen at his shop near the Rupnagar railway station on Saturday evening. The police have arrested two suspects, Mandeep Kumar and Surendra Kumar, in connection with the murder.

Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav on Tuesday said the Rupnagar police and State Special Operation Cell solved the murder case of Vikas in less than three days.

"In a major breakthrough, Rupnagar Police in a joint operation with SSO #Mohali, has solved the Vikas Murder Case in less than 3 days with the arrest of 2 operatives of a terror module backed by #Pakistan based terrorist masterminds," the DCP said in a post on X. The investigation has revealed a chilling nexus between ISI and some unemployed youth in Punjab. ISI has been reportedly luring unemployed people with money and drugs, recruiting them as sleeper cells to carry out targeted killings in Punjab.

A resident of Nava Shehar in Punjab, who had recently traveled to Portugal in search of employment, was recruited by ISI for the task. He was promised a job but was instead trapped by ISI operatives. He was assigned the task of targeting drug-addicted youth in Punjab and orchestrating their killings.

The police have also discovered that the shooters involved in Vikas Bagga's murder were paid 70,000 for the assassination. The order for the attack reportedly came from ISI operatives based in Portugal.

## Nestle Adds 3 gm Sugar In Every Serving Of Cerelac Sold In India: Report

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Two of the best-selling baby-food brands by Nestle in India contain high levels of added sugar, while such products are sugar-free in the United Kingdom, Germany Switzerland, and other developed nations, according to an investigation by Public Eye. The report said that Nestle, which is the world's largest consumer goods company, adds sugar and honey to infant milk and cereal products in several countries, a violation of international guidelines aimed at preventing obesity and chronic diseases. Violations were found only in Asian, African, and Latin American countries. India has taken note of the report and is examining the charges against the baby-food products.

Sources in the health ministry said that the findings from the study will be presented in front of a scientific panel.

However, a Nestle India Ltd. spokesperson told NDTV Profit that the company has reduced the total amount of added sugars in its infant cereals portfolio by 30% over the past five years and it continues to "review" and "reformulate" products to reduce them further. "We believe in the nutritional quality of our products for early childhood and prioritise using high-quality ingredients," it said in a statement.

Findings showed that in India, all 15 Cerelac baby products contain an average of nearly 3 grams of sugar per serving. The same product is being sold with no added sugar in Germany and the UK, while in Ethiopia and Thailand, it contains nearly 6 grams, the study said.

The amount of added sugar is often not even disclosed in the nutritional information available on the packaging of these kinds of products.

"While Nestle prominently highlights the vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients contained in its products using idealizing imagery, it's not transparent when it comes to added sugar," the report said.

Nestle sold over 20,000-Crore worth of Cerelac products in India in 2022.

Experts say that adding sugar, which is highly addictive, to baby products is a dangerous and unnecessary practice.

## Tel Aviv under pressure to defuse tensions with Iran

■ HT News Network

TEHRAN / JERUSALEM / BRUSSELS: Amid a diplomatic flurry aiming to calm a region already on the edge, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday his country would decide how to respond to Iran.

Tehran, however, said its military and air force were ready to confront any Israeli attack.

Israel faces pressure from its allies to refrain from striking back at Iran.

British Foreign Secretary David Cameron and his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock were the first Western envoys to visit Israel and urge calm, but Netanyahu told the visiting ministers that Israel "will reserve the right to protect itself," his office said.

The German FM called for "prudent restraint", saying the region must not slide into a situation whose outcome is completely unpredictable.

Meanwhile, Mr Cameron said that "we're very anxious to avoid escalation and to say to our friends in Israel: It's a time to think with head as well as heart."

The US has already made clear it won't join any attack on Iran and has called for de-escalation, as have a host of other Western and Arab leaders.

Israel's military chief Herzi Halevi has already vowed "a response" to Iran's first-ever direct attack, while military spokesman Daniel Hagari stressed that Tehran would not get off "scot-free".



# J&K treasure trove of rich heritage: CS

**JAMMU, APR 18:** On the occasion of World Heritage Day, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today morning flagged off a heritage walk from Shri Ranbir Singh (SRS) Library, Kachi Chawni to Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex here.

The walk, organized by the Culture Department in association with district administration, was joined by various civil servants including Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Gupta, Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society, Deepika Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya besides civil society members, hundreds of students and other citizens of

Jammu city.

The Chief Secretary termed J&K as a treasure trove of rich heritage and culture saying that such events renews our sensitivity towards protection of this significant aspect of our culture. He said that it takes collective efforts to preserve the heritage and we all have a role to protect it for the posterity.

Dulloo said that many of our sites are also on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list for their overall significance for the world heritage. He maintained that visit to such sites enriches one about the value of these places besides creating awareness about their uniqueness and aesthetics.



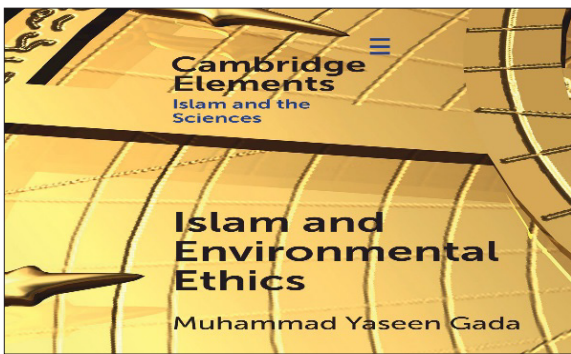
He exhorted upon the students to read and visit such places to have better idea about our rich cultural past. The Principal Secretary raised awareness about the history of cultural assets of SRS Library and Mubarak Mandi

Heritage Complex. He also threw light on the importance of preservation and protection of four heritage and called upon all the participants to support such measures taken on part of the department.

Pertinent to mention here that the World Heritage Day is also known as the International Monuments and Sites Day being celebrated across the world in recognition of the work carried out by ICOMOS, International Council on Monuments and Sites. The day aims to increase awareness about the importance of diversity of cultural heritage and preserving it for the generations to come.

## A Kashmiri University Assistant Professor Publishes Book on Islam and Environmental Ethics with Cambridge University Press

HT News Network



Dr. Muhammad Yaseen Gada has made a significant contribution to academia with the publication of his book, Islam and Environmental Ethics. Published by Cambridge University Press as part of their Element series "Islam and the Sciences", the book delves into the eco-friendly principles embedded in Islamic teachings.

This notable work not only explores the rich heritage of Islamic environmental thought but also offers practical insights to address contemporary environmental challenges. Dr. Yaseen's expertise in Islamic Studies shines through, making the book a must-read for scholars, students, and anyone interested in the confluence of faith and ecology. The book has received acclaim for its scholarly contributions. Dr. Yaseen is currently teaching in the Department of Religious Studies at the Central University of Kashmir. Pertinently, Islam and Environmental Ethics is available for free access on the Cambridge University Press website until 29th April 2024. The book can also be accessed directly at <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009308236>.

## Woman arrested for cheating people at Srinagar ATMs, cash, gold recovered: Police

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 18 (KNS): A woman has been arrested for cheating people by swapping their ATM cards while posing as help outside ATMs in Srinagar, police said on Thursday.

In a post on X, Srinagar police said that Rs 39,130, gold items and 30 ATMs have also been recovered from her possession.

Police said that the woman would cheat gullible citizens, saying she will help withdraw cash by swapping their ATM cards.

## Search for leopard ends in Malabagh area, no sightings reported

**SRINAGAR, APR 18:** The wildlife department has concluded its search operation aimed at capturing a leopard, following its sighting reports in the outskirts of Srinagar's Malabagh area.

According to a senior wildlife official speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), after several days of extensive search efforts in Malabagh and surrounding areas, the operation has been called off as no additional evidence of leopard presence was discovered.

"A large-scale search was conducted in Malabagh, Elahibagh, Rangpora, and Zakura areas. This effort involved drone surveillance and patrols by wildlife teams. However, no further

signs of the leopard sightings were found, leading to an end of the search operation," the official stated.

The official however, stated that the presence of the leopard initially seemed to be correct based on various social media photographs & videos, which later on after due verification, search operations & allied cross checks proved to be wrong.

He stressed the importance of remaining cautious, particularly during morning and evening hours, stating that any of the wild animals can venture into human habitats in search of food.

It is pertinent to mention that the presence of the leopard was initially confirmed by the J&K wildlife department on April 15, 2024 on the basis of video

evidence and numerous reports on social media.

Subsequently, a large-scale search operation was launched to locate the wild animal.

To aid in the capture effort, the wildlife department deployed various measures, including traps placed at multiple locations, such as cages and camera traps, along with ground teams conducting physical surveys of the area.

Despite these efforts, the leopard was not sighted again, prompting the conclusion of the search operation. In a message, the senior wildlife official urged residents to remain cautious and report any further sightings or incidents involving wild animals to the appropriate authorities for prompt action.

## No Need For Chest-Thumping, RSS Will Not Celebrate Centenary Year, Says Mohan Bhagwat

HT News Network

Nagpur, Apr 18: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh will not celebrate its centenary year in 2025 since it doesn't intend to indulge in chest-thumping over its achievements, the organisation's chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Thursday.

Speaking at a book launch, Bhagwat also said functionaries faced stiff opposition, lack of resources and difficulty connecting people when the RSS was formed in 1925 in Nagpur, adding that members must keep doing their work irrespective of the situation.

"There is no need to celebrate the centenary year of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. The Sangh is not doing it to boost the ego of the organisation. The Sangh is not here to cele-



brate the completion of 100 years of an organisation and indulge in chest-thumping and take credit for some achievements." The RSS wants to transform society and believes that victory of society must not be judged on wealth creation but religion, he said.

"The victory of this society would empower other societies and (therefore) benefit the universe. RSS wants to create people who try to bring about reforms in society in such a way. It is not about patting your back," Bhagwat asserted. Bhagwat said it was wor-

risome that the RSS took 100 years to achieve certain goals but added that the slow pace of transformation was due to "battling against 2000 years of societal downfall".

"Foreigners have completely brainwashed our people. We have a bad habit of forgetting what we are. There is a psychological difference among our people because we were ruled by many for centuries," the RSS 'sarsangchalak' pointed out.

"The first RSS workers faced stiff opposition, lack of resources and difficulty connecting people. Compared to it, the situation is favourable now for the organisation. RSS workers need to keep doing their work irrespective of the situation," Bhagwat asserted. (Agencies)

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

#### OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR PATTAN (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 PATTAN, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER PATTAN) has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ABDUL FAZAL S/O TASADUQ HUSSAIN DAR R/O ARAMPORA PATTAN Tehsil PATTAN Distt. Baramulla with verified the date of Birth, as 27/07/2023 and event has been to be occurred at SDH PATTAN. In this connection.

if anyone has 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 PATTAN

### ازیابت چرار شریف

عنوان درخواست منجانب سائل رجسٹرار محترم و دفتر عرفان احمد پسر غلام نبی کار و غلام نبی کار ولد محمد رجب کمار سائے چرار شریف بمقام حصول سرٹیفکیٹ تحت ایس اراو 294

#### اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں رجسٹرار محترم و دفتر عرفان احمد پسر و غلام نبی کار ولد محمد رجب کمار سائے چرار شریف دفتر ذمہ داری میں زیر کاروانی ہے اس نسبت رپورٹ پٹواری سے عیاں ہوتا ہے سائل کا نمبر (04) افراد پر مشتمل ہے کنڈی کی سالانہ مہمان آمدنی 7000 تک ہے سائل کے افراد خانہ مندرجہ ذیل ہے

1. غلام نبی کار ولد محمد رجب کمار سائے 55 سال مزدوری
2. رائے بیگم زوجہ غلام نبی 51 سال گھریلو کام
3. رجسٹرار محترم دفتر غلام نبی 23 سال زیر تعلیم
4. ارمان احمد کار ولد غلام نبی کمار 18 سال زیر تعلیم

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد میں بتلایا گیا ہے لہذا از اتمام عوام خاص و عام کو زیر ریبھ اختیار مطلع کیا 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 چرار شریف

#### ازیابت چرار شریف

ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ فٹ کلاس چرار شریف بہ اجلاس خواجہ نائب تحصیلدار چرار شریف محترم کوئی عنوان درخواست منجانب سائل شاہد مجید ولد عبدل مجید ٹھوکرو سائے چکر گوہنہ جوڈر نسبت اجرائی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت ایس اراو 294

#### اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں درخواست سائل شاہد مجید ولد عبدل مجید ٹھوکرو سائے چکر گوہنہ جوڈر دفتر ذمہ داری میں زیر کاروانی ہے اس نسبت رپورٹ پٹواری سے عیاں ہوتا ہے سائل شاہد مجید دھڑرا کا منتقل ہانڈہ ہے سائل کا نمبر (04) افراد پر مشتمل ہے کنڈی کی مہمان آمدنی 7666 تک ہے سائل کے افراد خانہ مندرجہ ذیل ہے

1. عبدل مجید ٹھوکرو ولد محمد رمضان ٹھوکرو 55 سال زمینداری
2. مسرہ بیگم زوجہ عبدل مجید ٹھوکرو 51 سال گھریلو کام
3. بسماہ مجید دختر عبدل مجید 24 سال زیر تعلیم
4. شاہد مجید پسر عبدل مجید ٹھوکرو 21 سال

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد میں بتلایا گیا ہے لہذا از اتمام عوام خاص و عام کو زیر ریبھ اختیار مطلع کیا 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 چرار شریف

## Search for leopard ends in Malabagh area, no sightings reported

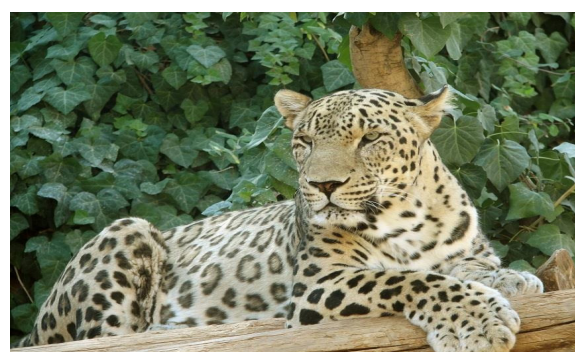
'Social media photographs, videos proved to be wrong'

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 18 (KNO): The wildlife department has concluded its search operation aimed at capturing a leopard, following its sighting reports in the outskirts of Srinagar's Malabagh area.

According to a senior wildlife official speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), after several days of extensive search efforts in Malabagh and surrounding areas, the operation has been called off as no additional evidence of leopard presence was discovered.

"A large-scale search was conducted in Malabagh, Elahibagh, Rangpora, and Zakura areas. This effort involved drone surveillance and patrols by wildlife teams. However, no further signs of the leopard sightings were found, leading to an end of the search operation," the official stated.



The official however, stated that the presence of the leopard initially seemed to be correct based on various social media photographs & videos, which later on after due verification, search operations & allied cross checks proved to be wrong.

He stressed the importance of remaining cautious,

particularly during morning and evening hours, stating that any of the wild animals can venture into human habitats in search of food.

It is pertinent to mention that the presence of the leopard was initially confirmed by the J&K wildlife department on April 15, 2024 on the basis of video evidence and numerous reports on social media.

Subsequently, a large-scale search operation was launched to locate the wild animal.

To aid in the capture effort, the wildlife department deployed various measures, including traps placed at multiple locations, such as cages and camera traps, along with ground teams conducting physical surveys of the area. Despite these efforts, the leopard was not sighted again, prompting the conclusion of the search operation. In a message, the senior wildlife official urged residents to remain cautious and report any further sightings or incidents involving wild animals to the appropriate authorities for prompt action—(KNO)



# Swapping Out Beef For Sardines Can Reduce Mortality Risk

Eating so-called "forage fish," which include sardines, herring, and anchovies, could possibly save as many as 750,000 lives a year in 2050 and make a huge impact in the number of diet-related diseases and disabilities, a new analysis suggests.

The research, published in BMJ Global Health this week, used datasets for 137 countries and replaced those populations' red meat consumption with that of forage fish from marine habitats.

Researchers predict that 8 to 15 million disability-adjusted life years could be saved by this dietary shift, especially in low- and middle-income countries, which have more abundant stocks of these fish and particularly high rates of heart disease.

The data analysis used four different scenarios to imagine how replacing red meat with forage fish could work:

**Domestic supply prioritized:** using forage fish for national consumption — based on "local health needs" — or red meat replacement.

**Minimized meat intake:** prioritizing the consumption of forage fish for countries where red meat consumption is above recommended levels

**Adequate fish intake:** prioritizing the consumption of forage fish in countries that simply don't eat enough fish

**Equal percentage replaced:** all countries had approximately 8% of red-meat replacement (the percentage of that replacement was determined by the limited global supply of forage fish)

The "adequate fish intake" scenario was seen to lower deaths the most. Despite a



globally limited supply of forage fish, by increasing the daily fish consumption to close to the recommendation in most countries, the researchers saw the potential for deaths worldwide from stroke, diabetes, bowel cancer, and heart disease to be reduced by 2% in 2050.

They also saw "several barriers, such as fish meal and oil processing, overfishing, climate change, and cultural acceptance may prevent the health benefits of forage fish from being realized," the analysis points out. Anchovies, sardines, and herring are lower on the oceanic food chain, with larger fish being their predators.

They are high in Omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin B12, and calcium, but the researchers say about 75% of them, "including a significant amount caught

off the coasts of countries suffering from food insecurity and malnutrition in the Global South," are used for fish oil and fishmeal — for farm-raised fish — rather than for human consumption.

Melanie Murphy Richter, a registered dietitian nutritionist and the director of communications for the nutrition company Prolon, who was not involved in the research, told Healthline that the small size of forage fish means they store less fat — so they also contain less fat.

Forage fish, like anchovies, Trusted Source, have about 2 grams of omega-3 per 100 grams canned, whereas cooked wild salmon Trusted Source may have around 2.2 grams of omega-3 per 3.5-ounce (100-gram) portion. However, according to Richter, the exact amount of omega-3 can vary depending on factors

such as type, size, and preparation method.

Despite only small potential discrepancies in omega-3 content, Richter pointed out that an advantage of smaller fish is that they likely contain lower amounts of certain toxins from ocean pollution.

"Because forage fish are smaller and lower on the food chain, they tend to accumulate fewer toxins (like mercury, for instance) than their larger counterparts," Richter said. "This makes them a nutritionally more viable option than larger fish options. In fact, an overconsumption of certain toxins like mercury can interfere with the absorption of other essential nutrients found in fish and compromise the bioavailability of important vitamins and minerals."

Some areas of the world that have long incorporated such fish into their diets do see significant benefits, Richter said.

"According to research, coronary disease in Nordic countries is among the lowest in all of Europe, which could be in part due to their diet," Richter said. "In general, we know that people whose cultures and diets prioritize fish consumption have improved heart health, brain health, better weight management and metabolic health, and most of these regions are also associated with greater longevity as seen in certain Mediterranean countries and Japan which also have high fish consumption." Kristin Kirkpatrick, a registered dietitian at the Cleveland Clinic Dept of Department of Wellness & Preventive Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio, and a senior fellow at the Meadows Behavioral Healthcare in Wickenburg.

## NEWS Can Iron Deficiency Lead To Obesity?



Iron deficiency occurs when the body doesn't have enough iron to function properly. Iron is an essential mineral that plays a crucial role in various bodily functions, including the production of haemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body. Without enough iron, the body cannot produce sufficient haemoglobin, leading to a condition called iron-deficiency anaemia. As for its relationship with obesity, while iron deficiency itself does not directly cause obesity, it can contribute to weight gain or difficulty in losing weight through various mechanisms, as outlined in the previous response. Keep reading as we share how exactly this might occur and also share tips to avoid it.

### 1. Decreased energy levels

Iron deficiency can lead to fatigue and low energy levels, which may result in decreased physical activity and a sedentary lifestyle, contributing to weight gain.

### 2. Altered metabolism

Iron is essential for proper metabolism, including the metabolism of carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. Iron deficiency can disrupt metabolic processes, leading to inefficient energy utilisation and storage.

### 3. Reduced oxygen transport

Iron is a key component of haemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen to tissues and organs. Iron deficiency impairs oxygen transport, reducing energy production and potentially slowing down metabolism.

### 4. Increased appetite

Iron deficiency can disrupt appetite-regulating hormones, leading to increased hunger and overeating, which can contribute to weight gain.

### 5. Impaired exercise performance

Iron deficiency can lead to decreased exercise tolerance and performance due to reduced oxygen delivery to muscles. This can result in lower calorie expenditure during physical activity.

### 6. Changes in thermogenesis

Iron deficiency may alter thermogenesis, the process by which the body generates heat and burns calories. This can lead to a decrease in calorie expenditure and contribute to weight gain.

### 7. Insulin resistance

Iron deficiency has been linked to insulin resistance, a condition in which cells become less responsive to the effects of insulin, leading to elevated blood sugar levels and increased fat storage.

## Swapping Salt with Substitutes May Lower Your Risk of Death from Heart Disease

Salt may be a tasty way to add flavor to your food, but too much of it is bad for your heart health. New research has found that reducing your sodium intake by using salt substitutes may lower your risk of dying from heart disease.

A systematic review of 16 randomized controlled trials (lasting six months or longer) published in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine* found that using a salt substitute while cooking was linked with a lower risk of dying early from cardiovascular disease.

Salt substitution was also linked with a reduction in blood pressure and had an effect similar to that of blood pressure medications.

The trials compared the effects of common salt — also known as sodium chloride — and a salt substitute comprised of 25% to 30% potassium chloride and 60% to 75% sodium chloride. Michelle Routhenstein, a preventive cardiology dietitian at Entirely Nourished, says these findings are what she'd expect them to be.

"We already have clinical research showing that high sodium diets are linked to cardiovascular disease due to their negative impact on blood pressure and



blood vessel health, function, and integrity, so the results aren't surprising," she explains. "Excessive salt intake contributes to elevated blood pressure, arterial damage, and fluid retention, all of which increase the risk of cardiovascular disease."

Chelsea Johnson, MS, RD, LD, CBC, a registered dietitian with Memorial Hermann, agrees.

She says the link between salt intake and increased blood pressure is one of the biggest risk factors for heart-related events.

"Therefore, decreasing salt in your diet can improve blood pressure to healthier levels, in turn, decreasing your risk of cardiovascular events," she surmises.

Salt may be a popular seasoning, but it's not the only way to add flavor to your food. Potassium chloride is one alternative.

"Salt substitution simply means replacing some or all of the table salt in a person's diet with alternatives that contain less sodium or even include other minerals," Routhenstein explains.

Some common examples include potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, and certain herbs and spices.

"Put simply, salt substitutes, such as those containing potassium chloride, help lower cardiovascular risk factors by reducing sodium intake while increasing potassium levels. This helps to control blood pressure and potentially reduce strain on the heart muscle," Routhenstein surmises.

## Can You Get Bird Flu from Milk and Eggs? What to Know

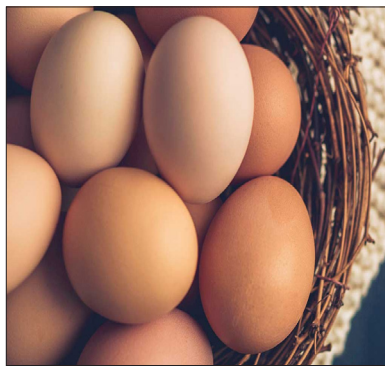
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that a person in Texas had tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza, also known as "bird flu."

According to the agency, the person had been exposed to the HPAI A(H5N1) virus via presumably infected dairy cattle. The CDC's press release Trusted Source stated that the person's only symptom was eye redness. They were being isolated and treated with an antiviral drug. This report brings the total number of humans in the U.S. who have contracted the virus to two.

The CDC previously released a statement Trusted Source in April 2022 about another human case that occurred in Colorado. In that case, the disease was contracted via exposure to poultry.

The symptoms again were mild, with the patient reporting feeling tired for a few days and then recovering after undergoing isolation and antiviral treatment.

Given the fact that these people contracted the virus through exposure to both cows and chickens, this begs the question of whether people could potentially catch bird flu by drinking milk or eating eggs. Here's what health experts have to say.



What is the risk that people will catch bird flu?

Dr. Daisy May — a veterinary surgeon and pet care writer for All About Parrots — explained that HPAI can spread rapidly among wild birds and domestic poultry like chickens and turkeys. "It's been wreaking havoc on poultry farms across the country this year," she said. May went on to say that, although bird flu is mainly an animal health issue, there have been cases where it jumped to humans when they had been in extremely close, prolonged contact with infected animals. "So it seems the risk is relatively low but not zero," said May.

The CDC echoed May's opinion, stating that "[t]his infection does not change the H5N1 bird flu human health risk assessment for the U.S. general public, which CDC considers to be low."

People who work closely over extended periods of time with infected animals — especially those who are not taking precautions — are at the greatest risk, they note.

Can you get bird flu from drinking milk or eating eggs?

May said the bigger question on everyone's mind is whether our food supply is safe. "For eggs, as long as you're fully cooking them until the yolks are firm with no runny parts, the risks are very low, according to food safety experts," she said. "Any potentially present virus would be killed off by proper heat treatment."

According to May, it's raw or undercooked eggs that could pose a problem since the virus may be able to survive within the yolk.

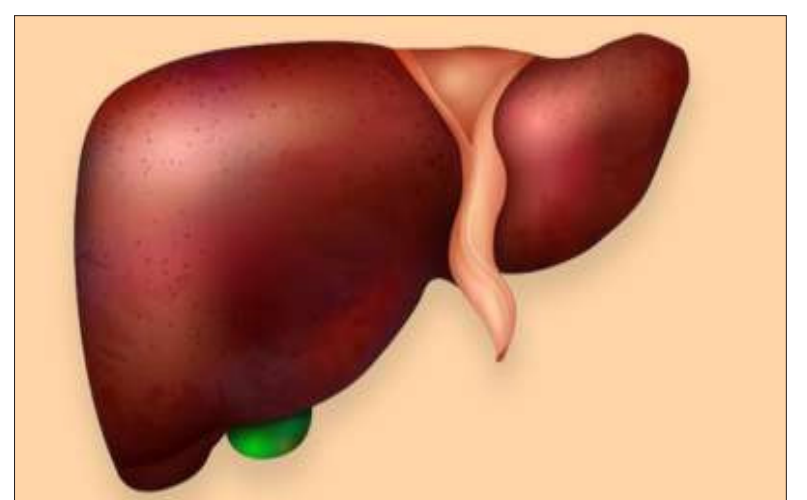
"As for milk and dairy, we're in great shape there thanks to pasteurization," she said. "That heating process is more than enough to neutralize any lingering bird flu virus."

So, you can continue to consume milk, cheese, yogurt, and other dairy products without worry, according to May. She added, however, that one area of concern is raw, unpasteurized dairy products like you would obtain from small farms or private sellers.

"While there haven't been any documented cases of transmission that way, some extra caution may be warranted," said May.

## Why Excess Sugar And Oil Are As Dangerous For Liver As Alcohol

While alcohol is known to be bad for liver health, consuming foods rich in sugar and oil may be equally dangerous for the organ as well as for overall health, said doctors on Thursday, ahead of World Liver Day. World Liver Day is observed on April 19 every year to highlight the importance of a healthy liver for the normal functioning of the body. The theme this year is "Be vigilant, get regular liver check-ups, and prevent fatty liver diseases". The liver acts as the body's warehouse, processing everything one consumes. Eating more calories can lead to their accumulation in the liver, leading to fatty liver disease, which can trigger diabetes and other metabolic disorders. "While the dangers of alcohol-related liver disease are well-known, there is a rising concern over non-alcoholic liver disease caused by high-calorie foods, such as sugars and fats. This condition can lead to the same severe complications as alcoholic liver disease, including liver cirrhosis, which might eventually require a liver transplant," said Dr Shreevidya, Medical Director, Apollo ProHealth. "Excess sugar and oil intake, like alcohol, give rise to fat droplets scattered through the liver tissue leading to a cascade of liver injury due to inflammation leading to liver failure," explained



Dr Pavan Dhoble, Junior Consultant - Gastroenterology, P. D. Hinduja Hospital & MRC, Mahim.

Excess sugar and oil intake fuels obesity leading to adverse liver health, including non-alcoholic fatty liver diseases (NAFLD). Data shows nearly one out of every four Indian adults are either overweight or obese (at risk of fatty liver disease) and alcohol use is also on the rise. A study conducted by AIIMS, analysing reports on NAFLD in India, revealed a startling reality: over one-third (38 per cent) of Indians have fatty liver or NAFLD. This phenomenon extends to affect nearly 35 per cent of children as well, as per the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hepatology* and

calls for attention to addressing lifestyle-related health issues from an early age.

"Liver diseases have emerged as critical public health concerns in India. NAFLD often remains unrecognised in its early stages as it may not manifest symptoms. However, it can progress to severe liver diseases," said Dr Rahul Roy, Consultant - Liver Transplant and Hepatopancreatic Biliary Surgery, RN Tagore Hospital and Narayana Hospital, Howrah. "The westernisation of diets, characterised by increased fast food consumption and a lack of fruits and vegetables, plays a pivotal role in the rise of fatty liver diseases," he added.





## Athapaththu: 'I want to see my team in the semi-finals of the World Cup'

**NEW DELHI:** Sri Lanka are yet to qualify for either the T20 or ODI World Cup but their captain Chamari Athapaththu has already set a goal for them if they get there. "I want to see my team in the semi-finals of the World Cup," she said after Sri Lanka ended their tour of South Africa with a six-wicket win in the third ODI. "I've worked so hard in the last 15 years and I've achieved a few things as a player but as a captain, I want to do more. I want to see my team in the semi-final of this World Cup. That's my wish."

It's only fair to allow Athapaththu some licence to set targets like these, especially after her scintillating 195 not out against South Africa on Wednesday evening. Not only did she achieve the third-highest individual score in women's ODIs but she also led Sri Lanka to the highest success-

ful chase in the format to underline both her own dominance and the growing pedigree in her national team.

In the last 12 months, Sri Lanka have won T20I series against Bangladesh, in England and South Africa and reached the final of the Asian Games. They've also won ODI series against Bangladesh and New Zealand and took a game off South Africa to keep themselves in the running for automatic qualification the 2025 ODI World Cup, a must for Athapaththu after they missed out on the 2022 tournament. To get there, they must do well against West Indies, who are languishing in ninth place on the ten-team Women's Championship table, and Ireland, who are tenth. So Athapaththu has every reason to think her team can get the points they need to fin-

ish in the top five, especially after contributions like Nilakshika Silva's unbeaten 50 against South Africa.

Before they turn their attention to the ODI World Cup, there's the T20 version in Bangladesh later this year to think about. Sri Lanka's campaign to qualify for that event starts next week in the UAE, where they enter the qualifiers as favourites. They take the form of nine T20I wins in their last 15 matches into it and are grouped with Thailand, Scotland, Uganda and USA, and must reach the tournament final to qualify for the T20 World Cup.

"I know it is a very big task for us," Athapaththusaid. "Every team is really good and every game is really important for us. We will focus on one game at a time."

The use of the word "we" is important there. It was only ten

days ago that Athapaththu cleared up doubts over her international future after cryptic Facebook posts that suggested the end was near. Ahead of the ODI series against South Africa, she confirmed she would play at the T20 World Cup Qualifier but indicated she would make a decision about stepping away in the near future and she stuck to that line after the series as well.

"My retirement is very soon," she said. "I can't mention dates, but very soon. We can talk about these things later. For now, I'm always looking after the young girls. I've built a young team. I want to see these young girls in the World Cup one day. As a captain, I am really proud of my young girls and they are playing really good cricket. I sacrificed a lot of things for Sri Lankan cricket in the last 15 years."

## Mustafizur sparks club vs country debate ahead of T20 World Cup

**GUJARAT:** New Delhi: T20 cricket rarely brings good news in Bangladesh. So, when a Bangladesh bowler, considered to be past his prime, lights up the biggest T20 league in the world with his variations, it's great news, especially with the T20 World Cup around the corner.

Mustafizur Rahman is currently the joint-highest wicket-taker among seamers in the IPL - level with Jasprit Bumrah on 10 strikes. Half of his wickets have come in the death (overs 17-20) and his overall strike rate of 12 is the best among bowlers who have bowled at least 20 overs this season.

That's how good Mustafizur has been in an IPL where bat has dominated ball like never before. After 32 games, the scoring rate is 9.42 runs per over, the first time it has topped nine across all seasons.

Mustafizur's whippy offcutter, though, has often been unhittable this IPL. And he even pulled off what is arguably the catch of the season to dismiss Suryakumar Yadav for a duck in Mumbai.

Mustafizur hasn't done anything different with the ball this IPL - he has always had the T20 skills. It's his form that has improved over the past few weeks.

Mustafizur has been granted an NOC to play in the IPL till May 1. Two days later, he will be available for Bangladesh's home T20I series against Zimbabwe. Bangladesh will then face USA, also in a T20I series, in Texas later this month, in the lead-up to the T20 World Cup.

"How is it good for Mustafiz to play in the IPL? He has nothing to learn from the IPL. In fact, the IPL players can learn from Mustafiz. It won't benefit Bangladesh."

Mustafizur's situation has sparked an interesting debate in Bangladesh. One school of thought is that he is better off playing in the IPL, while there are others who feel Mustafizur should play for Bangladesh to prepare for the T20 World Cup.

Akram Khan, the former Bangladesh captain and current BCB director, is for Mustafizur having a longer stint with Chennai Super Kings while Jalal Yunus, the BCB's cricket operations chair, is against it and strongly believes that the fast bowler is better off playing for Bangladesh.

Akram was impressed with how Mustafizur shut down Kolkata Knight Riders' batting line-up with his variations in Chepauk. Even Andre Russell couldn't get Mustafizur away. Akram felt that Mustafizur playing in the IPL against top T20



batters, rather than playing against Zimbabwe, would have served as better prep for the T20 World Cup.

"Mustafiz is the type of bowler who will give the team benefit, if he is utilised properly," Akram told reporters at the Shere Bangla National Stadium. "Dhoni's team is certainly doing that at the moment. The way Mustafizur bowled according to a plan against Kolkata, I think he is benefiting greatly playing for Chennai. It obviously means that Bangladesh, too, will benefit from him. I think he will learn more from playing in the IPL than playing against Zimbabwe. He is spending time with big players in the [CSK] dressing room. He is playing with different types of players."

"I think Mustafiz should be given this opportunity [to play more for CSK]. Not too long ago we were worried about his performance. He has struggled in the last 12 months. His performance is improving in the IPL. I won't say he has totally transformed as a bowler since he is not playing longer version cricket, but from what we saw in the IPL, he has certainly improved a little. If he continues playing in the IPL, it will only help Bangladesh in the World Cup."

Yunus, though, disagreed with Akram, saying BCB wants to manage Mustafizur carefully before the T20 World Cup.

"How is it good for Mustafiz to play in the IPL? He has nothing to learn from the IPL," Yunus said. "His learning process is over. In fact, the IPL players can learn from Mustafiz. It won't benefit Bangladesh. You know the IPL is a game of four overs but there's a lot of stress."

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