



## Ensure Adequate Power Supply During Summer : LG Manoj Sinha Chairs Review Meeting of PDD

HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 20: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired a review meeting of the Power Development Department. Various matters pertaining to power supply during the upcoming summer months and progress of key projects and schemes were discussed in the meeting.

The Lt Governor discussed the power situation and reviewed the progress of key power projects. He took stock of the measures taken to curb AT&C losses, capacity additions, and the progress registered on smart meter installation.

Addressing concerns over power theft, the Lt Governor stressed upon the need for



heightened enforcement efforts on the ground. He further directed to streamline the process for new power connections for the ease of consumers.

The meeting also discussed the progress on underground cabling project for the Grid connectivity of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (from Rayil Pathri to Holy Cave and from Sangam top to Panjtarni). The Lt Governor instructed the officials to ensure timely completion of work before the commencement of the holy Yatra.

The Lt Governor directed the officials to ensure adequate availability of power during the summer season. He also stressed upon raising awareness on 'PM-Surya Ghar: Muft

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## Light Rains Lash Kashmir Parts For 3rd Straight Day

Hailstorm wreaks havoc in South Kashmir areas; Sgr-Jmu highway reopens for traffic movement



HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 20: The light rains continued for the third straight day on Saturday in

Kashmir parts while hailstorm wreaked havoc in several areas of South Kashmir districts. The occasional sunshine was witnessed

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### NEWS BRIEF

#### Wildlife dept deems 90% of leopard sighting reports in urban areas as false

SRINAGAR, APR 20: Amidst escalating reports of leopard sightings in urban areas of Kashmir, the experts from wildlife department here have shed light on the multifaceted blend of factors contributing to these encounters, revealing that around 90% of such reports are deemed false upon investigation.

Parvez Ahmad, Wildlife Warden of the central division Kashmir, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), highlighted that while social media platforms are flooded

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#### Terrorist hideout busted in Reasi

JAMMU, APR 20: A terrorist hideout was busted in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Saturday, leading to seizure of some incriminating material, police said.

The hideout was busted in Dalas Barneli area in Arnas sub division during a search and cordon operation, which was launched following reliable information about its presence, a police spokesperson said.

Two detonators, 12 rounds of AK assault rifle, one each IED enabled tape recorder and calculator, one battery and few connecting wires were recovered from the hideout, he said.

Reasi Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma said the

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#### JKSACS Launches Index Testing Campaign In J&K, Ladakh UT's

SRINAGAR, APR 20: Index testing campaign in the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh was today launched by Project Director, Jammu and Kashmir Aids Control Society (JKACS), Dr. Abdul Rouf Bhat in order to reach out to at-risk population with unknown HIV Status.

This campaign will help in achieving the national goal of achieving the 1st 95 (95% People living with HIV should know their status).

JKACS has conducted one day orientation cum training programme for all the ICTC, Targeted Intervention Projects/STI and ART Counsellors/data managers on Index testing and its reporting in SOCH portal on 20th

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#### Bharat Cannot Be Viksit Without Viksit Kashmir: S Puri

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 20: Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas, emphasized the crucial role of Kashmir in India's development at the 'Viksit Bharat Ambassador meetup' held in Srinagar on Saturday.

Addressing the audience, Minister Puri stated, "Bharat cannot be 'Viksit' without 'Viksit Kashmir'. Prime Minister said that it is his dream that India should be or will be a 'Viksit Dsh' or a 'developed nation' by 2047."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has articulated his vision for India to become a developed nation by 2047, and Minister Puri underscored the collective effort

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#### BJP Defends Its Decision Not To Field Candidates From 3 LS Seats In Kashmir

HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 20: Facing criticism for not putting up candidates on the three Lok Sabha seats in the Kashmir valley, Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Saturday said sometimes "decisions are made to achieve a big goal" and the BJP is supporting "patriotic" parties.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina said the party is finalising its strategy under the leadership of national president J



#### "We Got Majority In 2014, 2019 And Used It To Abolish 370, Build Ram Mandir, Implement CAA...": Amit Shah

HT News Network

KOTA (RAJASTHAN), APR 20: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that the people gave BJP full majority in 2014 and 2019 election, and they used that to abolish Article 370, build Ram Mandir, imple-



ment CAA and give 33 per cent reservation to women in Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

Addressing the Vijay Sankalp Mahasammelan here today, Amit Shah said, "You gave us full majority in 2014 and 2019, we used the majority to

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#### Foil Militant Activities Through Strict Vigilance: IGP Tells Officers in South Kashmir

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 20: Kashmir IGP V K Birdi has directed security forces in the valley to evaluate and enhance existing strategies to thwart any potential terror activities to



ensure public safety and uphold the integrity of the electoral process, police said on Saturday.

The Kashmir zone IGP chaired a joint security coordination meeting at Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Friday, a police

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#### Big And Powerful People In India, Abroad Joined Hands To Remove Me From Power: PM Narendra Modi

HT News Network

KARNATAKA, APR 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said big and powerful people in India and abroad have joined hands to remove him from power.

Addressing a mega public meeting here, he said, "Mothers and sisters have come in a large number here. Your struggle and the challenges you face to nurture your family, Modi

has seen this in his house. These days big and powerful people in the country and abroad have united to remove Modi."

"But, because of Nari Shakti and Maatru Shakti's blessings and Suraksha kavach (safety armour), Modi is able to move on fighting challenges."

"Serving mothers, sisters and daughters and protecting them is Modi's priority," he said, listing out measures taken by his government for

women's welfare in ten years, like supporting their self help groups and creating 'Lakhpati Didis'.

Former Minister K Sudhakar is the BJP candidate from Chikkaballapur, while its alliance partner JD(S) has fielded M Mallesh Babu from the neighbouring Kolar.

The prime minister said the first phase of voting for Lok Sabha on Friday has gone in

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#### Over 25 lakh patients visit GMC Srinagar's associated hospitals in 2023-24

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 20: Government Medical College Srinagar's seven associated hospitals witnessed approximately 25 lakh patients during the year 2023-24.

According to details obtained by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in this period, over two lakh patients were admitted, with more than 70 thousand surgeries conducted across the

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#### 'Srinagar Boat Tragedy Day 5'

#### Search continues for missing trio in Jhelum with no breakthrough



HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 20: The rescue mission

to locate the missing bodies of three persons in the Jhelum near Batwara-Gandabal

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

**LG Sinha.....**

Bijli Yojana' scheme through which the households will be able to save electricity bills as well as earn additional income through sale of surplus power to DISCOMs.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; H. Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department; Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lt. Governor; and the officials of Jammu and Kashmir Power DISCOMs, Chief Engineers and other senior officers.

**Light Rains.....**

till today afternoon, but the weather conditions took a shift thereafter as several areas of Kashmir including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir, thus simultaneously brought down the mercury across the valley.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the reports of hailstorm were received from many areas of Shopian district including Sugoo, Tharina, Molu, Dangerpora and others while the crops have also suffered huge damage in these areas as well.

Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director Meteorological department (MeT) said the weather is expected to remain generally dry from tomorrow till April 25, but added that the possibility of afternoon thundershower activity at isolated places can't be ruled out. Furthermore, according to the forecast, the weather would remain generally cloudy while light rain with thunder is expected at many places from April 26-27.

Moreover, the MeT department in its advisory had asked the farmers to resume farm operations after April 21st.

The Srinagar-Jammu national highway was restored for vehicular movement after remaining closed for hours due to mudslide at Mehad, Ramban and shooting stones at Kishtwari Pathar, Banihal yesterday.

As soon as the road was cleared, the traffic was allowed to ply in the late afternoon.

**Bharat Cannot.....**

required to achieve this goal. "India will become a developed nation in 2047 or even earlier, but in that, several people have to play a role," Minister Puri said.

"The Prime Minister sets the coordinates as the prime agent of change, but he has to be supported by others who believe in that vision."

Highlighting the current economic status, Minister Puri noted, "Right now, we are at USD 4 trillion. By 2040, our economy will be USD 40 trillion."

He envisioned that when India achieves a USD 40 trillion economy, it will not just be a 'Sone ki Chidiya' (golden bird) but the 'envy of the world'.

During his address, Minister Puri referenced India's historical economic significance, citing historian Angus Maddison of Cambridge University, who documented that India's contribution to the global economy in the year 1700.

Puri emphasised, "During the year 1700, India that is 'Bharat' was referred to as 'Sone ki Chidiya'. According to historian Angus Maddison of Cambridge University, who has extensively documented economic history, it is conclusively shown that India's contribution to the global economy in the year 1700, until the Battle of Plassey, was roughly 25 percent or more of the global GDP."

"In 2014, people used to say that India is one of the fragile five economies. Since 2014, we have reached the 5th position," Minister Puri remarked.

Minister Puri said, "Within the next 5 years, India will be amongst the top 3 economies in the world."

The Viksit Bharat Ambassador meetup served as a platform for discussing India's economic progress and the integral role of Kashmir in contributing to the nation's development agenda.

The event witnessed a gathering of influential figures, including startup leaders, women influencers, and distinguished personalities from Kashmir. (Agencies)

**BJP Defends.....**

general secretary, incharge J&K, Tarun Chugh and others.

"We were desirous of fighting the elections from all the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir on our own strength. But sometimes different decisions are made to achieve a big goal, setting aside personal interests. We are supporting those parties who are patriotic, working for betterment of Kashmir, strengthening peace and brotherhood and eager to serve the society," Raina said.

Without identifying any such candidate or the party, he said they will soon meet Nadda and other central leaders to discuss the strategy and will reveal the names so that the BJP workers and supporters can vote for them.

"We will work in accordance with the roadmap with full force and the candidates having support of the BJP will definitely win the elections as our party has a strong

support base and organisational structure and network in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Raina said Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressing an election rally in Jammu on April 16, had asked the people in Kashmir to reject the Congress, National Conference and PDP, who have "ruined" the region and prefer other parties contesting the elections from the three seats.

"The home minister made it clear that we have to fight together to defeat the dynastic parties who have pushed J&K into a fire. They have ruled J&K for many decades in the past and brought death and destruction in the valley. They (Congress, NC and PDP) are the enemies of Kashmiris because they have been indulging in politics of hatred and they are doing everything to push J&K back to the old days of violence," he said.

Chugh said the fight is between Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who "freed Jammu and Kashmir from the clutches of Article 370", and the three dynastic parties – the Congress, National Conference and PDP – who "exploited" people over the decades under the constitutional provision.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that the issue of BJP not yet declaring candidates on the three Lok Sabha seats in the Kashmir valley is being discussed.

"Best of the people are discussing this and I assure you that whatever is being evaded, will be taken care of soon," he said, adding that the party "has not left any ground". (Agencies)

**"We Got....."**

abolish 370, build the temple at Shri Ram Jannabhoomi, implement CAA and give 33% reservation to women in Lok Sabha and Assemblies."

"If you had voted for Congress in 2019, Kota would have become the house of PFI. You voted for PM Modi and he ended PFI and put them behind bars. They say that they will lift the ban on PFI. Congress is an anti-development party. For five years there was Gehlot-government but they did not let the Eastern Rajasthan Canal project move ahead for five years. After the Bhajanlal Sharma government came to power, within three months we signed the agreement for the Eastern Rajasthan Canal project," Shah added.

Further, the Home Minister slammed Congress and said that the first phase of elections concluded, on Friday and on all the seats Congress has been wiped off. "When we talk about crossing 400, Congress gets stomach ache. They are spreading lies that if BJP gets 400 seats then they will end the reservation. Modi ji gave Rs 20 thousand crore to 87 lakh farmers in Rajasthan as Kisan Samman Nidhi. Made 3 lakh lakhpati didi. Tap water was supplied to the homes of 51 lakh poor people. 2 crore people were given the benefit of Ayushman Bharat scheme. Work was done to build toilets in the houses of 86 lakh poor people. Congress is an anti-development party," Amit Shah said further.

The remaining 13 seats in Rajasthan will be contested in the second phase on April 26.

The remaining phases will be held on May 7, May 13, May 20, May 25 and June 1 accordingly. The last general elections in 2019 were also held in seven phases.

In 2019, BJP registered a sweeping victory winning 24 out of 25 seats, while the remaining one seat was won by Rashtriya Loktrantik Party Candidate Hanuman Beniwal. (Agencies)

**Foil Militant.....**

spokesman said. Birdi, along with IGP CRPF, and GOC Victor Force of the Army held a joint security review meeting which was attended by senior officers of the police, CRPF, and Army.

The participating officers briefed the IGP Kashmir about the overall security scenario and provided insights into the existing security challenges, the spokesman said.

The discussions encompassed various facets, including intelligence gathering, threat assessments, and emergency response protocols in addition to election preparedness efforts, he said.

Birdi urged the senior superintendents of police and their counterparts in the CAPF and Rashtriya Rifles of the Army to evaluate and enhance the existing strategies to thwart any potential terror activities, the spokesman said.

He said the necessity of revisiting and fortifying area domination tactics to cover any vulnerable areas was emphasised.

He also emphasised strict adherence to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and stressed upon the officers to increase focus on human intelligence gathering along with technical inputs so as to intensify anti-terrorist operations, the spokesman added.

**Over 25 lakh.....**

hospitals. The breakdown of patient visits and surgeries across the associated hospitals is as follows:

SMHS Hospital: With a bed capacity of 890, the hospital saw 1,063,028 patients in the OPD, admitted 107,589 in the IPD, and performed 23,269 surgeries, including 10,726 major surgeries and 12,543 minor surgeries.

**Search.....**

continued for the fifth day without any breakthrough, officials said.

Lal Ded Hospital: With a bed capacity of 710, the hospital treated 208,192 patients in the OPD, admitted 36,721 in the IPD, and conducted 20,891 surgeries, comprising 17,352 major surgeries and 3,540 minor surgeries.

B&J Hospital: With a bed capacity of 150, the hospital attended to 254,691 patients in the OPD, admitted 14,416 in the IPD, and conducted 14,861 surgeries, including 5,192 major surgeries and 9,672 minor surgeries.

Chest Disease Hospital: With a bed capacity of 200, the hospital saw 152,186 patients in the OPD, admitted 7,480 in the IPD, and conducted 2,707 surgeries, comprising 980 major surgeries and 1,809 minor surgeries.

Super Specialty Hospital: With a bed capacity of 220, the hospital treated 177,119 patients in the OPD, admitted 31,531 in the IPD, and performed 8,540 surgeries, including 4,482 major surgeries and 4,052 minor surgeries.

Children's Hospital: With a bed capacity of 700, the hospital saw 457,552 patients in the OPD and treated 28,723 in the IPD.

Psychiatry Disease Hospital: With a bed capacity of 100, the hospital attended to 169,514 patients in the OPD and admitted 1,779 in the IPD during the year 2023-24.

**Big And Powerful.....**

favour of NDA and 'Viksit Bharat'. Targeting the INDIA bloc, he said the opposition alliance doesn't have a leader at present, and has no vision for future, and "their history was of scams."

Praising JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda who shared the stage with him, for his energy and commitment at the age of 90, Modi said he too draws inspiration from him.

"His (Gowda) commitment towards Karnataka, the pain in his heart for the plight of Karnataka today and the 'josh' in his voice, is the testimony for Karnataka's bright future," he said, as he thanked Gowda for his "blessings".

The JD(S) joined the NDA in September last year.

Karnataka is going to the polls in two phases. While 14 Lok Sabha segments in the southern parts of the state will vote on April 26, the remaining 14 constituencies in the northern parts will vote in the second phase on May 7.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi, saying that in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, "Congress's sababzade" will also lose from Wayanad constituency in Kerala and he will have to look for a safer seat after that.

Addressing a rally at Nanded in Maharashtra to campaign for BJP candidates from Nanded and Hingoli seats, PM Modi said the information available for the first phase of Lok Sabha polls indicates that there has been a one-sided voting in favour of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Referring to Rahul Gandhi, PM Modi said, "After losing Amethi, the Congress' sababzade will lose Wayanad as well. So he will have to look for a safe seat after April 26." In an apparent reference to Sonia Gandhi, he said some INDIA bloc leaders left the Lok Sabha and moved to the Rajya Sabha as they have no courage to contest elections.

"For the first time, the family will not vote for a Congress candidate in the constituency where they live as there is no party candidate there," he said.

PM Modi said he has spent 10 years fixing the bad governance of the Congress regimes.

"A lot of work needs to be done," he added. The Congress has been a barrier in the development of farmers and poor people, he alleged.

"The agriculture crisis did not happen now. It happened because of the flawed policies of Congress," PM Modi said.

"They may claim anything, but the reality is that Congress leaders have accepted defeat even before the announcement of polls," he said.

He termed the opposition alliance a grouping of selfish people who have come together to protect their corrupt practices.

He appealed to voters to come out in large numbers to exercise their voting right in the Lok Sabha elections.

"You are not doing any favour by voting. you are securing the country's future. I want to boost the morale of the party workers from the opposition. You (opposition leaders) are sure to lose the polls, but you will get a chance some day. But you must appeal to voters to vote," he said.

PM Modi said the INDIA bloc constituents were contesting the elections against each other in 25 per cent seats.

After (the election results on) June 4, they will be fighting more with each other," he said.

He said that without the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, what fate would have befallen Sikhs who came from Afghanistan.

The NDA under PM Modi is seeking a stronger majority for a third consecutive term, while the constituents of the opposition INDIA bloc are hoping for a rebound after facing reverses in the 2014 and 2019 elections. (Agencies)

**Search.....**

continued for the fifth day without any breakthrough, officials said.

Despite ongoing efforts, including by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Indian Army's MARCOS and other teams, there have been no traces of the missing persons, Showkat Ahmad and his son Hazik Showkat, and another Farhan Parray.

The tragic incident occurred on April 16 when a boat capsized in the Jhelum River in the Gandbal area of Batwara, resulting in the deaths of six individuals and leaving three locals missing. The search operation has yielded only a few school bags so far, with no sign of the missing individuals.

ASI SDRF, Abdul Rashid told KNO that the rescue teams have been on job for the last five days but there has been no success in finding the missing trio.

"We have been on our toes, searching for the missing trio, but unfortunately, nothing has been found yet," the ASI said, adding, "We have also been searching near Chattabal Veer as there are chances the bodies might float there, but till now, nothing has been found."

During the initial stages of the rescue operation, four school bags were recovered near Chattabal Veer, with two additional bags retrieved later in the day by SDRF personnel. However, the missing bodies are yet to be traced.

Meanwhile, people, including religious clerics, have been visiting the bereaved families to offer condolences and pray for the safe recovery of the missing persons.

**Wildlife dept.....**

with purported leopard sightings, a significant majority—90%—are found to be baseless upon scrutiny.

"It may not be correct to say that there is a spike in the presence of leopards in urban areas," Ahmad stated. "Of the reports we receive, 90% turn out to be fake, and we take up the matter with the police against those involved in spreading false rumors about the presence of leopards."

Speaking over the possible reasons for leopards venturing into urban areas, Ahmad noted that of the minor percentage where leopard presence is confirmed, the primary driving force is the search for food, as these animals move out of their natural habitat for sustenance.

According to Ahmad, a complex interplay of elements such as leftover foods and open garbage disposal systems are attracting stray dogs, which in turn become prey for these majestic felines.

Addressing the proliferation of misinformation on social media regarding leopard sightings, Ahmad stressed that actions would be taken against those spreading rumors, urging the public to refrain from sharing unverified reports to prevent unnecessary panic and fear.

"In the central division, since I took over about 10% of reported cases are confirmed to be authentic," Ahmad stated while underlining the importance of responsible reporting.

Elaborating on the reasons behind leopards venturing into urban areas, Ahmad highlighted the search for food as a primary driving force. He pointed out that dogs, being soft prey, are attracted to areas with poor waste management practices, inadvertently drawing leopards closer to human settlements.

Ahmad underscored the importance of maintaining clean surroundings, advocating for the closure of unattended structures and the cleaning of bushes in empty lands to deter leopards from seeking shelter in urban environments.

He advised that communities residing near forested regions, national parks and protected areas take proactive measures to mitigate potential conflicts, such as securing garbage bins, refraining from feeding stray animals, and implementing community-driven conservation initiatives.

Meanwhile, some observers have attributed the surge in leopard sightings to rapid urbanization and habitat loss, forcing these elusive predators to adapt to changing landscapes.

The presence of abundant garbage and leftover food inadvertently creates a secondary food source in the form of stray dogs, further enticing leopards into urban vicinities.

**Terrorist.....**

search operation is still going on in the area and further details are awaited.

Police are committed to neutralise any nefarious designs of anti-national elements, she said. (PTI)

**JKSACS Launches.....**

April. In Jammu, the Index testing campaign was launched by Additional Director, JKACS Dr. Manu Bhatnagar.

Speaking on this development, Project Director JKACS stressed upon all the facilities that index testing when implemented appropriately and safely, can identify undetected HIV infection earlier and link them to Antiretroviral treatment services, break the chain of transmission and linking HIV negative At-Risk population to comprehensive combination prevention services at TI, ICTC/STI/ OST etc.

Index testing services (ITS), or partner notification services, is a voluntary case-finding approach where trained providers, with the consent of the HIV-positive client, focus on the elicitation of sexual and/or needle sharing partners and biological children of the client and offer them HIV Counselling and Testing Services. JKACS Launches Index Testing Campaign In J&K, Ladakh UT's

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# Garlic to Rajmah, Kashmiri Agriproducts Break Geographical Boundaries, Enter E-commerce Platforms

**SRINAGAR, APR 20:** From garlic to Rajmah, Kashmiri agriproducts are fast transcending geographical boundaries by making their way on to various e-commerce platforms.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Kashmir, famous for its breathtaking landscapes, also boasts a rich agricultural heritage. However, due to geographical constraints and limited market access, Kashmiri farmers often faced challenges in reaching a broader consumer base.

The emergence of e-commerce platforms has provided a solution to this long standing

issue, enabling direct connections between farmers and consumers across the country.

Now various agriproducts which are grown in Kashmir are available on various e-commerce platforms.

Taking an instance of Kashmiri garlic and rajmah (kidney beans), which are known for their quality worldwide are available on various e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Flipkart and others.

Similarly, Kashmiri chilli powder, Kashmir's aromatic rice Mushk Budji, saffron, walnut, almonds and lavender oil too are available on e-commerce



All these agriproducts have got positive reviews on the platforms.

e-commerce platforms for their quality and purity from the buyers.

Taking the case of Rajmah, the buyers have given five star ratings for the quality and purity of the product.

"I have tasted Kashmiri Rajmah while on my trip back in 2019. I loved it and got access to it via Amazon. Thank you," posted Sunil Kumar a review on a local Rajmah brand.

Mohammad Yusuf Bhat, a dry fruit dealer has been one of the suppliers for Rajmah, saffron and other products to various online stores. "Previously, we were limited to selling our gar-

lic in local markets. Now, through online platforms, we are reaching customers across India. This has significantly increased our income and has motivated us to expand our cultivation," he said.

This shift towards e-commerce has not only benefited farmers but has also delighted consumers who now have access to high-quality Kashmiri agriproducts with just a few clicks. Customers appreciate the authenticity and freshness of the products, reinforcing the value of traditional farming methods and local produce.

## BJP contesting Kashmir elections through proxies, alleges Omar Abdullah

**PULWAMA, APR 20:** Former Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President, Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the Bharatiya Janata Party is contesting elections in Kashmir under the symbols of bat and apple, rather than their own party symbol.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Omar while addressing reporters after a gathering of party workers at Deeri Murran Pulwama, said the BJP is reluctant to announce its own candidates for the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliament seat, and possibly for other seats as well. They are using proxies to contest the elections, he alleged.

Abdullah questioned the BJP's strategy, asking why they are not directly participating in the elections and instead supporting "B and C teams". He criticised the Saffron party for making grand claims without fielding their own candidates, especially considering the uncertain outcome of polling, particularly in the Udhampur seat.

"If they have been making big claims then why did they leave the field empty and support their teams," he said, adding, "When the polling is yet to be conducted on the Jammu seat, then on what basis



can the BJP celebrate its victory?"

"I want to remind Ravinder Raina that the polling has not even happened for the Jammu seat. We don't know how many votes would be cast. BJP should declare its victory after the voting. For now, their Udhampur seat seems to be in danger," he added.

Regarding the contest in the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliament seat, the former chief minister said there is no direct competition between a "BJP-supported party" and the NC. "Unfortunately, we have a fight now with our own friend who was with us and left us for this seat," he said.

Omar added, "The Home Minister recently indicated support to B and C teams by saying that they are not in a hurry for Lotus to bloom in Kashmir," he said.

When asked about the BJP's claim of securing 400 seats, the NC leader said, "Let's wait till June 05 to see the actual results. Ladakh seat is going out of their hands and yesterday's (Friday's) voting indicates they won't be able to win Udhampur seat."

"National Conference is poised to win all three seats in Kashmir based on the response from the people," he added.

## Sajad Lone Seeks Apni Party Support To Consolidate Anti-National Conference Votes In Baramulla

**SRINAGAR, APR 20:** People's Conference chief Sajad Lone on Saturday sought support from the Apni Party to consolidate all anti-National Conference votes in north Kashmir.

Lone, who is contesting the Lok Sabha elections from north Kashmir's Baramulla seat, claimed the National Conference benefits from the fragmentation of votes.

The People's Conference chief is contesting against Omar Abdullah, the National Conference vice-president and a former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu

and Kashmir state.

"I appeal to (Apni Party chief) Altaf Bukhari, let us stop the division of votes in north Kashmir and let them support us there," Lone said at a press conference.

The People's Conference assures its 100 per cent support to the Apni Party in Srinagar in return, he said.

"We will support them unconditionally in Srinagar," he added.

The People's Conference chairman claimed the National Conference has won 10 times from the



Baramulla seat since 1975, except in 1996, mainly because of the fragmentation of votes.

"For every vote for them, two-and-a-half votes are against the National Conference. So, we thought we should stop this division of votes," he said.

"I appeal to Bukhari to not field a candidate in the north to avoid the fragmentation of votes," Lone added.

Baramulla goes to the polls in the fifth phase on May 20 while Srinagar will vote in the fourth phase on May 13. (Agencies)

## In 5 years, Srinagar Distt records over 450 kidnapping, rape cases

'Witnesses at least 170 cases of attempt to suicide, 63 cases of murder'

**SRINAGAR, APR 19:** In the past more than five years, Srinagar district have witnessed at least 455 kidnapping and rape cases and 63 murder cases.

According to the official figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), police authorities in district Srinagar from have registered at least 455 kidnapping and rape cases from 2019 to January 31-2024.

The official also said that during this period, the police authorities in the region has recorded at least 63 cases under crime head murder and 170 suicidal cases under crime head attempt to suicide.

This information was revealed by the Public Information Officer (PIO) of district police Srinagar in a reply to Right to Information (RTI) application filed by the activist M M Shuja.

According to the official figures, police in 2019 have registered at least 15 suicidal cases under crime head attempt to suicide in Srinagar followed by 26 cases in 2020.

In the year 2021, it also recorded at least 51 such cases, 41 cases in 2022 and 34 suicidal cases in 2023.

The official figures further reveal that in 2024 till the month end of January, a total of three suicidal cases were registered in Srinagar district.



About the cases of kidnapping and rape, the PIO has informed that the district police Srinagar in year 2019 has registered at least 98 such cases followed by 21 cases in the year 2020.

It also said that the Srinagar district in 2021 has registered at least 100 cases of kidnapping and rape under crime head and has also witnessed 128 such cases in 2022 and hundred cases in 2023 respectively.

The official figures states that that in 2024 till the month end of January, a total of eight kidnapping and rape

cases were registered in Srinagar district.

Likewise, the PIO has mentioned that in the year 2019, police in Srinagar district have registered at least six murder cases followed by 13 cases in 2020, at least 24 murder cases in 2021, thirteen cases in 2022 and six cases in 2023.

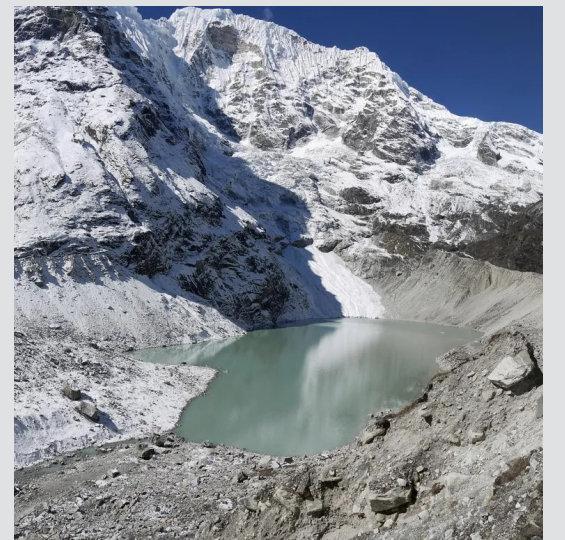
The PIO has further revealed that in January-2024, police authorities in the district have registered only one such case under crime head murder.

## 122 Glaciers Shrinking in Pir Panjal, Heightened Risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods: Report

**SRINAGAR, APR 20:** A study on the damage caused by climate change has revealed shocking information. According to the report, 122 glaciers are shrinking in the Pir Panjal, raising concerns about potential glacial lake outburst floods.

Researchers have identified 122 glaciers in the Pir Panjal range, whose size has drastically decreased since 1980. Glaciers covering an area of approximately 25.7 square kilometers have diminished to just 15.9 square kilometers.

This revelation comes from a study conducted by researchers from the National Institute of Technology, Srinagar, led by Mohammad Ashraf Ganai and Syed Qaiser Bukhari. The findings have been published in the International Journal of Hydrology



Science and Technology.

The researchers analyzed data spanning four decades, from 1980 to 2020, focusing on the glaciers within the Pir Panjal range of the Kashmir Basin in India.

Glaciers facing south have experienced more significant melting compared to those facing north. Additionally, glaciers situated at an average altitude of 3,800-4,000 meters above sea level have exhibited more pronounced melting than those at lower elevations.

The decline in glaciers poses a threat of water scarcity, impacting agricultural production and everyday life. The rapid and substantial melting of glaciers also increases the risk of glacial lake outburst floods, which could disrupt the ecosystem and pose significant hazards.

## Authorities in Baramulla to impose Rs 5000 fine for unauthorised roadside parking

Warns of strict action against violators for encroaching roads

**BARAMULLA, APR 20:** Authorities in Baramulla have urged people to refrain from encroaching roads and parking their vehicles on roadsides, saying violators will have to pay a hefty fine of Rs 5000. Street vendors, encroachment of roads by shopkeepers by put-

ting merchandise, signboards and wrong parking of vehicles were the main reasons for obstructing public movement besides leading to frequent traffic jams, an official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said they have decided to

relocate street vendors of civil lines Baramulla to Tashkan Adda (Kokar Bazar) and General Bus Stand Baramulla.

"Any vendor found with his cart outside these designated areas will be dealt strictly in accordance with law and a fine

of Rs 2000 will be imposed on the spot," the official added.

Meanwhile, an administrative order notifying all the shopkeepers to remove their illegal encroachments of their own besides asked them not to park their vehicles along roadsides as

well as bridges to ensure hassle free movement of pedestrians/commuters and to avoid undue traffic jams.

"Any person found violating the orders will be dealt strictly in accordance with the law, which shall include the fine of Rs. 5000," it said.

# DEO Kupwara flags-off Cycle Race under SVEEP to raise voter awareness

HT News Network

Kupwara, April 20: As part of its ongoing efforts to promote voter awareness and electoral participation, District Administration Kupwara organized a Cycle Rally under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) at Kupwara on Saturday.

The rally was flagged-off by the District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara Ms. Ayushi Sudan. DEO was accompanied by the Nodal Officer SVEEP/CEO Kupwara, Abdul Majeed Dar.

The Cycle Race started from the DC Office complex Kupwara and finally culminated near Government Degree

College at Bohipora, Kupwara after passing through Bumhama, Mogalpora and Gushi.

Through this Cycle Race, the Students from different educational institutions made efforts to create awareness and motivate the general public, especially first time voters to actively participate in the democratic process.

The DEO speaking, after flagging off the Cycle Race, told Media Persons that the main aim of the Cycle race was to ensure that every eligible voter is equipped with the awareness, Knowledge and motivation to exercise their right to vote and play a significant role in shaping the democratic process, ultimately on the poll day Kupwara district should have a



highest voter turnout which should surpass the national voting turnout average.

The DEO on the occasion urged the general public to use their right to

vote and fulfill their civic duty. "It is our responsibility and fundamental duty to participate enthusiastically in upcoming elections so that a responsible government is elected"

She said. The DEO said that multiple events and activities under SVEEP are being organized to aware and educate the voters. "We are going to speed up the SVEEP activities and have planned the mega events in the coming days in the run up to the LS Polls". DEO further said that on April 24 and April 25 Mega plantation drive is being organized in every Polling station of the district. I urge all residents of Kupwara district to participate in the plantation drive and contribute in conservation of forests and protection of the environment besides getting awareness and education about right to franchise.

Ayushi Sudan said that the District administration is planning to organize a mega art exhibition at any

suitable place and a SVEEP festival at Tangdar in coming days.

DEO later felicitated winners of Cycle Race at her office chambers which included Mohammad Abass Chopan, 11th class student of BHSS, Drugmulla, (first Position) holder; Adnan Syed Peerzada, 9th class student of KPS Kupwara, (2nd Position), Moomen Nabi, 11th class student of BHSS Drugmulla (3rd position). While interacting with the winners of Cycle Race, DEO congratulated the winners.

The participants expressed gratitude to the DEO for engaging citizens, promoting democratic values and providing them opportunity to raise voter awareness by means of Cycle race and other activities.

## اطلاع عام

میں نے Candle Wood Home saty کی رجسٹریشن محکم ٹورازم پہلاگام میں کرانی مطلوب ہے اگر اس بارے میں کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اسسٹنڈ ڈیپارٹمنٹ ٹورازم پہلاگام کے دفتر میں پیش کرے بعد معاد کوئی اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

المشتر

مشارب احمد اینڈ مشال احمد ملک ولد غلام احمد ملک ساکنہ بٹکوٹ پہلاگام

## اطلاع عام

میں نے Chairnag Home saty کی رجسٹریشن محکم ٹورازم پہلاگام میں کرانی مطلوب ہے اگر اس بارے میں کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اسسٹنڈ ڈیپارٹمنٹ ٹورازم پہلاگام کے دفتر میں پیش کرے یا اس فون نمبر رابطہ کرے 01936243224 بعد معاد کوئی اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

المشتر

گلزار احمد وانی ولد محمد اکبر وانی ساکنہ لدر و پہلاگام

## ازعدالت ایکزیکیٹیو مجسٹریٹ

### درجہ اول ناریل ضلع بڈگام

عنوان: درخواست منجانب مشیل مقبول وانی ولد محمد مقبول وانی ساکنہ ارٹھ تحصیل ناریل ضلع بڈگام، برادھصول DOB بحق سائل

معاملہ مندرجہ ذیل عنوان الصدر کے نسبت سائل کا ایک درخواست بعض اجرائی سائل کرنے DOB سند پیش ہوا۔ سائل مشیل مقبول وانی ساکنہ سائل کرنے کی خواہ ہے سائل دعویٰ کرتا ہے کہ مشیل مقبول وانی ولد محمد مقبول وانی ساکنہ ارٹھ کی تاریخ پیدائش 20-12-2003 ہے اور تمام خواہم خاص و عام کو بزر بعد اشتہار مطالع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو DOB سرٹیفیکٹ نکالنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر دفتر بذائیں پیش کرے معزز نے کے بعد کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

ایکزیکیٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول ناریل

## 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.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My father, namely Mr Gh Hassan Wani (Azad), is missing since friday afternoon. He left home around 3 pm on Friday 19/04/24 and didn't return. If anybody has seen him or knows anything about his whereabouts he may kindly inform us on following No.s.9149777482., 8493079715

SAJAD AHMAD WANI (SON)  
R/O RESHI PORA NANIL ANANTNAG

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for renewal of seed license under license name WANI SEEDS if anybody has any objection in this renewal of license he /she may file his /her objection in the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT OF BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

NAME ...UZMA NAZIR WANI  
W/O ...MOHAMMAD ARIF WANI  
R/O ...KREERI DISTT.... BARAMULLA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have last my final year marks card under registration no 25762 SJ 2012 Roll No 19513268 now i am applying for its duplicate certificate. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may fill his /her objection in the office of KASHMIR UNIVERSITY SRINAGER within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

NAME....ALTAF AHMAD MIR  
S/O ...GHULAM MOHAMMAD MIR  
R/O ...NANAGAM

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of REHANA FAYAZ D/O FAYAZ AHMAD BHAT R/O BURZWACHAN Tehsil kreeri Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 03/10/2018 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH kreeri for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE  
1ST CLASS KREERI

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR 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 have any objection to the issuance of said registration shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS PATTAN

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name in driving Licence has been wrongly written as PARVAIZ AHMAD LONE bearing Licence No JK -05 20120033993 while my correct name is PARVAIZ NABI LONE S/O GH NABILONE R/O TILGAMPATTAN which needs to be changed. if anybody has any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the ARTO BARAMULLA within a period of seven days from the date from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

NAME...PARVAIZ NABI LONE  
S/O...GH NABI LONE  
R/O ...TILGAM PATTAN  
DISTT...BARAMULLA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

That I Smt./Sh. Masooda Ruhee W/o Ghulam Nabi Burgee intend to Sell Plot No. plot no 970 Sector xxx in Housing colony, Ompora, Budgam Kashmir to Smt./Sh. Shuaib Burgee s/o Ghulam Nabi Burgee r/o Green park west Hyderpora Srinagar.

I have applied for NOC for Conveyance Deed for transfer of lease hold rights of above said plot. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt Park, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.

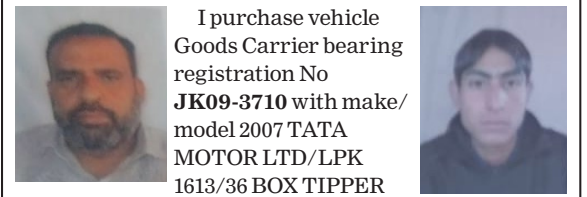
NAME: MASOODA RUHEE  
W/O GHULAM NABI BURGEE  
R/O GREEN PARK WEST HYDERPORA

## 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

## PUBLIC NOTICE



I purchase vehicle Goods Carrier bearing registration No JK09-3710 with make/ model 2007 TATA MOTOR LTD/ LPK 1613/36 BOX TIPPER

from seller MOHD YASIN SHEIKH S/O HAJAJ MOHD AFZAL SHEIKH R/O VILGAM HANDWARA if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact with ARTO OFFICE Kupwara within seven days from the publication of this after that no objection will be entertained.

NAME....RAMEEZ AHMAD MALIK  
S/O ..GHULAM NABI MALIK  
R/O ...LAKHRIPIRA BUDGAM  
M.NO 70063 20571

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name in my Bank account has been wrongly written as HAFIZAMAQBOOL bearing ACCOUNT No SBUJ 179 while my correct name is HAFEEZA BANO DO MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL RATHER R/O MATIPORA PATTAN which needs to be changed. if anybody has any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of J & K BANK SINGHPORA PATTAN within a period of seven days from the date from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

NAME...HAFEEZA BANO  
D/O...MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL RATHER  
R/O ...MATIPORA PATTAN  
DISTT...BARAMULLA

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# India Bloc sole viable option for Nation's future: NC

HT News Network

SAMBA April 20th: J&K National Conference today advocated for the India Bloc as the sole viable option for the people of our cherished nation, citing widespread disillusionment with the misrule of the Modi Government over the past decades.

In this regard, J&K National Conference today organized series of meetings at Samba Urban, Samba Rural, Ramgarh, Vijaypur, Raya Morh and Pyl. Meen Sarkar (Bari Brahmana) Industrial Area falling in district Samba.

During the meetings, Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary JKNC and former Minister along with Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, JKNC, Jammu, Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President, Mohd Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary, Surjit Singh Manhas Joint Secretary, Nar Singh President Labour Wing, Bimla Luthra former MLA, Sawant Dogra Provincial President Women wing Jammu, Vijay Laxmi Datta Senior leader, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Sudagar Gupta District President



Samba. These meetings were organized by Party's dedicated functionaries Mohinder Singh, Chander Uday Singh, Ashok Attri, Dr Harmesh Singh Slathia, Ravinder Slathia, Surjit Singh Manhas, Joginder Pal and Bharat Bhushan. At the beginning of the meetings at several places, the NC workers apprised the senior functionaries about the problems being faced by general public in absence of basic amenities

across the Samba district. Addressing the meetings at several places in Samba, Ajay Sadhotra, astutely acknowledging the pressing need for a united front in addressing the multifaceted challenges confronting the people due to BJP's anti-people policies, declared the India Bloc as the sole viable option. He underscored the imperative for collective action under the banner of the India Bloc, emphasizing

the urgency of consolidating support behind Raman Bhalla, the INDI Alliance candidate for Jammu Reasi Lok Sabha seat, as a beacon of hope and progress.

Emphasizing the need for a cohesive political front, Sadhotra urged voters to rally behind the INDI Alliance Candidate in the ensuing elections for a better future.

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC, in his address, advocated for a transformative change under the banner of the India Bloc. He highlighted the INDI Alliance's commitment to fostering economic growth, promoting social cohesion, and upholding democratic principles as foundational pillars of its agenda. "Now more than ever, we need leadership that is principled, visionary, and responsive to the needs of the people," he stated.

As the nation stands at a crossroads, Rattan Lal Gupta urged voters to exercise their democratic right with diligence and foresight. "The choices we make in the upcoming elections will shape the trajectory of our nation for years to come. Let us unite behind the India Bloc, let us rally behind Raman Bhalla, and let us forge a path towards a stronger.

# ADC Handwara inspects different polling stations

HT News Network



KUPWARA, APRIL 20: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather who is also ARO AC-5 Handwara today visited various polling stations of Handwara sub division to inspect Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) and reviewed the preparedness for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The inspection was aimed to ensure that all polling stations are accessible to voters especially to specially-abled persons. Ramp access, electricity supply and drinking water and other facilities were reviewed. During the visit, the ADC inspected Polling Station Ramhal, Tarathpora, Hachmarg, Tumina, Manzgam, Phalmarg, Malikpora, Kalmooona and various other stations. On the occasion, plantation activities were also held in some polling stations. The ADC emphasized the concerned departments for ensuring all required facilities at the polling stations so that each and every eligible voter shall participate in the election process without any hindrance. He reiterated the commitment of the administration to conducting free, fair and peaceful elections, urging all stakeholders to cooperate and contribute to the success of the electoral process. The ADC also inspected different school during which he interacted with the students and provided voter awareness to them. He was accompanied by Tehsildar Ramhall Aijaz Ahmad and election staff.

# SSP Ganderbal hold meeting with retired police personnel at DPL Ganderbal

HT News Network

April 20: In order to review the welfare measures and to redress the grievances of retired Police Officers, SSP Ganderbal Shri Sandeep Gupta-IPS held meeting with (PRO) ANG Police Retired Officers Association Non-Gazetted at DPL Ganderbal in which various issues pertaining to them were discussed. Representatives of Police Retired Officers Association put forth various pending issues pertaining to them. They were heard patiently by SSP Ganderbal and were assured full cooperation. It was also made clear in the meeting that retirees are always welcomed for their valuable suggestions and there is great respect for them in the Police organization as they have rendered a long service and toiled hard to earn a name for the organization. Further, SSP Ganderbal stated that various measures are taken by J&K.

# Political activists, workers from city join Apni Party Altaf Bukhari greets news entrants into the party fold

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 20 (KNS): A large number of political activists and workers from Srinagar's Habba Kadal constituency, joined Apni Party today, during an event organized at the party headquarters in Srinagar. The joining of the new members was persuaded by Jeelani Hamid Kumar, the party's senior vice president for the Srinagar district and the party's incharge for the Habba Kadal constituency.

As per the statement issued here, the new entrants included Shafat Hussain Wani, Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Fayaz Ahmad Ganai, and their associates and workers. On this occasion, the party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari and other esteemed leaders gave a warm welcome to the new entrants, and assured them that the entire party leadership would stand by them when the our there to serve the people in their respective areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to the Apni Party. I am sure your joining will further strengthen the party in the Habba Kadal constituency. I assure you that the Apni Party leadership will provide you with full support in your activities to serve the people in your area."

# Lok Sabha Elections 2024:

Expenditure Observer for Anantnag- Rajouri PC visits Kulgam, reviews compliance with election expenditure regulations,

HT News Network



KULGAM, APRIL 20: Expenditure Observer (EO) to 3- Anantnag-Rajouri, Parliamentary Constituency, Shyam Manohar Singh today visited Kulgam and undertook a comprehensive review of compliance with election expenditure regulations in Kulgam in connection with the Lok Sabha elections 2024. During his visit, the EO chaired a meeting at Conference hall mini-secretariat, here which was attended by District Election Officer, Athar Aamir Khan; SSP Kulgam, Sahail Sarangal; Additional District Development Commissioner, Bashir Ahmad Wani; Nodal officer MCC, Abdul Rashid, AROs, Viqar Ahmad Giri, Bashir Ul Hassan and Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Dy DEO, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; District Treasury Officer and other officers various other officials and teams involved in the election process. The DEO, through a powerpoint presentation, appraised the chair of the district profile and the arrangements and measures put in place for smooth conduct of elections. It was also shared that a 24x7 robust control room is functioning in the district besides SVEEP activities are being carried out as per the formulated plan. During the meeting, SSP Kulgam briefed the EO that a slew of security measures have been taken to ensure peaceful elections in the district.

The Expenditure Observer underscored the importance of adhering to ECI guidelines, emphasizing the crucial role of each stakeholder in safeguarding the democratic process and conducting free, fair and peaceful elections. He called for a collective commitment towards upholding democratic values and maintaining,

# Director Sericulture J&K on Extensive Tour of Jammu Division to Review functioning of Sericulture Development Department

HT News Network

Jammu April 20 (KNS): Director Sericulture J&K, who is on extensive tour of Jammu Division chaired a comprehensive review meeting in the Directorate of Sericulture Development Department J&K, Camp Office B.C Road Jammu before visiting various establishments, Mulberry Nurseries/Farms, CRCs, Seed Stations, Grainages etc. across Jammu Division. During the meeting the Director Sericulture J&K had a threadbare discussions with all the officers of Jammu Division to review the progress of initiatives of the department for expansion of Sericulture activities and bolster Silk-worm Seed and Cocoon Production. Besides, the Director Sericulture J&K also took review of the



developmental works presently in progress and stressed on the need to speed up the pace of all the works being executed at different locations in Jammu Division to strengthen the infrastructure of the department for effective execution of sensitive and delicate silk-worm seed production and breeding operations.

During the proceedings of the meeting, the Director Sericulture J&K emphasized the crucial need to

beneficiaries must be facilitated with requisite benefits which are being provided by the department under various schemes including Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) expeditiously.

During the concluding session of the meeting he emphasized the importance of timely completion of breeding operations and highlighted the necessity for synchronization of seed cocoons to maximize efficiency and productivity. In this backdrop he exhorted upon all the field functionaries of the Department to work with dedication and remain present during different technical operations as well as breeding operations at their respective Seed Stations keeping into consideration the delicate technical operations which are time bound.

# Javed Rana highlights vital role of youth to counter false development narrative of BJP

HT News Network

Pulwama, April 19 : PoMENDHAR: Javed Ahmed Rana, President Pir Panjal Zone, JKNC, and former Legislator, highlighted the pivotal role of the younger generation in combating the fabricated narrative of development propagated by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. He underscored the urgency of democratic processes



and the imperative need to challenge misleading claims of progress. The senior NC leader was speaking at the public meeting held in support of NC candidate at Gur-

sai area of Mendhar, district Poonch. Former MLA Surankote Ch. Mohd Akram was also present. Javed Rana emphasized the foundational significance of

upholding democratic principles in the Indian socio-political landscape. "Elections serve as the bedrock of democracy, enabling citizens to exercise their fundamental right to select representatives who genuinely reflect their aspirations. We must vehemently uphold the sanctity of elections as a bulwark against any attempts to subvert the will of the people," he said. Furthermore, the senior NC leader cast a spotlight

# Efforts of divisive elements will be fought tooth and nail: Aga Ruhullah

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 20 (KNS): National Conference senior leader and Lok Sabha candidate from central Kashmir's Srinagar segment Aga Ruhullah Saturday reiterated that efforts of divisive elements need to be fought tooth and nail.

Talking to Kashmir News Service (KNS), Ruhullah said that PAGD was not an electoral alliance but meant for a particular cause which is still relevant. "The cause PAGD was formed for still exist. For that we will have to get united again. We have a big responsibility in the election as it will be fresh start for our struggle to fight for our rights that were snatched on August 05, 2019", Ruhullah said.

He said the ongoing Lok Sabha election is for that institution where our rights were trampled. "This is an important elections to make people aware and tell them to wake up and fight for their rights. This is a big opportunity for us to reach out to people and let them know what was taken away from us", he said.

The NC leader the aim of our contesting polls is to mobilize political space which was not provided in last five years. "The decision taken on August 05, 2019 is unacceptable for us. The aim of our contesting elections is to represent collective sentiment of our people who are disappointed with the declarations of New Delhi," he said.

# Health Minister Punjab inaugurates Aryans Pharmacy Conference

Around 150 delegates participated across the world in this international pharmacy conference

HT News Network

Srinagar, 19th April: Addressing a press briefing in Srinagar Srinagar, April 20th

An international pharmacy conference on "Recent advances, opportunities & Challenges in Pharmaceutical sectors was held at Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh. Health Minister, Punjab, Dr. Balbir Singh inaugurated this conference and Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group presided over.

Health Minister, Punjab, Dr. Balbir Singh while highlighting the immense potential of this sector said that the pharmaceutical industry is robust, resilient and responsive. India's pharmaceutical sector, called the Pharmacy of the World, will be contributing more in the coming years for domestic needs and to cater to global demand too. Declared as a sunrise sector, this is an emerging manufacturing hub that has seen phenomenal progress with the implementation of production linked incentive schemes and investments for medicinal drug



parks, the Health Minister emphasized.

On the occasion, eminent speaker of the session was Dr Upendra Nagaich, National Secretary Society of Pharmaceutical Education & Research. The Guests of Honour were S. Gurdayal S Buttar, President, Nursing Training

Institute Association, Punjab; Dr GD Gupta, Director, ISF College of Pharmacy Moga; Dr Shailesh Sharma, Director, College of Pharmacy, Bela; Dr Tejvir Kaur; Head of Pharmacy Department Medical College, Patiala

Dr. Anshu Kataria mentioned that over the last two decades particularly, the pharmaceutical industry has grown from strength to strength, turning into a major sector of education & for job opportunities. The industry has contributed immensely in increasing life expectancy too. At Aryans out of 3500, more than 1500 students are studying in healthcare courses including pharmacy, nursing, paramedical, physiotherapy etc. Not only the nation but our state will soon be the hub of the healthcare force, asserted Kataria.

Dr. JS Badhan, Principal Aryans College of Pharmacy said that in this international conference, around 150 delegates across the world participated. During this, presentations, interactive sessions, poster presentations, along with enlightening keynote sessions were organised by esteemed professionals from both industry and academia.

## EDITORIAL

## Implement Forest Rights Act on ground

After the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir many central laws were extended to this union territory. One among such laws was the Forest Rights Act. Once this law was extended it was expected that the same would be implemented in letter and spirit. This would have meant that the people living near the forests would get the rights associated with the Act but that was not to be.

The people living near the forests also known as forest dwellers yearn for the total implementation of the Forest Rights Act in Jammu & Kashmir. The forest dwellers have been complaining that despite many representations the Act has not been implemented and as such they are being denied the benefits that would accrue out of the same. This needs to be looked into by the people at helm so that no section of society is left out on the path of development.

Even though Gram Sabhas across the length and breadth of the union territory have declared forests as community forests no further action has been taken. As a result of this the implementation of Forest Rights Act has not taken off in Jammu & Kashmir. The forest dwellers have carried out protests in support of their demands but still then no relief has been meted out to them.

On their part the forests dwellers should also fulfil their obligations under the Forest Rights Act. They should ensure that only the decayed trees or fallen trees are used while as the green ones are not touched. It is also their responsibility to keep track of the activities being carried out in the forests and nearby. They should catch hold of the forest smugglers and this would ensure that no harm or damage is caused to the green cover of the union territory.

Since the Government of India believes in all round development of the country and development of different sections of society it is imperative that forest dwellers are not left out of the race. This would mean that the forest dwellers become real stakeholders in the development of country and they will feel associated with the economic progress of the country. As such one can think of real development of the country in the real sense.

Over the years the depletion of forest cover has taken place and time has come when the lost glory has to be retained. Same is possible only when forest dwellers are involved in the process of minimizing further damage to the green gold. The concerned department should take pro-active measures so that Forest Rights Act is implemented in Jammu & Kashmir.



■ By Mool Raj

What do items such as chia seeds, flaxseeds, apple cider vinegar, massage, sauna, dark chocolate and various varieties of green tea have in common? They are all believed by many to be miracle weight-reducing agents. What they also have in common is the fact that, whatever other benefits they may have— and they have many— none of them remotely answers to the description of miracle weight reducer. The perception lives on regardless; and advertisers and salesmen— who are hardly the most conscientious of beings you could ever meet— are not complaining in the least. In a perfect world one would expect this breed to be a little more upright than usual when it comes to matters of medicine and health; but it is not a perfect world, as you probably have guessed already.

While one cannot rule out the efficacy in this regard of chia seeds and the like in some parallel universe; in the universe that we happen to inhabit, weight management is about calorie balance and calorie balance alone. An intake-expenditure surplus makes you gain weight; a deficit makes you lose weight; while an equilibrium means constant weight. Weight loss is then as much about not doing (not consuming certain things at all, and not eating anything in excess) as it is about doing (working out). In fact, much more so; for such is the calorie-intensity of some of the foods (and drinks) on offer that three hours of workout can easily be offset by indulgence of ten minutes or less. While one's diet and exercise regimen help, complement and reinforce one another immensely, the two are all there is to it when it comes to weight management.

This obvious and simple fact (despite its simplicity, or probably because of it) cannot be stressed enough. That is, in the final analysis, you lose weight as a result of two things and two things alone: exercising and eating/drinking less (not more). Do not let anybody tell you otherwise, no matter how fit or pretty. It is usual for models and actresses to give health and fitness tips on TV and the internet that revolve around eating this or drinking that. Whether they do it as part of a planned marketing campaign or because they do not want to give away the real 'secret'— the way they have done it (i.e. exercise and



Don't tell anyone  
what you're doing until it's done.

Outside energy can throw off goals.

— RHONDA BYRNE | TheMindsJournal

MINDJOURNAL

**Things other than exercise and diet can be significant too, but only indirectly so. Support and encouragement from friends and loved ones are crucial because they keep one focused in the face of temptations of junk food and laziness.** Appreciation also motivates one to keep it up when one is doing well on the diet and work-out fronts. Having genuine interests and avocations in life go a very long way towards helping maintain this sort of discipline. Continuity of purpose in life helps like nothing else can. as all these things undeniably are; from the perspective of weight management, they are important, not in themselves but, because of how they affect one's lifestyle (quality and quantity of one's diet and workout regimen).

careful diet), is neither here nor there. If you allow them to convince you that you can slim down by eating/drinking certain things, you are in for endless

frustration because that is simply never going to happen.

Unfortunately, there is nothing in this world that makes an individual

shed excess kilograms by the simple (and pleasant) act of getting outside it. It is safe to say that had anybody discovered such a magic substance, there would not be so many overweight people everywhere. Except water and fibre, everything one eats or drinks comes with calories of its own (whether more or less), and needs to be included in the balance sheet. If you refuse to account for it, your body certainly will; and the results will be there for all to see. 'There is no free lunch' may be a figurative expression but it is literally true as well.

Things other than exercise and diet can be significant too, but only indirectly so. Support and encouragement from friends and loved ones are crucial because they keep one focused in the face of temptations of junk food and laziness. Appreciation also motivates one to keep it up when one is doing well on the diet and work-out fronts. Having genuine interests and avocations in life go a very long way towards helping maintain this sort of discipline.

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Similarly, sufficient sleep is a great help too. But not because there is something intrinsically weight-reducing in it, but because of the decreased appetite levels it causes (leading to less consumption as a result). No to mention all the trips to the refrigerator you do not make on account of being asleep. The same goes for dark chocolate, boiled vegetables and the like. They help you slim down not because there is some mysterious or magic ingredient in them, but by virtue of (and strictly to the extent of) making you feel satiated enough to keep the more calorie-rich items at bay.

Massage is an especially tricky one. There is no denying the various scientific studies that have demonstrated its efficacy as a weight reducing activity. The source of the misconception surrounding it is probably the fact that most people fail to appreciate the rather subtle point that according to all studies it is the masseur who ends up shedding weight; never the individual enjoying the massage.

**THE AUTHOR IS A COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER**

# Extension lecture on short stories!

■ Dr. Salman Abdus Samad

In the last ten years, I have participated in more than 25 literary seminars. But it was the first time I was invited for an extension lecturer on the topic of "How to write a short story" organized with pomp and shown by the Government Degree college-Tandur, Vikarabad District, Telengana State.

My ticket was booked early morning of March 04, 2024, from Gulbarga to Tandur. At the station, I was welcomed by the student, Mohammed Sameer Qureshi, of the same college. The distance from the station to the college is approximately 5 km, where more than 5 dozen students, including the head of Urdu and Hindi departments, were waiting for me.

The duration of the lecture was 90 minutes. Students of the Urdu and Hindi departments were listening to me carefully. Indeed, I was prepared for the lecture and took notes from the book based on the fundamental rules of short stories, but I never imagined that I would speak for the first time on the topic for 90 minutes. It was only the outcome of the student's seriousness and the college staff's love for

me.

The principal of the college is very humble and down to earth. Here, it would be better to mention that there I was only one speaker for the function. After the function, I was in the chamber of principal on a dining table fixed in a corner, so he managed a single packet of lunch for me. I was waiting at the table for my hosts and heads of departments, but they didn't come because the principal hadn't invited them. After lunch, I discussed the matter with Dr Asrar-ul-Haque Department of Urdu, and he told me about the principles of principal sahab. At the table, I was thinking that the principal would share my lunch box, but he didn't. He opened his homemade lunch box. It means we shared the table but he didn't share any items from the lunch. It was his principles and styles of management.

In the 90-minute lecture, I was a speaker sometimes, sometimes a lecturer, the narrator of my literary journey, sometime student, and sometime a question raiser. In all ways, I have completed my lecture.

On a large scale, my lecture was divided into three parts. The first part was based on the fundamental



principles/speeches of short story writing, like plot, character, point of view, conversion, starting and ending, style of narration, power of feeling, ability to differentiate, ability of imagination, reactions, psychology, and language power.

I have explained all these literary terms as a class teacher. After explaining and analyzing all the terms, I said that all terms are related to starting the writing. That

means there are many rules & regulations and principles for learning and starting to write. Otherwise, there are not any writing rules, because every writer knows what the best style for short story writing is. It is mandatory to learn all the rules when starting. Slowly Slowly most writers fix their rules.

The second part of the lecture was related to my short literary journey. I narrated that I was in

Nadwatul Ulema Lucknow. I have started to write letters to the Editor. I used to write a letter every week and would send it to Rashtarya Sahara Lucknow's resident Editor, Mr. Qutbullab. He used to publish my letters on different topics after appropriate editing. The next step was column writing. Generally, columns are being written on current issues. Nadwa campus was wide and wary. There were available all the basic needs on the campus, so Nadwa administration used to close all the gates to maintain the educational atmosphere. We, students, were free to go to the market or out of Nadwa gates only on Friday in a week. Due to this system, or waiting for Friday, sometimes my columns used to be wasted because they used to be on current issues. In this difficult situation, I have planned to write short stories. I, casually, used to write columns and short stories. I started to send my long essay to Weekly Aalami Sahara, Noida, where the Late Abdul Qadur Shams was a senior Sub Editor, who started to publish my columns and short stories. My first story was published in Aalami Sahara, Noida. This was my fiction writing journey. Students from different

departments of Government, Degree College, Tandur were listening to my fiction journey. They were excited and were planning to hold the pen.

In the third part of my lecture, I presented some philosophical paragraphs from Manto and my shorts, and quotations from Manto's articles. Here, only one Manto's quotation: When Saadat Hasan Manto was asked how he writes, he said that he takes paper, pencil, pen, or typewriter and starts writing. He is not a writer who thinks how to write a story." As I said above, there is no rule for writing a story.

Finally, it was a very memorable and fantastic literary trip, because there were many aspects to make the trip memorable. First, my 90-minute lecture made me confident that I could deliver long speeches. Second, the silence and intent of students during my first extension lecture. Third, the simplicity of Dr. Syed Asrar-Ul-Haque, the Principles and administrative styles of M. Ravinder, the Principal, and the remarks on my lecture by Dr. Vivek Kumar Dubey Department of Hindi crept into my heart.

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# Bose and Bose

■ Raju Mansukhani

It was 12 June 1942. At a press conference in Berlin, Germany, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose said, "I regard myself as a servant of the Indian nation and my present task is to lead the fight for India's independence. But as soon as India is free, it will be the duty of the Indian people to decide what form of Government they desire and who should guide the future Indian state... I am convinced that during the course of this war India will be free. The freedom of India will mean the expulsion of Anglo-American imperialism from Asia, and it will afford a powerful stimulus to freedom movements all over the world."

These powerful words of Netaji were broadcast by Azad Hind Radio and heard by thousands across Europe and India. His speeches called for struggles against both British and US imperialism which had shackled the colonies.

Having escaped from British India in January 1941, Bose in Germany proposed to the Germans that the "Free Indian Government" be established in Berlin. He was disappointed by the lack of immediate support from Adolf Hitler whom he had met a fortnight earlier.

Though Bose greeted Hitler as 'an old revolutionary', the Führer made clear his unwillingness to make any moves or issue any proclamations. Hitler told Bose that he would facilitate his trip to East Asia; not by an air route but that a submarine would be placed 'at his disposal'.

"My own experience has now convinced me that by the logic of history, the Tripartite Powers have become our natural friends and allies. Every blow struck at the British Empire is a help to India in her fight for freedom," he said during the press conference. (Germany, Italy and Japan were the Tripartite Powers he referred to.) When asked about his plans, he replied, "the plans of a revolutionary must always be adapted to the circumstances of the moment and to the needs of the situation in which he is interested."

Historians have commented on Bose's self-image now as a 'revolutionary', linking himself to a tradition of violent resistance stretching back to the earliest days of British conquest, especially in the regions of Bengal.

In Netaji's life, as he moved through war-torn Europe, there was another revolutionary, another Bose who came to play a historic, dramatic part in India's freedom movement. This was Rash Behari Bose, a global revolutionary who had escaped from Calcutta and settled in Japan way back in 1915. The two Boses, unrelated to each other, were bonded by their patriotism and sense of adventure and fearlessness.



Rash Behari, since the early part of the century had worked with revolutionaries in Punjab; he was instrumental in recruiting the uncles of Bhagat Singh for revolutionary activities.

During the Delhi Durbar of 1911, he was with the Anusilan Samiti which planned to bomb the procession of Viceroy Lord Hardinge. In 1913, after the Lahore bombing conspiracy, Rash Behari went into hiding in Calcutta, then Varanasi.

In 1914-15, Rash Behari Bose was spurred into action against atrocities which Ghadr Party members had faced. He planned a great uprising within the British Indian Army. 21 February 1915 was the D-Day, but a traitor in Lahore put paid to all the plans.

Several revolutionary workers, including Ghadr leaders were killed in clashes with police and military; this came to be known as the first Lahore Conspiracy Case. Rash Behari escaped to Varanasi, and then onwards to Japan.

Under a false identity of PN Tagore, and posing as a relative of Rabindranath Tagore, he boarded a steamship from Calcutta on 12 March 1915, reaching Japan on 5 June. Rash Behari was now a revolutionary on foreign soil, just as Subash Chandra would be decades later.

When in 1924, he founded the India Independence League in Tokyo, little did he know a long struggle awaited him. His slogan - 'Asia for Asians' - struck a chord. With Rash Behari's efforts East Asians now began to look upon India's emancipation as a stepping-stone to Greater Asian liberation from colonial bondage.

Both Rash Behari and Rabindranath Tagore had looked eastwards: one promoted Indo-Japanese cooperation and goodwill at a political level, while Gurudev built on the cultural front. In Rash Behari's perspective, enemies of Britain were friends of India, no matter what their ideology was. He was a hard-headed realist. Rash Behari had his differences with Tagore, who had written to him, "Japan has not taken long to betray the rising hope and repudiate all that seemed significant in her wonderful and symbolic awakening and has now become itself a worse menace to the defenseless people of the East."

Rash Behari countered this anti-Japanese propaganda by Indians by organising meetings, and advocating Indo-Japanese collaboration under the League. In November 1938, he even issued a manifesto boldly calling for revision of India's foreign policy. Subhas Chandra, at this time, was Congress President ready for challenges that would

make him part ways with the party.

With the bombing of Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941, a new chapter began. Both the Boses, in different continents, were now striving to utilise the war to strengthen the cause of Indian Independence.

Between December 1941 and March to June 1942, Rash Behari established contact with military and civil high commands in Japan to impress upon them the necessity to help India in her struggle for freedom, in line with Japan's objectives.

His campaign bore fruit and General Tojo, Japan's Prime Minister, declared in the Imperial Diet that his government was prepared to help Indians achieve freedom.

Rash Behari was not alone in this campaign. Swami Satyananda Puri or Prafulla Sen of Anusilan Samiti and Sirdar Pritam Singh were team-mates from Bangkok.

Together they reorganized the League and shifted its base to Singapore. Rash Behari was president of Council of Action who ensured the newly formed Indian National Army was accorded powers and status of a free National Army of an Independent India, in equality with armies of Japan and other friendly powers.

Rash Behari threw himself heart and

soul into organising the IIL and INA. He took tough decisions when INA was faced with a leadership crisis, dismissing General Officer Command General Mohon Singh.

On 9 December 1942, Rash Behari said: "I once again pledge to serve the cause of India's Independence without fear and without favour, loyalty and conscientiously to the utmost of my ability...it would have broken my heart, if at this moment, I had let this movement die..."

By April 1943, Rash Behari had set the INA house in order, though his health was deteriorating. A military training centre was operational in Kuala Lumpur with 1,000 civilians undergoing modern warfare training.

He now was eagerly awaiting the arrival of Subhas Chandra Bose in the East. He organized an official invitation for Subhas in Germany, requesting his participation at the Bangkok Conference. Meanwhile a safe passage for Subhas Chandra Bose was arranged, between Germany and Japan, to reach Tokyo. The stage was set a dramatic chapter of our freedom struggle: one Bose was ready to hand over the baton to the other younger Bose.

Courtesy The Statesman

# What happens in Davos stays in Davos

The optics is about making the world a better place. The opportunity is about networking amidst moolah and minds with messianic zeal.

■ Shankkar Aiyar

It is that time of the year when ideas, intellectuals and a large caravan of global net worth travel to the mountains, to the annual jamboree of the World Economic Forum at the ski resort town of Davos in Switzerland. This week, the much-celebrated confluence of public purpose and private profit, will brainstorm or in WEF lingo "engage in constructive, forward-looking dialogues and help find solutions through public-private cooperation". Doubtless it will occupy prime time media and mind space. The optics is about making the world a better place. The opportunity is about networking amidst moolah and minds with messianic zeal.

It is said talk is cheap. Not when it is Davos, if it means breathing rarefied air with billionaires, heads of state and the momentarily conscientious tinsel star. As any realtor would tell you location does matter. The fancy digs - a chalet or a penthouse apartment - could cost upwards of the annual per capita income of G7 nations. For those willing to rough it out, just to attend sessions on moolah mantra garnished with celeb spice, the cost for a bed under a decent roof would be roughly \$1200 or the annual per capita income of more than 30

countries. The attendees will stimulate the economy of Davos in the hope of stimulating their minds with ideas and intellectuals.

Of course being at GPS 46.802128 9.833477 is not mandatory but presence is enabled by a seductive illusion, of hope and the promise of migrating in status -- from wannabe to would be. Over the next four days more than 1500 leaders - the list of attendees is 79 pages long - including over 50 heads of state, 600 CEOs will mark their presence at WEF. The Indian delegation besides the billionaire's brigade includes four union ministers and three chief ministers. The US delegation has six members of the Biden Administration including climate envoy John Kerry and a dozen elected members from both houses.

The genius of the idea propagated by Klaus Schwab is essentially the scent of relevance it conveys, the currency of being somebody, that fleeting moment of immediacy and rare intimacy in thoughts. The idea which has persistently persuaded the rich and the famous, heads of state and global corporations is that being visible at WEF every January matters!

The banner this year is 'Cooperation in a Fragmented World'. The title may sound familiar to regulars. The 2018 banner read "Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured



World". That year the WEF invited Donald Trump, then US President. The New York Times headline read 'Fox in the Globalist Henhouse?' The Davos men witnessed, up close and personal, the man whose campaign raged against the "party of Davos", the globalizers, as ideological enemies. Trump declared "I am here today to represent the interests of the American People" and spoke about America First.

The call to action in 2015 similarly was about altered geopolitics. The title was 'The New Global Context'. It was inspired by an anniversary -- in 1815 the world gathered at the Vienna Congress in search of peace and a new world order. On January 16, 2015, in what could be an enduring comment, the German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier defined 2015 as "a world in search of a new order." In 2023 déjà vu must be experiencing déjà vu. Not very different you could say but yet differentiated.

Consider the art of making a distinction without differing. In 1973 the WEF issued what it called the Davos Manifesto. The crux read: "The purpose of professional management is to serve clients, shareholders, workers and employees, as well as societies, and to harmonize the different interests of the stakeholders." In 2020 Schwab updated the manifesto. It now reads: "The purpose of a company is to engage all its stakeholders in shared and sustained value creation. In creating such value, a company serves not only its shareholders, but all its stakeholders - employees, customers, suppliers, local communities and society at large." The new manifesto, in its full explanatory version, is 139

words longer. The essence of WEF is its ability to discern popular pulse. There is no dearth of issues confronting the world and as always the 2023 agenda is riveted by concerns. For instance 'Addressing the Current Energy and Food Crises in the context of a New System for Energy, Climate and Nature'; 'Addressing the Current Geopolitical Risks in the context of a New System for Dialogue and Cooperation in a Multipolar World' and if you so choose, 'Addressing the Current High Inflation, Low Growth, High Debt Economy in the context of a New System for Investment, Trade and Infrastructure'.

Does Davos make a difference? While it may seem that the WEF meetings create quantum change in how the world engages with issues, in reality it is at best a venue which brings issues and people face to face. Sure, there have been offshoots which have got propagated and nurtured. The reality is that public-private cooperation is governed by the statute of limitations in a world of nation states informed and influenced by domestic politics. Catalysis of collective consciousness does not necessarily alter collective conscience. What happens in Davos verily stays in Davos.

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Courtesy New Indian Express

# "When We Talk About Crossing 400, Congress Gets Stomach Ache": Amit Shah

HT News Network

Kota (Rajasthan): Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that the people gave BJP full majority in the 2014 and 2019 elections, and they used that to abolish Article 370, build Ram Mandir, implement CAA and give 33 per cent reservation to women in Lok Sabha and state assemblies. Addressing the Vijay Sankalp Mahasammelan here today, Amit Shah said, "You gave us full majority in 2014 and 2019, we used the majority to abolish 370, build the temple at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi, implement CAA and give 33% reservation to women in Lok Sabha and Assemblies."

"If you had voted for Congress in 2019, Kota would have become the house of PFI. You voted for PM Modi and he ended PFI and put them behind bars. They say that they will lift the ban on PFI. Congress is an anti-development party. For five years there was Gehlot government but they did not let the Eastern Rajasthan Canal project move ahead for five years. After the Bhajanlal Sharma government came to power, within three months we signed the agreement for the Eastern Rajasthan Canal project," Mr



Shah added. Further, the Home Minister slammed Congress and said that the first phase of elections concluded, on Friday and on all the seats in Congress has been wiped off.

"When we talk about crossing 400, Congress gets stomach ache. They are spreading lies that if BJP gets 400 seats then they will end the reservation. Modi ji gave 20 thousand crore to 87 lakh farmers in Rajasthan as Kisan Samman Nidhi. Made 3 lakh lakhpati didi. Tap water was supplied to the

homes of 51 lakh poor people. 2 crore people were given the benefit of Ayushman Bharat scheme. Work was done to build toilets in the houses of 86 lakh poor people. Congress is an anti-development party," Amit Shah said further. The remaining 13 seats in Rajasthan will be contested in the second phase on April 26.

The remaining phases will be held on May 7, May 13, May 20, May 25 and June 1 accordingly. The last general elections in 2019 were also held in seven phases. In 2019, BJP registered a sweeping victory win-

ning 24 out of 25 seats, while the remaining one seat was won by Rashtriya Loktrantik Party Candidate Hanuman Beniwal. "If you had voted for Congress in 2019, Kota would have become the house of PFI. You voted for PM Modi and he ended PFI and put them behind bars. They say that they will lift the ban on PFI. Congress is an anti-development party. For five years there was Gehlot government but they did not let the Eastern Rajasthan Canal project move ahead for five years. After the Bhajanlal Sharma government came to power, within three months we signed the agreement for the Eastern Rajasthan Canal project," Mr Shah added.

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# Chief Justice DY Chandrachud On "Ideological Framework" Of New Criminal Laws.

HT News Network

New Delhi: The Chief Justice of India, Justice DY Chandrachud, on Saturday said that "the newly enacted criminal laws have transitioned India's legal framework on criminal justice into the new age."

Addressing a conference on India's Criminal Justice System organised by the Ministry of Law and Justice, he said that much-needed improvements have been introduced to protect victim interests and carry out the investigation and prosecution of offences efficiently. "India is set for a significant overhaul of its criminal justice system with the upcoming implementation of three new criminal laws. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyaya will replace the Indian Penal Code 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 and the Indian Evi-



vidence Act 1872, respectively. These laws signify a watershed moment for our society because no law affects the day-to-day conduct of our society like the criminal law," he said. Criminal law directs the moral arc of a nation. The underlying justification for the substantive provisions is the age-old harm principle, which is best summarised in the saying, "Your right to swing your arms ends just where the other man's nose begins. Procedural law, which governs crimes from the state of setting the criminal process in motion to the con-

viction for the commission of the offence, ensures that no person is charged and subsequently convicted for offences without due process of law, he added.

While addressing the Conference on India's Progressive Path in the Administration of the Criminal Justice System, Chief Justice Chandrachud said, "Our laws and their implementation are an ever-evolving area. There is no finality to any law or the manner of its implementation. However, we must be willing to embrace positive changes to meet the needs of our times." "I expect that with the implementation of the new criminal laws, we will discover loopholes and areas that need to be addressed. Such debates would be helpful in enhancing the efficiency of our criminal justice systems. However, the ideological framework at the heart of our analysis must be justice-oriented with a civil liberty-centric.

# "From Tech To Tanker City": PM Jabs Congress Over Bengaluru Water Crisis

HT News Network

Bengaluru: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched a strong attack on Bengaluru's infrastructure crisis as the result of the Congress's mismanagement of the city. Referring to the extreme water crisis in parts of Bengaluru that had led to rationing of water and even penalty for using water other than for basic needs, PM Modi in a rally in Bengaluru said, "The Congress government in Karnataka has turned the tech city into a tanker city, and left it to the tanker mafia." "The Congress is anti-private sector, anti-tax payer, and anti-wealth creator... the (Opposition bloc) INDIA's focus is on Modi, but my focus is on India's development, its global image," he said. "In these elections, the leaders of INDIA alliance are roaming around with a worn out tape recorder. Meanwhile, Modi and his partners are walking around with their track record, and that's why we have come here in Bengaluru to seek your blessings," PM Modi said. BJP MPs Tejasvi Surya and PC Mohan are candidates from Bangalore South and Central, respectively.



Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje is the candidate from Bangalore North.

In Bangalore Rural, former Prime Minister Deve Gowda's son-in-law and cardiologist CN Manjunath is contesting on a BJP ticket as per the arrangement with alliance partner Janata Dal (Secular), or JD(S). PM Modi held mega rallies in Kalaburagi and Shivamogga last month. On April 14, he addressed a rally in Mysuru, during which he shared the dais with Mr Gowda, and later held a roadshow in the coastal town Mangaluru.

Voting in Karnataka is scheduled in two phases; the first is on April 26, and the second on May 7.

# Tihar's Arvind Kejriwal Report On Insulin Reaches Lt Governor, Atishi Claims Threat To Him

HT News Network

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had stopped taking insulin months before his arrest and is on a basic anti-diabetes oral medicine, officials said on Saturday, citing a report by the Tihar jail administration to Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena. "The entire narrative being built and fear-mongering by the Aam Aadmi Party regarding Kejriwal's sugar levels, is only based on a purported treatment of Kejriwal being carried out by a Telangana based private clinic. Interestingly, Kejriwal, as advised by the Telangana doctor, was on an insulin - reversal programme and the doctor had stopped insulin dosage much before the arrest of Kejriwal," the Tihar jail report said.

In response, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi said the report has "exposed" the BJP's "conspiracy". "At the behest of the BJP, a conspiracy is underway to kill Kejriwal in jail. The chief minister has been taking insulin for 12 years, what is the problem for the Tihar administration to give insulin to him?" she asked.



The Delhi minister also claimed that Mr Kejriwal used to take 50 units of insulin daily before he was sent to jail.

Mr Kejriwal -- who is under the care of a Telangana-based private doctor for diabetes -- stopped taking insulin a few months ago and, at the time of his arrest, he was on a basic anti-diabetes oral tablet called Metformin, the officials said, citing the Tihar report.

During his medical check-ups in Tihar jail,

Mr Kejriwal told doctors that he was taking insulin "since the last few years and stopped taking it a few months back", the report said.

"Kejriwal's alleged treatment at a private clinic in Telangana is a curious case where Delhi's Chief Minister, who boasts of a world-class health infrastructure in Delhi is surreptitiously getting treated at a south India clinic of which he even fails to provide medical documents," the report said.

"Notably, the entry of this Telangana clinic in the whole episode surrounding Kejriwal's arrest in the excise scam comes close on the heels of the south Indian liquor cartel that played a key role in framing and execution of the now-scrapped excise policy of the AAP Government," the report said.

Mr Kejriwal was arrested on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a money-laundering case linked to the Delhi government's now-scrapped excise policy. He has been lodged in Tihar jail since April 1.

# DK Shivakumar Faces Police Case For "Undue Influence At Elections"

HT News Network

New Delhi: A police case has been registered against Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar for violating the model code during campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections. The case pertains to a video of the Congress leader where he allegedly told Bengaluru voters that he would provide them a supply of water from river Cauvery if they voted for his brother DK Suresh. DK Suresh is contesting from Bangalore Rural.

The state Election Commissioner said that his speech violates the model code and a police case has been registered for "bribery and undue influence at elections".

In a video clip that surfaced on social media, DK Shivakumar was purportedly heard saying to the



residents of a housing society in his brother's constituency that he had come for a "business deal" and if they voted for his brother he would ensure the supply of Cauvery river water to them. "I am here for a business meeting. You want Cauvery water and the CA site. All other issues are small. If I get these done, what will you do to me? I spoke to the commissioner about this issue. I asked what can be done. I believe in sharing and caring," Mr Shivakumar says while addressing a rally. "You have

to share your confidence with me so I can care for you. You have voted by booth, not by candidate. I am DCM, Minister for BDA, Bengaluru, and water - everything I am here. Everything is in your pockets. I have come to your house, make use of me, vote for me. Within two/three months, I'll get these done," he adds. Residents of Bengaluru have been dealing with a severe water crisis for the last two months. Bengaluru primarily gets its water supply from two sources - the Cauvery river and groundwater. For most non-drinking uses, recycled water processed by sewage treatment plants is used. With no rain for a while now, the primary sources have been stretched to their limits. Bengaluru needs 2,600-2,800 million litres of water daily, and the current supply is half of what's required.

# Congress Under Fire As Leader Alleges 'Love Jihad' After Daughter's Murder

HT News Network

Bengaluru: The gruesome murder of a Karnataka corporator's daughter has become the latest flashpoint between the Congress and the BJP. The Congress leader's daughter was stabbed seven times by a former student of the college she was attending in Hubballi. Cops suspect that he murdered her because she rejected his advances.

Neha Hiremath, 23, was a first-year student of Master of Computer Applications and Fayaz Khondunaiq was earlier her classmate. According to a senior police officer, Fayaz, who stabbed her multiple times, claimed during interrogation the two had been in a relationship but she had been avoiding him of late.

The issue has snowballed into a political slugfest between the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP. While the ruling party has tried to project it as an incident from a personal angle, the BJP has said it shows the deterioration of law and order in the state. Union Minister and Dharwad Lok Sabha BJP candidate Pralhad Joshi suspected that there was a love jihad angle behind the incident. There is a complete deterioration of law and order under the Congress regime, he alleged, urging Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to stop minority appeasement politics and special treatment to a "particular community." However, Home Minister G Parameashwara said there was no "love jihad" angle as of now.

What has exacerbated the state government's troubles is the girl's father also calling the crime a 'Love Jihad' case. Niranjan Hiremath, a Congress corporator, claimed that the accused had planned to "trap his daughter." The gang had



conspired for a long time. They had planned either to trap her or to execute her. They have been threatening her in that backdrop. However, the girl had not heeded to their threats," Mr Hiremath told the media. "The whole state and country witnessed what happened to my daughter. If they say that it is personal, what is personal in this? Are they my relatives?" he added.

Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi also launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in the state saying that the C in the party's name stands for "corruption, criminality, and communal violence." "For any government, it is a salient duty to ensure that our children acquire the proper moral and ethical lessons in schools. Even the people should have requisite awareness in this regard," the BJP MP told news agency ANI. "People should have the belief that the law and machinery of a state will ensure that those who do wrong are brought to book. However, the Congress has failed abjectly in this regard (in Karnataka)," she added. The Congress retorted by saying that the state has the best law and order and the BJP was trying to impose the Governor's rule in Karnataka.

# Odisha Boat Capsize Death Count Rises To 8, Search Operation Ends

HT News Network

Bhubaneswar: The death count in the Mahanadi river boat capsizing in Odisha's Jharsuguda district rose to eight with the recovery of six more bodies on Saturday, an official said on Saturday. The search operation, which had been ongoing since Friday evening, came to an end after the recovery of a male child's body from Hirakud reservoir in the Mahanadi river, the official said, adding that among the victims were five women and three children. The victims, all hailing from Anjoripali village of Kharsia in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh, were identified as Radhika Nishad (40), Teras Bai Rathia (60), Radhika Rathia (35), Ghasneen Bai Rathia (40), and Lacchinin Bai Rathia (40), while the children were identified as Kunal Rathia (9), Nabin Rathia (7), and Tikeswar Rathia (7). Personnel of the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force and Fire Services, who launched a search operation immediately after the boat capsized on Friday, recovered six more bodies from the Mahanadi river by engaging five scuba divers, an official said.

# Man Killed, 2 Injured For Objecting To Drinking Outside Their Shop In Haryana: Cops

HT News Network

Faridabad: A 40-year-old man was killed while his brother and a friend were injured here after they were attacked for objecting to three men drinking outside their shop, police said on Saturday. The incident occurred on Friday late night when three men reached one of the victims, Neeraj's shop in Jawahar Colony, in an inebriated state, police said. "It was around 11.30 pm when Gaurav along with his two friends reached the shop in a car in a drunken state. They bought some eateries from my shop and began drinking in front of my shop. When I refused to let them drink there, they started abusing me. Gaurav, who carried sticks and iron rods.



# Foes Azerbaijan and Armenia agree 'historic' return of villages

HT News Network

Armenia has agreed to return several villages to Azerbaijan in what both sides said on Friday was an important milestone as they edge towards a peace deal after fighting two wars since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesperson Aykhan Hajizada posted on X that Armenia would return four villages near the countries' shared border that had been "under occupation" since the early 1990s, and called it a "long-awaited historic event".

In Armenia, the state news agency quoted the prime minister's office as saying: "In this process, the Republic of Armenia receives a reduction in risks associated with border delimitation and security."

It said the handover in practice involved only "two and a half villages" because



Azerbaijan already partly controlled the settlements involved, but added that the demarcation of the border was a "significant event".

The settlements are deserted but are strategically important as they are close to Armenia's main highway north towards the border with Georgia, through which

much of its trade is done, and to the pipeline through which it receives gas from Russia.

The agreement was reached at a meeting on the two countries' border, chaired by their deputy prime ministers.

Azerbaijan has been demanding the villages' return as a precondition for a

peace deal after more than three decades of conflict, mostly centred on the region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Momentum shifted dramatically in favour of Azerbaijan last September when its forces staged a lightning offensive to regain control of Karabakh, where ethnic Armenians had enjoyed de facto independence since the mid-1990s.

Virtually the entire population of 100,000 people fled to Armenia within days. Russia posted peacekeeping troops in Nagorno-Karabakh after the last major war between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2020, but said this week it had begun withdrawing them. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev is due to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday.

Russia, distracted by its war in Ukraine, risks losing influence in the Caucasus region which it sees as its historic sphere of influence. The United States and the European Union have also been pressing the two sides to reach a peace deal.

## Dubai carriers resume flight operations following record-breaking storm

HT News Network

Dubai's flagship carrier Emirates and sister airline flydubai have restored normal operations after a record-breaking storm caused severe flooding across the United Arab Emirates earlier this week, the airlines said on Saturday.

Emirates cancelled nearly 400 flights and delayed many more as a result of a record storm that hit the desert city of Dubai on Tuesday, according to a statement released by the airline's president, Tim Clark.

"As of this morning ... our regular flight schedules have been restored. Passengers previously stranded in the airport transit area ... are en route to their destinations."

"It will take us some more days to clear the backlog of rebooked passengers and bags, and we ask for our customers' patience and understanding," Clark added. He also said that Emirates provided 12,000 hotel rooms and 250,000 meal vouchers to affected customers.

Flydubai also returned to its full flight schedule from the airport's Terminal 2 and Terminal 3 today following the weather-related disruption, a spokesperson for the airline said in a statement.

According to the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) website, various carriers' flights from Pakistan are travelling to and from Dubai.

Due to the impact of the storm, the airline suspended check-in for passengers departing from Dubai and halted its transit operations through Dubai International Airport, a major global travel hub, leaving thousands of travellers stranded.

The airport has struggled to return to normal operations after the storm flooded taxiways, forcing flight diversions, delays and cancellations.

The UAE has suffered the impact of the flooding for days, with roads between the city and Abu Dhabi still partially underwater as of Saturday. In Abu Dhabi, some supermarkets and restaurants faced product shortages, unable to receive deliveries from Dubai.

Researchers have linked extreme weather events such as Tuesday's storm to climate change and anticipate that global warming will lead to higher temperatures, increased humidity and a greater risk of flooding in parts of the Gulf region.

A lack of drainage infrastructure to cope with heavy rains in countries such as the UAE can put them at particular risk of flooding.

## Pakistan denounces 'political use of export controls' after US sanctions alleged missile suppliers

HT News Network

Pakistan rejected what it said was the "political use of export controls" after the United States imposed sanctions on four entities for their alleged involvement in supplying "missile-applicable items" to Pakistan's ballistic missile programme, the Foreign Office (FO) said on Saturday. The US State Department claimed on Friday evening that the entities — three Chinese and one from Belarus — were particularly assisting Pakistan's long-range missile endeavors. The statement specified that "the ultimate goal of sanctions is not to punish, but to bring about a positive change in behavior." The entities facing sanctions include the Belarus-based Minsk Wheel Tractor Plant, the People's Republic of China-based Xi'an Longde Technology Development Company Limited, Tianjin Creative Source International Trade Co Ltd and Granpect Company Limited.

As per the sanctions imposed under Executive Order 13382, all property and interests in property of the designated entities that are in the United States or under the control of US persons are now blocked. Furthermore, any individuals or entities with ownership, directly or indirectly, of 50 per cent or more by the designated persons are also subject to these sanctions. These measures prohibit transactions involving any property or interests in property of designated or blocked persons unless authorised by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) or exempt. This includes contributions and provision of funds, goods, or services to or from any blocked person.

## Bosnian president seeks Pakistan's support for UN resolution declaring Srebrenica massacre a genocide

HT News Network

The president of Bosnia and Herzegovina has sent a letter to President Asif Ali Zardari seeking Pakistan's support for a United Nations draft resolution to declare the Srebrenica massacre a genocide and July 11 the International Day of Remembrance for the victims, it emerged on Saturday.

According to the letter, seen by Dawn.com, a draft UN resolution has been proposed by Germany and Rwanda and co-sponsored by the United States, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries.

Bosnian President Denis Becirovic is seeking a vote from Pakistan in the resolution's favour which calls to declare the 1995 Srebrenica massacre a genocide, as well as condemn the atrocities committed against unarmed Bosnian civilians.

The resolution commemorates the 29th anniversary of the massacre, where Bosnian Serb forces killed more than 8,000 Bosniak men and boys after occupying Srebrenica, which was a designated UN safe zone in July 1995.

## Deadly blast at Iraq army base amid Israel-Iran tensions

HT News Network

One person was killed and eight wounded in an overnight explosion at an Iraqi military base housing a coalition of pro-Iranian armed groups, officials said Saturday. The explosion hit the Kalsu military base in Babylon province south of Baghdad, where Iraq's Popular Mobilisation Forces, or Hashed al-Shaabi, is stationed.

It comes days after Iran launched an unprecedented assault on Israel which reportedly responded with a drone strike on the Islamic republic, amid tensions fuelled by the Gaza conflict.

The Iraqi security forces media unit said "an explosion and a fire" hit the Kalsu base in the early hours of Saturday, leaving one person dead and eight wounded.

Air defence command reported "no drones or combat aircraft in the airspace of Babylon province before or during the explosion", it added in a statement.

An interior ministry official had initially reported an "aerial bombing" on the site. In a statement, Hashed al-Shaabi said an "explosion" had inflicted "material losses" and casualties, without giving a number. The group confirmed its prem-



ises on the military base had been hit and that investigators had been sent to the site.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Responding to questions from AFP, the security sources did not say who may have been behind the attack.

"The explosion hit equipment, weapons and vehicles," said the interior ministry source. Shortly after the explosion, the US military said its forces were not behind a reported strike in Iraq. "The United States has not conducted air strikes in Iraq today," US Central Command (CENTCOM) posted on social media platform X, adding that reports that American forces had carried out a strike were "not true".

## Singapore's Indian-Origin Foreign Minister Receives Extortion Letter With Fake Obscene Pics

HT News Network

Singapore: Singapore's Indian-origin Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan and several members of Parliament have received extortion letters containing fake photos of themselves in obscene situations.

Balakrishnan said in a Facebook post that several other MPs and himself received letters containing a "fake distasteful image accompanied by a threat".

"This conduct is deplorable and totally contrary to the values and good practices that we are trying to inculcate in our society. We have filed police reports and will take appropriate legal action," he said.

The police said late Friday night that the letters, which were sent by post to the victims' workplaces, contained pictures of the victims' faces superimposed onto obscene photographs of a man and a woman purportedly in an "intimate and compromising position".

There have been over 70 police reports since March about such extortion letters, according to a Channel News Asia report on Saturday.

The letters warned of "threatening consequences" unless they contacted the email address provided.

If the victims contacted the email



address, they would be asked to transfer money to prevent "compromising photographs and videos" of themselves from being leaked and exposed on social media, the police said.

Balakrishnan said: "In this age of deep fakes and scams, we must take a strong collective stand against such conduct." "Inside was a distasteful photo where my face was digitally manipulated onto one of the figures, accompanied by an extortion demand," he wrote on Facebook on Saturday. He said that while it is not uncommon for public figures to face extortion scams, the rise of "deepfakes" makes it "harder to discern reality from fiction".

"With readily available tools, anyone can create deepfake content within minutes," he added.

## "Our Next Response Will Be At Maximum Level": Iran Warns Israel Again

HT News Network

Tehran: Iran's foreign minister on Friday said Tehran was investigating an overnight attack on Iran, adding that so far a link to Israel had not been proven as he downplayed the strike.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian told NBC News the drones took off from inside Iran and flew for a few hundred meters before being downed.

"They're ... more like toys that our children play with, not drones," Amirabdollahian said.

"It has not been proved to us that there is a connection between these and Israel," he said, adding that Iran was investigating the matter but that



media reports were not accurate, according to Tehran's information.

Iranian media and officials described a small number of explosions, which they said resulted from air defenses hitting three drones over Isfahan in central Iran in the early hours of Friday. They referred to the incident as an attack by "infiltrators", rather than by Israel, obviating the

need for retaliation. Amirabdollahian warned that if Israel retaliated and acted against the interests of Iran, Tehran's next response would be immediate and at maximum level.

"If Israel wants to do another adventurous act and acts against the interests of Iran, our next response will be immediate and will be at the maximum level," Amirabdollahian said. The attack appeared to target an Iranian Air Force base near the city of Isfahan, deep inside the country, but without striking any strategic sites or causing major damage.

Israel has said nothing about the incident. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the United States had not been involved in any offensive operations.

## China unveils new cyber force

HT News Network

BEIJING: China announced the creation of a new military cyber corps on Friday, saying it would bolster Beijing's capacity to "fight and win" wars.

The Information Support Force will act as a "key support for coordinated development and application of network information systems", defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian said.

China has ploughed billions of dollars into modernising its armed forces in recent years as tensions with the United States and other regional powers have escalated.

President Xi Jinping has also sought to bring the military more firmly under his control.

The new cyber force represents "a strategic step to establish a new system of services and arms and improve (China's) modern military force structure", Wu said. The Information Support Force will act as a "key support for coordinated development and application of network information systems", defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian said. China has ploughed billions of dollars into modernising its armed forces in recent years as tensions with the United States and other regional powers have escalated.

## 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".

# Tehsildar Row: Have taken strong note of incident, says ADC Sopore

HT News Network

Sopore, Apr 20 (KNO): Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, S.A Raina on Saturday reacted to Tehsildar Sopore's 'reprehensible behaviour', which sparked controversy and outrage after a video surfaced on social media platforms, saying that the incident has been viewed very seriously and a strong note

has been taken of it. Speaking to reporters during an event at Dak Bunglow Sopore, Addl DC Raina as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the administration, media as well as the general public have to play their role. "There is some disagreement somewhere with the public as well as in the media. These things shouldn't have happened," he said, adding that they have taken strong



note of the incident. "We have to be friendly with the public and with Media. Media is our part and is acting as our eyes and ears, with the main focus to serve people in all better and possible ways," Raina further said. Notably, a video capturing the reprehensible behaviour of Tehsildar Sopore, seen resorting to threats and humiliation during a visit to the nearby Tarzoo village of

Sopore sparked controversy and outrage after it circulated widely on social media platforms. The Tehsildar accused the people of being blackmailers and also levelled the accusation to the media personnel as well. His hostile demeanour towards the general public and the media evoked widespread condemnation and outrage—(KNO)

## Shoaib Lone Clarifies Position on Lok Sabha Candidacy; Focuses on Assembly Election

Zargar Gulzar



Baramulla, April 20:- In a recent turn of events, Shoaib Lone has addressed the swirling rumors regarding his potential candidacy for the Lok Sabha election of 2024. Contrary to the speculations, Lone has made it clear that he will not be contesting as a Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) candidate for the North Kashmir seat. "My name was suggested during a party meeting; however, I am neither ready nor prepared to contest the Lok Sabha election as a DPAP candidate for the North Kashmir seat," Lone stated, putting an end to the conjecture. Lone further emphasized his commitment to the upcoming Assembly election, revealing that his preparations are in full swing and his campaign team is actively working on the ground. "My focus is on the Assembly election, and we are channeling all our efforts towards a robust campaign," he added. This announcement comes amidst the political buzz in Jammu and Kashmir, where various parties, including the DPAP, are gearing up for the Lok Sabha elections. The DPAP had previously announced candidates for other seats, with Mohammad Saleem Parry running for the Anantnag-Rajouri seat and G M Saroori for the Udhampur seat.

As the political landscape continues to evolve, Shoaib Lone's clarification sets a definitive tone for his political strategy, steering clear of the Lok Sabha battle to concentrate on the Assembly front.

## RBI remains optimistic on growth: Abheek Barua

HT News Network

Srinagar: Given the recent global resilience in economic activity, there has been a tendency to keep monetary policy tight to take on the last mile challenge on inflation by global central banks. The RBI seems to be moving in lockstep with that. Despite its emphasis that inflation is moderating, the RBI kept its policy rate and stance unchanged in today's policy announcement. The central bank remained optimistic on growth – pegging it at 7% for FY25 – and said this provides space for monetary policy to remain tight and focus on inflation.

## Toyota Kirloskar Motor Launches Urban Cruiser Taisor

HT News Network

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

It is available in 1.0L Turbo, 1.2L Petrol and E-CNG options. The 1.0L Turbo is available in 5 Speed Manual Transmission and 6 Speed Automatic Transmission, thus offering a versatile choice for customers who prioritize both power and performance preferences. Masakazu Yoshimura,



MD and CEO of Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Regional CEO at Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) said, "The Indian market has always been of paramount importance to us, both in terms of product offerings and introduction of advanced technologies. This emphasis was further underpinned by the recent creation of a new region where the Indian market plays an even more crucial role acting as the hub of the new 'India, Middle East, East Asia & Oceania Region'. Tadashi Asazuma, Deputy Managing Director – Sales-Service-Used Car

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

Sabari Manohar, Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "The All-New Toyota Urban Cruiser Taisor combines a power-packed performance, best-in-class fuel efficiency and a striking exterior design offering a sense of pride associated with Toyota's SUV legacy. Its unique and stylish aerodynamic exterior design, combining form and function is aimed to enhance both visual appeal and performance." (KNT)

## CCIK President Tariq Ghani Highlighted Crucial Issues During Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's Visit to Kashmir

HT News Network

Srinagar 20 Apr:- Today, the Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri embarked on a significant visit to Kashmir, underscoring key concerns and advocating for inclusive development in the region. During the visit, President Tariq Ghani Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK) raised pressing questions regarding power curtailment's adverse impacts on the business and education sectors, shedding light on its critical nature as a major issue.

Of notable concern was the exclusion of Shehr e Khaas from the smart city development initiative,



leading to challenges and financial losses within the traders' fraternity. This exclusion not only affects businesses but also hampers the overall economic growth and vitality of the region.

In response to these con-

cerns, the Union Minister commended CCIK for its advocacy and invited its representatives to New Delhi for comprehensive discussions on a range of issues, including traffic management, infrastructure development, power

curtailment, and more. The Minister emphasized the need for a collaborative approach to address these challenges effectively. Furthermore, CCIK reiterated the importance of integrating Kashmir into national development programs like Viksit Bharat, emphasizing that inclusive development should encompass all regions, especially those with unique challenges and potential for growth. They emphasized that Kashmir's progress must align with and benefit from such nationwide initiatives.

The visit concluded with a renewed commitment from both parties to work towards overcoming obstacles and fostering sustainable growth and prosperity in Kashmir.

## DLSA Kupwara holds Special Lok Adalat

HT News Network



KUPWARA, APRIL 20: In pursuance to the activities calendar 2024, District Legal Services Authority, Kupwara, under the aegis of NALSA & JK Legal Services Authority, organised Special Lok Adalat on MACT & Bank Recovery Cases, across District Kupwara today.

The Lok Adalat was held under the supervision of Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority, (Pr. District & Session Judge) Kupwara Ms. Shazia Tabasum, and guidance of Secretary, DLSA Kupwara, Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Khan. Six (06) Benches were constituted for the said Lok Adalat comprising of Presiding Officers and Members for the amicable settlement/ compromise of the cases.

A Number of 02 Benches were constituted at Court Complex Kupwara. 02 Benches at Court Complex Handwara. 01 Bench was constituted at Munsiff/ JMIC Court Kralpora/ Sogam and 01 Bench at Munsiff/ JMIC Court Tangdhar.

A total number of 33 cases were taken up by all the benches, of which 03 number of cases were disposed as settled on spot by intervention of the benches and by participation of the lawyers and litigants.

A total sum of Rs. 14,43,000/- was awarded to the aggrieved parties by settlement during the said Lok Adalat.

Lawyers and litigants participating in the said Lok Adalat expressed their joy in early disposal of the cases through mutual settlement and appreciated the arrangements of the Special Lok Adalat.

## HDFC Bank opens branch at Kavaratti Island, Lakshadweep

DR. AB QAYOOM

Srinagar: HDFC Bank, opened a branch at Kavaratti Island in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. This makes it the only private sector bank to have a branch in the Union Territory.

It was inaugurated by Captain Lovekesh Thakur, Commanding Officer, Indian Navy and Dr KP Muthukoya, a well-known resident. S Sampathkumar, Group Head- Retail Branch Banking, HDFC Bank and Sanjeev Kumar, Branch Banking Head, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry and other local dignitaries were present on the occasion.

This branch is aimed at upgrading the banking infrastructure in the UT by offering wide range of services with focus on personal banking, digital banking which also includes customised digital solutions including QR based transaction to retailers. S Sampathkumar, Group Head- Retail Branch Banking, HDFC Bank said, "HDFC Bank has branches in the cold climes of Kashmir, the southern tip of Kanyakumari and now the island of Lakshadweep. This reaffirms our commitment to serving customers wherever they in an extremely convenient fashion. We look forward to serving the financial needs of individuals, families, and businesses in Lakshadweep and becoming a trusted partner in their financial journey and contributing to the overall development of the island. This branch is aimed at upgrading the banking infrastructure in the UT by offering wide range of services with focus on personal banking, digital banking which also includes customised digital solutions including QR based transaction to retailers. S Sampathkumar, Group Head- Retail Branch Banking, HDFC Bank said, "HDFC Bank has branches in the cold climes of Kashmir, the southern tip of Kanyakumari and now the island of Lakshadweep. This reaffirms our commitment to serving customers wherever they in an extremely convenient fashion. We look forward to serving the financial needs of individuals, families, and businesses in Lakshadweep and becoming a trusted partner in their financial journey and contributing to the overall development of the island." (KNT)

## Financial results of HDFC Bank

HT News Network

Srinagar: The Board of Directors of HDFC Bank Limited approved the Bank's (Indian GAAP) results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2024, at its meeting held in Mumbai on Saturday, April 20, 2024. The accounts have been subjected to an audit by the statutory auditors of the Bank.

**CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS:** The Bank's consolidated net revenue grew by 133.6% to 870.0 billion for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 from 345.5 billion for the quarter ended March 31, 2023. The consolidated profit after tax for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 was 176.2 billion, up 39.9%, over the quarter ended March 31, 2023. Earnings per share for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 was 23.2 and book value per share as of March 31, 2024 was 600.8. The consolidated profit after tax for the year ended March 31, 2024 was 640.6 billion, up 39.3%, over the year ended March 31, 2023.

**STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS:** Profit & Loss Account: Quarter ended March 31, 2024 The Bank's net revenue grew by 47.3% to 472.4 billion (including transaction gains of 73.4 billion from stake sale in subsidiary HDFC Credila Financial Services Ltd)



for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 from 320.8 billion for the quarter ended March 31, 2023. Net interest income (interest earned less interest expended) for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 grew by 24.5% to 290.8 billion from 233.5 billion for the quarter ended March 31, 2023. Core net interest margin was at 3.44% on total assets, and 3.63% based on interest earning assets.

Other income (non-interest revenue) for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 was 181.7 billion as against 87.3 billion in the corresponding quarter ended March 31, 2023. The four components of other income for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 were fees & commissions of 79.9 billion ( 66.3 billion in the corresponding quarter of the previous year), foreign exchange & derivatives revenue of 11.4 billion ( 10.1 billion in the corresponding quarter of the previous year), net trading

and mark to market gain of 75.9 billion, including transaction gains of 73.4 billion mentioned above (loss of 0.4 billion in the corresponding quarter of the previous year) and miscellaneous income, including recoveries and dividend of 14.4 billion ( 11.3 billion in the corresponding quarter of the previous year). Operating expenses for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 were 179.7 billion, an increase of 33.5% over 134.6 billion during the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Operating expenses for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 included staff-ex-gratia provision of 15 billion. The cost-to-income ratio for the quarter was at 38.0%. Excluding certain transaction gains and the ex-gratia provision, cost to income ratio for the quarter was at 41.3%. The credit environment in the economy remains benign, and the Bank's credit performance across all segments continues to remain healthy. The Bank's GNPA at 1.24% has shown an improvement over the prior quarter. The Bank has considered this as an opportune stage to enhance its floating provisions, which are not specific to any portfolio, but act as a countercyclical buffer for making the balance sheet more resilient, and these also qualify as Tier 2 Capital within the regulatory limits. Therefore, the Bank has made floating provisions of 109.0 billion during the quarter. Provisions and contingencies for the quarter ended March 31, 2024.

# Poor diet increases cancer risk: Scientists uncover missing link

**P**oor diet can increase the risk of obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and some cancers. Experts have not yet found any firm causative links between individual dietary components and cancer.

A new study has discovered that methylglyoxal — which is produced when glucose is broken down in cells — may help explain the link between poor diet and cancer.

They suggest that a long-term poor diet leads to an increase in the production of methylglyoxal, which switches off cancer-preventing genes, increasing cancer risk. Poor nutrition Trusted Source is associated with many health conditions, among them obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and cancers, including those of the breast, uterus, and large intestine. High intakes of sodium, saturated fats, and sugars can increase the risk of chronic conditions like heart disease and type 2 diabetes, but what links diet and cancer is less clear.

Although many foods are said to be associated with increased or decreased cancer risk, according to the National Cancer Institute Trusted Source, no studies have yet shown that any dietary component directly causes or protects against cancer.

Now, a study from the National University of Singapore, published in Cell Trusted Source, has discovered a mechanism that may help to explain why poor diet increases cancer risk.

In cell studies, the researchers found that methylglyoxal, which is produced when cells break down glucose to release energy, can inhibit genes that protect



against cancer. They suggest that poor diet leads to higher levels of methylglyoxal, increasing the likelihood of cancer.

“This study suggests a potential correlation between high levels of methylglyoxal, a metabolic by-product, and a genetic mutation pattern seen in some cancers. It is an interesting area to explore further, but we need further lab research and clinical testing to conclusively establish if methylglyoxal levels are directly linked to cancer risk.”

— Dr. Tayyaba Jiwani, science engagement manager at Cancer Research UK, who was not involved in the study, speaking to Medical News Today.

Breast cancer gene increases effect of methylglyoxal

Methylglyoxal is a by-product Trusted Source of the metabolism of glucose, proteins and lipids. It is a reactive small

molecule that can disrupt cell function, so is broken down by enzymes into less harmful substances. However, if too much methylglyoxal is produced, the study suggests, the excess can then damage DNA Trusted Source.

The researchers first investigated the effect of methylglyoxal in cells from people who had inherited a copy of a mutated gene — BRCA2 — that increases the risk of breast and ovarian cancers.

They discovered that methylglyoxal temporarily disabled tumor suppression by BRCA2, which could increase the likelihood of cancer developing.

Prof. Ashok Venkitaraman, corresponding author, NUS Centre for Cancer Research, National University of Singapore, told Medical News Today:

“[M]ethylglyoxal triggers the destruction of BRCA2 protein, reducing its levels

in cells. (It doesn't prevent expression of the BRCA2 gene.) This effect is temporary, but can last long enough to inhibit the tumor-preventing function of BRCA2.”

Methylglyoxal damaged DNA in cells that had the mutated form of the BRCA2 gene. Repeated exposure to methylglyoxal increased the level of damage to the DNA.

“It is well documented that some individuals are at a high risk of developing breast, ovarian, pancreatic or other cancers because they inherit a faulty copy of the cancer-preventing gene — BRCA2 — from their parents,” Venkitaraman said.

“Our recent findings show that cells from such individuals are particularly sensitive to the effects of methylglyoxal, which is a chemical produced when our cells break down glucose to create energy. We find that methylglyoxal inhibits the tumor-preventing function of BRCA2, eventually causing faults in our DNA that are early warning signs of cancer development,” he added.

Similar effects seen without gene

“The study revealed that even individuals without a genetic predisposition might still face an increased cancer risk if they present with elevated methylglyoxal levels. This scenario is commonly observed in those with diabetes or pre-diabetes, conditions often linked with obesity or suboptimal dietary and lifestyle habits.”

— Kelsey Costa, MS, RDN, registered dietitian nutritionist and founder of Dietitian Insights, who was not involved in the study, speaking to Medical News Today.

Costa explained how methylglyoxal might have this effect:

## Environments With More Natural Features Linked To Better Mental Health: Study

**A** study by King's College London found that spaces with a variety of natural features are associated with better mental health than spaces with less natural diversity. Published in Scientific Reports and funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and Wellcome, this citizen science study used the smartphone application Urban Mind to collect real-time reports on mental well-being and natural diversity from nearly 2000 participants.

Researchers discovered that environments with more natural features, such as trees, birds, plants, and streams, are related to better mental health than environments with fewer elements, and that these advantages can continue for up to eight hours. Further analysis found that nearly a quarter of the positive impact of nature on mental health could be explained by the diversity of features present. These findings highlight that policies and practices that support the richness of nature and species are beneficial both for the environment and for public mental health.

Lead author Ryan Hammoud, Research Assistant at



the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN), King's College London, said: “To our knowledge, this is the first study examining the mental health impact of everyday encounters with different levels of natural diversity in real-life contexts. Our results highlight that by protecting and promoting natural diversity, we can maximise the benefits of nature for mental

well-being. In practice, this means moving away from heavily curated monocultural pockets and parks of mown grass, which are typically associated with low biodiversity, towards spaces that mirror the biodiversity of natural ecosystems. By showing how natural diversity boosts our mental wellbeing, we provide a compelling basis for how to create greener and healthier urban spaces.”

The study took place between April 2018 and September 2023, with 1,998 participants completing over 41,000 assessments. Each participant was asked to complete three assessments per day over 14 days, entering information about their environment and answering a series of questions about their mental health. Natural diversity was defined by how many out of four natural features — trees, plants, birds and water — were present within the participant's surrounding environment. Data were collected using the Urban Mind app, developed by King's College London, landscape architects J&L Gibbons and arts foundation Nomad Projects. The Urban Mind project is funded by a Wellcome Climate Impacts Award to Professor Andrea

### NEWS

## Eat These Superfoods To Strengthen Your Liver



**W**orld Liver Day is observed annually on April 19th to raise awareness about liver-related diseases and the importance of liver health. It aims to educate people about the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of liver diseases such as hepatitis, liver cirrhosis, fatty liver disease, and liver cancer.

### 1. Garlic

Garlic contains compounds like allicin and selenium, which help activate liver enzymes responsible for flushing out toxins. It also has antioxidant properties that protect the liver from oxidative damage.

### 2. Turmeric

Curcumin, the active compound in turmeric, has potent anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. It can help reduce inflammation in the liver and protect against liver damage caused by toxins and oxidative stress.

### 3. Green tea

Green tea is rich in catechins, powerful antioxidants that have been shown to improve liver function and reduce the risk of liver diseases like fatty liver disease and liver cancer.

### 4. Beetroot

Beetroot contains betaine, a compound that helps promote liver detoxification and reduce inflammation. It also contains antioxidants like betalains, which protect liver cells from damage.

### 5. Cruciferous vegetables

Vegetables like broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, and kale contain compounds called glucosinolates, which support liver detoxification processes. They also provide vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that promote overall liver health.

### 6. Walnuts

Walnuts are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, which have anti-inflammatory properties and may help reduce liver inflammation. They also contain antioxidants like vitamin E and polyphenols, which protect liver cells from damage.

### 7. Berries

Berries such as blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries are rich in antioxidants like anthocyanins and vitamin C, which help reduce inflammation and oxidative stress in the liver.

### 8. Fatty fish

Fatty fish like salmon, mackerel, and sardines are rich in omega-3 fatty acids, which have anti-inflammatory properties and may help reduce fat accumulation in the liver. They also provide protein and vitamin D, which support overall liver health.

## Heart Failure, Not Stroke, Is Most Common Complication of AFib, Study Finds

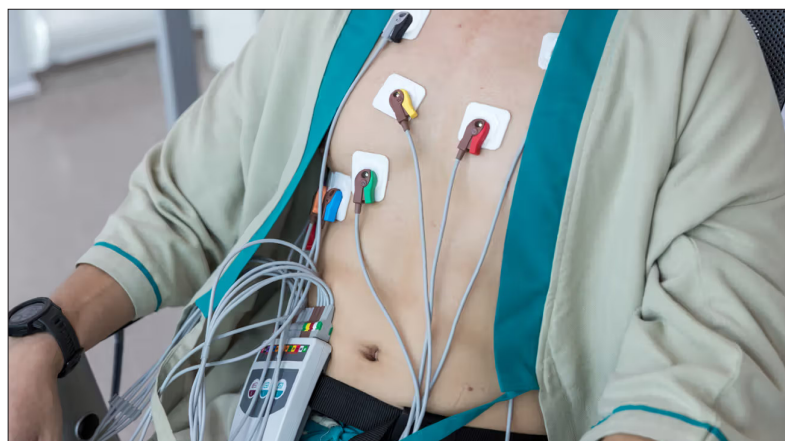
**T**he risk of atrial fibrillation, the most common type of heart arrhythmia, has increased with one in three people expected to develop the disease in their lifetime. Now a new study finds that the most frequent complication of this disease is heart failure rather than stroke.

With these increasing numbers more strategies are needed to prevent either heart failure or stroke in people with atrial fibrillation, according to the study authors. The study was published in The BMJ, on April 17 and examined 3.5 million people in Denmark from 2000 to 2022 who had no history of atrial fibrillation at age 45 or older.

Researchers found 362,721 people with a new diagnosis of atrial fibrillation, almost evenly split between men (54%) and women (46%), and followed them until heart attack, heart failure, or stroke.

From 2000 to 2010, the lifetime risk of atrial fibrillation was 24%; from 2011 to 2022, that risk increased to 31%, with men and people who had a history of stroke, heart attack, heart failure, diabetes, or chronic kidney disease seeing a larger increase.

And among people found to have atrial fibrillation, the lifetime risk of heart failure was 41% — twice the lifetime risk of stroke (21%) and four times that of heart attack.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 12.1 million U.S. adults Trusted Source will have atrial fibrillation by 2030.

Nicklas Vinter, MD, PhD, Danish Center for Health Services Research, Department of Clinical Medicine, Aalborg University in Denmark, is one of the study's authors and told Healthline that the study's findings underline the need for testing new treatments and medications that can help minimize heart failure and stroke risks in people with atrial fibrillation.

“Heart failure was the major complication after atrial fibrillation in our study, but the international guidelines for the management of atrial fibrillation mainly focus on stroke prevention. The high lifetime risk of heart failure encourages great

attention to prevent heart failure after atrial fibrillation,” Vinter said.

What causes AFib?

There are four chambers in the heart — two atria and two ventricles — and atrial fibrillation occurs when those chambers don't function properly due to abnormal electrical activity, which causes the atria and ventricles to contract at different speeds.

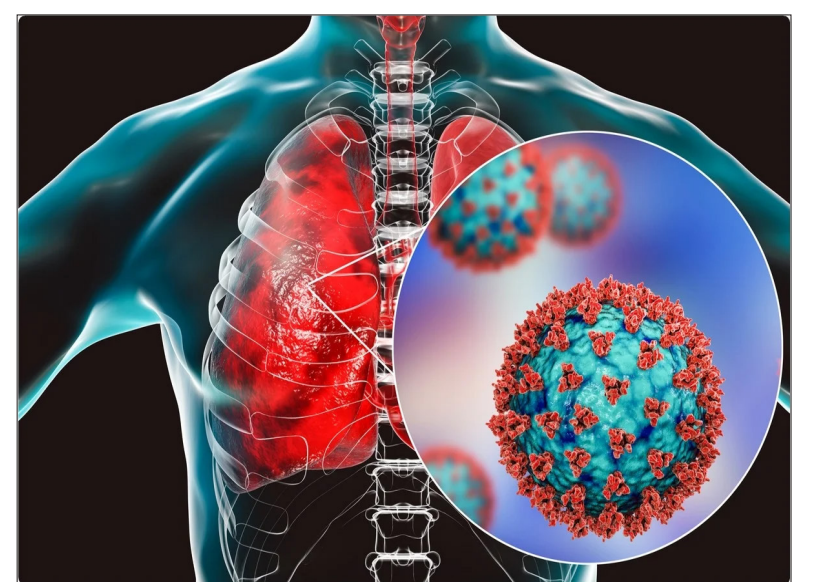
Advanced age, high blood pressure, hyperthyroidism, diabetes, binge drinking, and a history of underlying heart disease are all factors that can contribute to the development of atrial fibrillation, Paul Drury, MD, board certified cardiologist and associate medical director of electrophysiology at MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center in Laguna Hills, CA, who was not involved in the study, told Healthline.

## Lungs Of Young Adults More Susceptible To Covid-19 Causing SARS-CoV-2 Virus, Claims Study

**W**hile older age has been associated with an increased risk of SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for Covid-19, a new study has revealed that the lungs of young adults are more susceptible to the virus. The study, which was posted on a preprint website and has not yet undergone peer review, showed that the lungs of older individuals are less susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 and flu virus replication compared to the young. “In contrast to SARS-CoV-2, flu viruses replicate more efficiently in human alveolar cells, leading to stronger innate immune responses,” Dr Vipin M. Vashishta, a member of WHO's Vaccine Safety Net, said in a post on X.

“These findings indicate that the elderly are not more susceptible to respiratory virus infection than young people as a rational of elevated risk for severe disease by local viral replication only, but points towards other mechanisms such as immune-mediated pathogenesis,” he explained.

In the study, researchers from the University of Bern in Switzerland evaluated the influence of lung ageing on the efficiency of replication of influenza A virus (IAV) and SARS-CoV-2, as well as determined the pro-inflammatory and antiviral responses of the distal lung tissue. Using precision-cut lung slices (PCLS)



technology, used for respiratory research, from donors of different ages, and found that influenza viruses H1N1 and H5N1 replicated in the lung parenchyma with high efficacy. Conversely, SARS-CoV-2 wild-type and delta variants replicated less efficiently.

While SARS-CoV-2 infection was not causing detectable cell death, influenza virus infection “caused significant cytotoxicity and induced significant early interferon responses,” the researchers said. “These findings suggest that aged lung tissue might not favour viral dissemination, pointing to a determinant

role of dysregulated immune mechanisms in the development of severe disease,” they said. The study, which was posted on a preprint website and has not yet undergone peer review, showed that the lungs of older individuals are less susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 and flu virus replication compared to the young. “These findings indicate that the elderly are not more susceptible to respiratory virus infection than young people as a rational of elevated risk for severe disease by local viral replication only, but points towards other mechanisms such as immune-mediated pathogenesis,” he explained.



## David, Pollard fined for providing DRS assistance from dugout

**NEW DELHI:** Mumbai Indians batter Tim David and batting coach Kieron Pollard have been fined 20% of their match fee for breaching the IPL's code of conduct during their match against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur on Thursday.

While the IPL did not reveal the details of the breach, ESPNcricinfo has learned that both Pollard and David were penalised for signalling from the dugout to the on-field batters to seek a review for a wide delivery.

The incident took place on the last ball of the 15th over when Arshdeep Singh bowled a full and angled delivery outside off stump that Suryakumar Yadav failed to connect. Suryakumar did not review it initially, but asked for one belatedly. Punjab Kings' stand-in captain Sam Curran walked up

to the on-field umpire and it is understood he was querying whether 15 seconds had elapsed.

It is understood that the on-field umpires were clear about the Mumbai batters not looking in the direction of the dugout before asking for the review.

Later, the IPL sought the footage from the broadcaster to check for the sequence of events leading to the review. After confirming the Mumbai dugout had clearly prodded the on-field batters, the match officials informed the franchise about the breach.

The said clause applied in this case was 3.2.3 in the IPL playing conditions which states: "The two batters may consult with each other prior to deciding whether to request a Player Review. Under no circumstances is any player per-

mitted to query an umpire about any aspect of a decision before or after a Player Review.

"If the on-field umpires believe that the captain or either batter has received direct or indirect input emanating other than from the players on the field, then they may at their discretion, decline the request for a Player Review. In particular, signals from the dressing room must not be given. Breach of this provision will be liable for reporting under COC."

As per a media release by the IPL, David and Pollard committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.20, which covers all types of conduct that are contrary to the spirit of the game. However, it did not specify the offence.

Article 2.20 states: "When assessing the seriousness of the

offence, the context of the particular situation, and whether it was deliberate, reckless, negligent, avoidable and/or accidental, shall be considered. Further, the person lodging the Report shall determine where on the range of severity the conduct lays, with the range of severity starting at conduct of a minor nature (and hence a Level 1 offence) up to conduct of an extremely serious nature (and hence a Level 4 offence)."

Both David and Pollard admitted to the offence and accepted the match referee Sanjay Verma's sanction.

Mumbai, who went on to win the match by nine runs, are currently seventh on the points table with three wins and four losses from seven games. Their next match is on Monday, against Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur.

## Rahul makes up his mind and goes bang bang



**MUMBAI:** Stump mics are such beautiful things. And we're such nasty people. Always eavesdropping. But then again, without them, the sport loses a bit of its magic.

Rishabh Pant, for example, has a song that goes "We've got Paaaant. Riiii-shabh Paaaant. I just don't think you understand. He'll hit you for a six. He'll babysit your kids. We've got Riiii-shabh Paaaaaant." It's a shameless copy of the one that Wrexham, the Welsh football club owned by Hollywood actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney, use to serenade their No. 1 striker Paul Mullin. And its best lyric comes out of a conversation that was caught on a stump mic in Australia.

In Lucknow, they caught the home team captain crying out. The source of KL Rahul's anger - and he actually needed to pace up and down the batting crease to calm himself down, still muttering away - was a dot ball in the powerplay.

Deepak Chahar had managed to sneak one of his bouncers through to the wicket-keeper. But it was so damn hittable. With point and third up inside the circle, all it would have taken was the smallest deflection. Rahul knew this. That's why he stayed leg side, in a little bit of a crouch, waiting for the perfect moment to bring his wrists into play and lift the ball over the keeper. His timing was off and he hated himself for it.

Rahul had recently revealed, on a podcast with his India team-mate R Ashwin, that the World Cup final lives rent-free in his head. Specifically, a decision that he was unable to make in the heat of the moment. He said he wasn't sure if he should take down Mitchell Starc when he came back to bowl in the death or if he should have played him

out and looked for runs elsewhere. He regretted being in two minds.

Towards the end of the game against Chennai Super Kings, Rahul struck Mustafizur Rahman so precisely between two fielders on the off-side boundary that neither knew whose responsibility it was. Sameer Rizvi was reduced to just running past his team-mate while the ball hit the fence and as he did so there was something that looked almost like a smile on his face, as if he was appreciating the skill it took to render two full-grown men completely inert. Rizvi and Rachin Ravindra could have stopped it from going for four, but by that point, they were so close to each other that any attempt to dive would have resulted in a collision. So, they just pulled out. They accepted defeat.

Shots like those are only possible with a clear mind. A single, determined, focused mind. Rahul, in this IPL, has looked like the batter that all of India has been dreaming he would become. On the attack in the powerplay. Willing to take more risks. Moving around the crease. Hitting in the air. And just generally remembering that a) he has lightning-fast hands, b) a great piece of willow, and c) no business fearing a clump of white leather.

In the sixth over, Chahar hoped to exploit a two-paced pitch by digging the ball into it, taking the pace off and keeping the line wide. It was a challenge to the batter. And Rahul met it perfectly, because instead of looking to hit across the line even though it is easier to generate power that way, he hit through the line, which meant he had nullified the threat he was facing. He wasn't going to get out dragging it from off to leg.

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