

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

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Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK

Grateful to Hon'ble PM for providing much-needed support to poor households and empowering weaker sections. In J&K, 1747 beneficiaries belonging to SC, OBC & Safai Karamchari community were provided assistance to start a business venture and lead a life with dignity.

Misappropriation Of Funds
ACB Registers Case Against EO, Others

SRINAGAR: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday said to have registered a case against Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Shopian and others for misappropriation of funds.

As per a statement issued, Anti-Corruption Bureau registered a case of Criminal •P-06

4 Houses Damaged In Downtown Blaze

SRINAGAR: At least four residential houses were damaged in a fire incident at Islam Yarbaj area of Pathar Masjid in Srinagar's Downtown late last night.

An official said that four residential houses were involved in the fire that broke out due to an electric short circuit.

He added that the attic portion, including roofing, ceiling, doors, windows, and household goods on the second and third floors of two four-storey •P-06

LS, Assembly Polls

Final Call After Security Review, Feedback From Pol Parties: ECI



ABID BASHIR

SRINAGAR: Chief Election Commissioner of India Rajiv Kumar Wednesday said that the Commission will take a final call on holding concurrent Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in J&K after thorough consultations with the security agencies and political parties.

"We equally concerned about LS and Assembly polls in J&K," Chief Election Commissioner of India, Rajiv Kumar told a press conference in Jammu.

He said that the Commission wants LS and Assembly polls soon. "As far as holding the LS and Assembly polls simultaneously, we will hold thorough consultations with the security agencies and also get the feedback from the political parties," he said, in reply to a query whether the Commission intends to hold LS and Assembly polls simultaneously.

Replying to a query about security needs, the CEC of India said that they will draw a sketch and see how much is the requirement for LS polls and Assembly polls. "We will also see how much will be the security requirement if both elections are held concurrently," Kumar said.

He said that there are 86.9 lakh voters in •P-06

A TEAM WILL VISIT THE HOUSE OF DISABLED VOTER along with the candidate. Same will be vedigraphed," he said. It may recalled that the Supreme Court in its judgement has stated that statehood to J&K should be granted and Assembly polls be held before September 2024

Sports Icons Are True Inspiration For Youth Of J&K: LG Sinha

Felicitates Medal Winners Of National, International Competitions

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday said that sports icons are the true inspiration for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and added the government's efforts to take sports to villages have bridged the decades-old gap between talents and opportunities.

Sinha felicitated the medal winners of national and international competitions at an event here. He also inaugurated a state-of-the-art synthetic football turf costing Rs 4.83 crore at the parade ground in Jammu and laid the



foundation stone of the synthetic hockey field at Bandhuraakh worth Rs 4.85 crore.

A total 368 sportspersons, from 17 disciplines, received special cash awards amounting to Rs 1.35 crore directly in their Bank accounts through DBT mode. Rs 12 lakh awarded to Aqsa Gulzar and Sohan Kamotra was awarded with Rs 8 lakh •P-06

PM Modi Launches PM-SURAJ National Portal

LG Expresses Gratitude To PM For Empowering Weaker Sections

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) national portal and sanctioned credit support to one lakh entrepreneurs

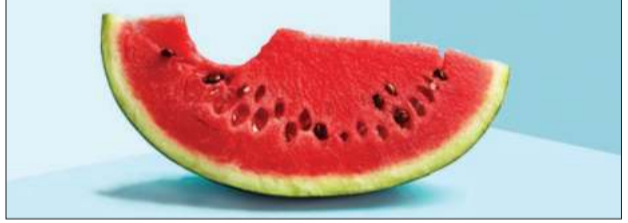


of disadvantaged sections. In J&K, 1747 beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Caste, Other Backward

Classes (OBC) and Safai Karamchari community were provided assistance to start a business venture and lead a life with dignity.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for •P-06

Food Deptt Starts Sampling Amid Concerns Over Early-Ripened Fruits



UNAISAR GULL GANIE

SRINAGAR: Food and Drugs Department J&K has started sampling of fresh fruits, vegetables and other food items following social media reports about early-ripened fruits, particularly watermelons, in markets.

Commissioner of Food Safety & Controller, Drugs & Food Control Organisation, Hashmat Ali Yattoo said social media is an "uncontrolled" platform where people post whatever they like.

"We have a role in ensuring food safety, whether these are packed goods, milk, meat, chicken, fruits or vegetables. We collect samples for analysis and only make statements after •P-06

Since Article 370 Revocation, J&K Witnesses Surge Of 11 Lakh Voters

ALI ASAD

SRINAGAR: Since the revocation of Article 370 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, a whopping increase of 11 lakh voters has been registered who can now vote during the assembly elections in the erstwhile state.

As per the official reports available, in 2019, the total number of voters was approximately 76 lakh, with 39.45 lakh men and 36.38 lakh women. By January 1, 2024, in the voter revision campaign initiated in 2023, the number of voters surged to more than 86 lakh, indicating an increase of around 11 lakh

voters in Jammu and Kashmir since 2019.

A senior government official divulging the details told KNO that following the removal of Article 370, there has been heightened enthusiasm among the populace regarding elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

"A significant number of people are stepping forward to participate in the electoral process. Post the removal of Article 370, for the first time, individuals from various communities such as West Pakistani Refugees,

Valmiki, and Gorkha communities have attained citizenship," says the official.

Reports inform that the completion of delimitation of Assembly and Lok Sabha seats in May 2022, due to the State Reorganization Act, halted the process of voter registration from 2019. When the voter registration campaign commenced three years later in September 2022, there was a notable surge in applicants, exceeding 11 lakh. However, 3.5 lakh applications were rejected at the same time •P-06

CS For Making Robust Plan For Savings Made In JTFRP Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday while reviewing the pace and progress of World Bank funded Jhelum & Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) impressed upon the concerned to make a robust plan for around Rs 140 Cr savings amount out of the total outlay for 213 sub-projects funded under it.

Besides the CEO, ERA the meeting was also attended by Principal Secretary, Higher Education; Commissioner Secretary, I&C; Secretary, PWD; Secretary, Health; Secretary, School Education; MD, JKPC; Commissioner, SMC besides other officers.

Srinagar based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary directed for considering some significant works for upgradation of infrastructure in our education, health, disaster management and livelihood generation here so that these savings are spent on a positive developmental front in a time-bound manner.

He asked for identifying the works that are critical and of most emergent nature to be taken up shortly and completed before December this year. He enjoined upon the concerned authorities to assess the viability •P-06

J&K Govt Identifies 10 Focus Sectors In New Start-Up Policy



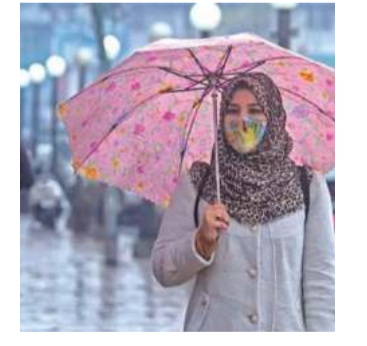
MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir administration has identified 10 different sectors, which will be given special attention under the new start-up policy.

As per the Start-up Policy 2024-27, start-ups coming up in different sectors will get assistance and funding from the government to thrive.

The policy document reveals that these 10 sectors include food processing and allied activities, agriculture and allied sectors including horti-

Rains Lash Kashmir Parts



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Mild to heavy rains lashed parts of Kashmir on Wednesday coupled with gusty winds and thunderstorms.

Weather officials said Kashmir valley witnessed light to moderate rain with thunderstorms and gusty winds on Wednesday.

"Mild to heavy rains lashed parts of Kashmir, while there is further possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at many places in J&K with thunder/lightning accompanied with gusty winds," MeT Department statement said.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 5.4; Gulmarg minus 1.2; and Pahalgam minus 0.5 on Wednesday. •P-06

MOVIES Schedule

Thursday 14 March

www.bookmyshow.com
www.inoxmovies.com
Paytm, Inox App or Directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

Call 95416 13868
For assistance with tickets

<p>LAAPATAA LADIES (HINDI) 05:00PM (U/A)</p>	<p>SHAITAAN (HINDI) ATMOS 11:45AM, 02:30PM 05:45PM (HINDI) (U/A)</p>
<p>GAAMI (TELUGU) 11:00AM (A)</p>	<p>TERI BAATON MEIN AISA ULJHA JIVA (HINDI) 02:00PM (U/A)</p>

Distt Admin G'bl organizes mega Block Diwas in Kijpora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The District Administration Ganderbal Wednesday conducted a public outreach programme as part of weekly Block Diwas at the Panchayat Ghar Kijpora, Ganderbal.

The event was chaired by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani. The outreach programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from various stakeholders including SDM Kangan, ACD, Executive Engineer KPDC, Tehsildar Kangan, district officers, and DDC member Kangan, alongside civil society members, prominent citizens, and locals of Kangan subdivision.

Numerous pertinent issues were raised during the event, reflecting the community's concerns and aspirations. These ranged from staff shortages at



Kijpora Middle School, to infrastructure development needs such as the Kijpora Penzin road, branch cutting in the dumping park at Kijpora, and the development of the Kijpora playground.

Additionally, concerns were voiced regarding the desilting of the filtration plant at Kijpora, timely commissioning of the Chattergul Bala Filtration Plant, establishment of a playground at Upper Margund, pending forest rights cases, and unscheduled power cuts. The need for streamlining the issuance of Agriculture and Domicile Certificates was also

highlighted.

In his address, the ADC reiterated the program's primary objective of fostering direct engagement with grassroots issues. He emphasized the pivotal role these outreach camps play in bringing governance to the doorstep of the public, thereby enhancing the efficiency of public service delivery.

Responding promptly to the concerns raised, particularly regarding unscheduled power cuts, the ADC issued directives to the Executive Engineer KPDC to ensure uninterrupted power supply during Sehri and Ifar timings in

the entire Kangan area.

Furthermore, addressing the challenges pertaining to the issuance of Agriculture and Domicile Certificates, SDM Kangan assured the locals that these issues would be promptly resolved.

In parallel, the Social Welfare department, alongside other concerned departments, provided a comprehensive overview of self-employment schemes and raised awareness about the Nasha Mukh Bharat initiative.

The ADC urged locals to engage with these departments to learn about available schemes, ensuring that benefits reach those in need.

The District Administration Ganderbal remains committed to proactive community engagement and resolving issues in a timely and efficient manner, thereby fostering inclusive development and ensuring that all residents are benefited.

2 Udhampur Hotels achieve Swachhata Green Leaf Rating

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant development towards promoting cleanliness and sustainability, two hotels in Udhampur district have achieved Swachhata Green Leaf Ratings (SGLR) by completing self-certification compliance. This accomplishment highlights their commitment to maintain high standards of hygiene and environmental stewardship.

The self-certification compliance for Swachhata Green Leaf is a rigorous process that requires hotels to adhere to strict guidelines related to cleanliness, waste management, and sustainability practices. By successfully completing this process, these hotels have demonstrated their dedication to provide a clean and eco-friendly environment to their guests.

Hotel Heritage, Patnitop received 3 leaf rating



and Subash Hotel Patnitop received 1 leaf rating.

The SGLR is divided into three major categories, in which '5 leaf' certificate is provided to the establishments with best cleanliness, waste management, and sustainability practices followed by '3 leaf' and '1 leaf' rating system.

Director General Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra said: "The achievement of Swachhata Green Leaf Ratings by these hotels is not only a testament to their commitment to excellence but also a commendable step towards

promoting cleanliness and sustainability at tourist hill-station Patnitop in Udhampur district."

Director General Rural Sanitation added that it is hoped that other hotels and establishments in the area will follow suit, contributing to the overall improvement of cleanliness and environmental standards in the area.

SGLR is a groundbreaking move to revolutionize sanitation practices within India's expanding tourism industry, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), in col-

laboration with the Ministry of Tourism, introduced the SGLR initiative.

The Swachhata Green Leaf Ratings scheme is part of the Swachh Bharat Mission, which aims to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation across India. The successful completion of the self-certification compliance by these hotels is a testament to the success of this mission and a shining example for others to follow.

Earlier this year, "National Pilot on Swachhata Green Leaf Rating in Hospitality Facilities" was launched at tourist place Pahalgam in district Anantnag of Jammu and Kashmir and Kairang National Park, Assam.

Aligned with the Travel for LIFE programme under Mission LIFE, the Swachhata Green Leaf Rating initiative endeavours to promote sustainable tourism practices that harmonize with nature.

Market Checking intensified in Handwara town

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: To prevent overpricing, illegal profiteering and black marketing by business establishments operating at Handwara town, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather leading an officers' team Wednesday conducted a market checking drive across Handwara town.

Market checking team consisting of (EO) MC Handwara, SHO and Food experts conducted market checking across the Handwara town to ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the quality standards with sufficient availability of consumables.

Meanwhile, the ADC stressed on owners of all Business establishments/

shopkeepers to maintain quality and standard of essential commodities and ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates. He asked the Market checking teams to continue the drive across all the markets of the town.

While interacting with the shopkeepers, the ADC asked them to display rate lists at prominent places and adhere to the rates approved and ensure quality and freshness of eatables.

The ADC said that encroachment of footpaths and pavements will not be tolerated at any cost, he urged the traders and street vendors to vacate the encroachments of footpaths and pavements so that people especially pedestrians do not face problems.

DC Shopian conducts comprehensive inspection of Polling Stations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb Wednesday undertook a comprehensive visit to several polling stations in the district including Bohrihan, Heerpora, Padapawan, Chottipora and Sedow.

The visit was aimed to assess and review the status of assured minimum facilities at these polling stations.

The scrutiny encompassed a thorough examination of various essential facilities for the smooth conduct of the elections. During the inspection, the DC engaged with the stakeholders to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place to facilitate a smooth and efficient voting process.

Basic amenities such as electricity, water supply, sanitation, and accessibil-

ity for differently-abled voters was assessed at these polling stations.

Expressing satisfaction with the overall preparedness observed during the visit, the DC underscored the importance of ensuring that all polling stations adhere to prescribed standards of ECI to uphold the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

He reiterated the unwavering commitment of the administration to facilitating free, fair and transparent elections, wherein every eligible citizen can exercise their democratic right with confidence and ease.

The DC was accompanied by SSP, Shopian, Tanushree and Dy. DEO, Jahangir Ahmed besides officers and other officials of election department Shopian.

JKSDM conducts State Level India Skills Competitions at KU

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: J&K Skill Development Mission, in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), GoI and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) today kick started the state level competitions of different job roles with the active support of Skill Department J&K, in the UT of J&K.

The competitions in various skill sets are being conducted in collaboration with Academic Partners across the UT.

Among the job roles selected, State Level Competition in skills of Automobile Technology, Electronics and Electrical Installations were organized under the aegis of Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship, Institute of Technology, Zakura Campus University of Kashmir, who were academic partners to JKSDM for the competitions.

The candidates across UT of J&K participated in the state level competition, which will lead them to Pre-National competitions

and National level competitions and finally the winner will participate in World Skills Competitions scheduled in Lyon, France later this year.

Such competitions should be given more awareness so that more and more youth participants involved in such initiatives get a chance to showcase their skills, said Dr. Bilal Ahmad Malik, Sr. Scientific Officer, one of the Jury Members for the competition from Kashmir University.

Er. Ubaid Qureshi, another Jury Member from Kashmir University said that such initiatives are insightful and brainstorming for the participants as it can unleash their hidden talent.

JKSDM will continue to organize such initiatives and give opportunity to youth of J&K, State Level Competitions in 18 skill sets are being conducted at various venues across the UT wherein more than 250 candidates will compete to represent J&K in Pre National and National Level Competitions, said Leena Padha, Mission Director, JKSDM.

ADC Handwara inspects polling stations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather who is also ERO AC-5 Handwara Wednesday visited various polling stations of the Vilgam and Tarathpora to inspect Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF), and review 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.

He 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 administration's commitment to conducting free, fair and peaceful elections, urging all stakeholders to cooperate and contribute to the success of the electoral process.

Awareness programme on Drug Abuse held at Amar Singh College

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Amar Singh College Srinagar and Crime Branch J&K/Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), jointly organized an awareness programme on drug abuse, showcasing a collective effort towards combating the menace of drug abuse in the Kashmir Valley.

The programme was attended by a wide range of audience including students and faculty members.

SSP ANTF J&K, Raj Kumar presented the presidential speech. He accentuated that fighting drug abuse is not just a duty; it is a shared responsibility that demands our collective commitment. By raising awareness and

fostering collaboration, we pave the way for a resilient, drug-free Kashmir Valley.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Prof. Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Vice Principal Amar Singh College. He stressed that youth are the largest force of our nation and they must be directed positively for their happy and healthy living.

He further elaborated that in educating our youth about the perils of drug abuse, we empower them to make choices that shape a future of strength and resilience. Knowledge is our most potent weapon against the shadows of addiction.

Dr. Muzafar Khan, in charge of the Drug De

addiction Center, delivered an in-depth Power-Point presentation about the menace of drug abuse. He pointed out that breaking free from the chains of addiction requires not just treatment but understanding and support.

He stressed the need for collective effort against evil and impressed that together, we can heal the wounds of drug abuse and build a community that thrives on compassion and recovery.

Dr. Atia Faheem Khan from IMHANS; Nisar Bakshi, DSP ANTF, and CEO of KRSP also presented their views on achieving a drug-free society. They contended that knowledge can be the guiding light that illuminates the path towards a healthier, happier society.

FSD conducts spot test for artificial colours in watermelons

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Food Safety team Anantnag Wednesday tested more than 30 samples of watermelon on spot for artificial colours through Mobile Food Testing Van (MFTV) during intensive market inspection in view of the apprehensions surrounding on social media regarding availability of artificially ripened watermelon in markets during the holy month of Ramadan.

However, during on spot analysis none of the samples showed a positive test for artificial colours.

During the drive all the Food Business Operators dealing with Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at Fruit and Vegetable Mandi Ashajipo-

ra and Batengoo Anantnag were inspected and were warned regarding any kind of malpractice in the trade.

Moreover, the team procured 25 samples of fresh fruits and vegetables for detailed analysis in the Public Health Laboratory, J&K. In addition mass awareness was provided among consumers for detection of artificial colours through rapid testing at home.

The Food Safety authorities of the district have cautioned that regular inspections will continue in the district to maintain the highest standards of food safety and quality, and FBOs were sternly warned to comply with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006/Rules and Regulations there under.

DC leads preparations for mega plantation drive in Ganderbal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Wednesday convened a meeting here to discuss the modalities and arrangements for upcoming mega plantation drive across the district.

During the meeting, the DC instructed key officers including Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Sindh Forest Division; Tehsildar Ganderbal, and officials from the Floriculture department to identify suitable patches of land that could be transformed into Chinar Parks or Deodar parks.

Additionally, the DC emphasized the importance of seeking technical guidance from SKUAST Social Forestry to ensure the effective development of these areas.

All concerned departments were directed to

promptly submit reports on identified land parcels to facilitate comprehensive planning for the plantation drive. The District Floriculture Officer was specifically instructed to devise a detailed plan for plantation in collaboration with other relevant departments. Sufficient equipment and manpower will be mobilized to ensure the success of the plantation days.

Furthermore, the DC provided directives regarding the selection of plant species capable of thriving in the local climatic conditions, ensuring the sustainability of the plantation efforts.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Development, District Floriculture Officer, DFO Sindh Forest Division, Tehsildar Ganderbal, CEO, and other concerned stakeholders.

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TECHNICAL SECTION NOTIFICATION

In response to circular regarding Holistic Agriculture Development Programme issued by Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Kashmir vide No.DSHK/Plan/1307 Dated: 12/03/2024, all the desirous unemployed youth/ group of individuals, FPOs, SHGs & cooperative societies / Entrepreneurs from District Kupwara are hereby informed through medium of this notification that they can now apply for different schemes of Sheep Husbandry Department under HADP through official website of Agriculture Production Department <http://hadp.jk.gov.in>.

This move is aimed at making the application process more accessible and convenient for interested farmers, thereby encouraging more people to take up sheep farming. Interested persons can apply online by visiting the HADP web portal on <http://hadp.jk.gov.in>. For any queries / assistance in filling of online application form, the applicants can contact District Sheep Husbandry Office Kupwara (9906648813) / SDO Office Handwara (6005061807) / SDO Office Karamah (9622741700) during office working hours.

Scheme	Description
Establishment of 50 Ewes Commercial Sheep Farms	50 Ewes breed multiplication unit on ISDS pattern with 50% Subsidy to a maximum ceiling of 2.50 lacs per farm
Establishment of 50 Ewes breed based farms in the private Sector	50 Ewes breed multiplication unit on ISDS pattern with 50% Subsidy to a maximum ceiling of 2.50 lacs per farm

No. DSHOK/Tech/2023-24/4570
 Dated: 13/03/2024
 DIPK-17868-23
 DT: 13/03/2024

Sd/= District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kupwara

Gol asks J&K admin to complete all SSCL projects by mid-2024

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: After missing the deadline for the completion of several smart city projects in Srinagar, the government of India has directed the authorities in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the completion of all the projects by June of this year.

Sources privy to the development said that following the failure to meet the earlier deadline for project completion; the Gol has mandated the timely execution of all pending and ongoing projects by mid-2024.

"Out of the 158 projects earmarked, approximately 93 have reached comple-



tion. However, significant work remains, with many projects still in progress and others in the tendering phase. The directive stresses the completion of all pending and ongoing projects by June 2024," the

sources disclosed. According to the smart city officials in Srinagar, the five-year project plan started in 2018 for which funds of around Rs 1000 Cr were allocated for various smart city projects, of

which over Rs 500 Cr have been spent on many projects.

Although, according to the Srinagar Smart City officials several works may have been completed, it is pertinent to mention that there are several projects which are ongoing and are causing disruptions for the movement of transport in the city.

Notably, the earlier deadline for the completion of Smart City Projects in Srinagar was slated to be on Dec 2023, but failing to meet the deadline a revised and final date has been issued by Gol for the completion of all the projects in the city—(KNO)

Will take people into confidence before approving railway line: DM Shopian

Locals express concern over impact on livelihoods, land ownership

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SHOPIAN: District Magistrate of Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb on Wednesday assured that the people's voices will be heard and considered before any final decision is made regarding the proposed railway line in the district.

The DM, who is also the Deputy Commissioner Shopian, said railway authorities had taken the marking process of the railway line in the Zainapora area of the district where some locals have objected to it. He said people have various apprehensions and misconceptions in this regard which are being looked into.

"Before granting approval for the railway line, the administration will engage with local residents to ensure their concerns are taken into account," Haseeb said, adding that the revenue authorities have been instructed to prepare a detailed report in this regard.

The government's recent green signal for the final survey of five rail lines in Kashmir, including the Awantipora-Shopian route via Kulgam, has

sparked protests among residents of Reshipora and Pahnoo areas in south Kashmir's Shopian district. The locals fear that the construction of the railway line will lead to the displacement of hundreds of families, depriving them of their land and livelihoods.



The residents said many families rely on their orchards for livelihood, and the proposed railway project threatens their way of life. They urged authorities to either relocate the railway line or reconsider its construction, fearing the project will leave hundreds of families landless.

The locals appealed to higher authorities to address their grievances and ensure a fair resolution to the ongoing dispute over the proposed railway line—(KNO)

Launch of 'PM-SURAJ' portal

Srinagar Admin Hosts Live Streaming of PM's Interaction with Beneficiaries



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As a part of the Prime Minister's scheduled Programme to interact with beneficiaries of various government schemes from disadvantaged groups, the District Administration Srinagar Wednesday hosted Live Streaming of the Programme here at SKICC.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri; Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat and the Officers of all line Departments participated in the programme.

During the Programme, the gathering at SKICC Auditorium watched live streaming of Prime Minister's speech, marking a nationwide initiative for providing credit support to marginalised sections of society and Prime

Minister's interaction with beneficiaries of various Government schemes

from disadvantaged groups, including Scheduled Castes, backward classes, and sanitation workers.

The participants also witnessed the launch of 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) National portal and approval of credit assistance for one lakh entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities.

Later, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat hand over sanction letter among the beneficiaries of different Government schemes.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Director Local Bodies, Mathura Masoom, District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad other senior Officers and large gathering of people witnessed the event.

Prasar Bharati launches news sharing service

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharti on Wednesday launched a service to share text news, clean video feed and photographs with news organisations.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur launched the PB-Shabd for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD) as a free service for a year to news organisations registered with the ministry.

Speaking on the occasion, Thakur said that today was a historic day for the information and broadcasting sector of the country. "Over the years, Prasar Bharti has cultivated an elaborate network of news gathering from as well as news delivery to every corner of the country in every regional language. Now we intend to share this accurate and meaningful content with the rest of the print and electronic media industry of India", he said.

The Minister further informed that the SHABD service is being offered free of cost for the first year as an introductory offer and will provide news stories in all major Indian languages across fifty categories. Speaking about the revamped websites of Doordarshan News and All India Radio and the NewsOnAIR app, Shri Thakur said that All India Radio has continued to remain immensely relevant in the age of extensive mobile connectivity and is still a source of accurate information about government schemes and policies. The app will have many new features like Personalized news feeds, push notifications for breaking news, multimedia content integration, offline reading capability, live streaming



extensive network for content gathering. PB-SHABD will be a single point source of news content for all such organizations, he said. The Minister further informed that the SHABD service is being offered free of cost for the first year as an introductory offer and will provide news stories in all major Indian languages across fifty categories.

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for real-time coverage, easy social media sharing, location-based news delivery, bookmarking for saving articles and powerful search functionality. Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Sanjay Jaju, speaking earlier congratulated the whole Prasar Bharti team for the pilot of SHABD and the new website and app launches. He further said that the portal will create a lot of synergy and will be beneficial in dissemination of meaningful news content across the country.

CEO, Prasar Bharti, Gaurav Dwivedi said that Prasar Bharti will make an outreach to media organisations and share audio, video, photo and text based information gathered by its network.

PB SHABD platform has been designed to provide daily news feeds in video, audio, text, photo and other formats to the subscribers

from media landscape. Powered by the vast network of Prasar Bharati reporters, correspondents and stringers, the service would bring you the latest news from different parts of the country.

The shared feeds can be used for customized storytelling across different platforms. As an introductory offer, the services would be available free of cost and help the smaller newspapers, TV channels and digital portals immensely. The details are available at <https://shabd.prasarbharati.org/>

The revamped websites of DD News and Akashvani News and revamped News on Air app would provide users seamless experience and better user engagement. The websites will have user-friendly experience and engaging, has latest design elements so that users can have seamless experience. Users can explore intriguing news audios, engage in special programs, and tune into daily and weekly special broadcasts. With its organized layout and diverse content offerings, the revamped websites enrich the news consumption journey for users. Dedicated sections include National, International, Education, Health, Business & Economy, Science & Tech, Sports, Environment, and Opinion.

I&C Deptt overshoots financial targets set by DPIIT for 2023-24

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir's industrial sector is witnessing a remarkable transformation, catalysed by the success of New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) and the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS). These initiatives, implemented by the Government of India and the UT Government, are providing impetus to investment, job creation and overall economic growth in the region.

Launched in February 2021 with a substantial outlay of Rs. 28,400 crore, NCSS offers a comprehensive package of incentives to attract businesses to Jammu & Kashmir. These incentives included capital investment subsidy, interest subvention and GST-linked benefits, making the UT a sought after destination for entrepreneurs.

The scheme has gained impressive momentum in just three years, with a total of 838 units registered under NCSS, a testament to its impact.

In FY 2023-24, a total of ten Secretary Level Committee (SLC) meetings were held, under the chairmanship of Vikramjeet Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce and facilitated by Dr. Arun Manhas, Director Indus-



tries & Commerce, Jammu, and Khalid Majeed, Director Industries & Commerce, Kashmir as its member secretaries. These meetings, till date, have approved the registration of 372 units, with 240 from Jammu division and 132 from Kashmir division. These units represent a diverse range of sectors, including manufacturing and services, indicating the scheme's broad reach and impact.

Furthermore, the Department of Industries and commerce has approved substantial incentives during the current financial year. In FY 2023-24, Rs. 85.15 crore stands approved under Capital Investment Incentive (CID), Rs. 27.45 crore under Working Capital Interest Subvention (WCIS), and Rs.7.48 crore through Capital Interest Subvention (CIS).

It is pertinent to mention here that Goods and

Services Tax Linked incentive (GSTLI) is the most important incentive under the New Central sector Scheme and in the current Financial year the approval for Rs 40.80 crore under GSTLI stands given. The disbursements are directly empowering businesses, enabling them to expand their operations and create new employment opportunities.

J&K has surpassed the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) target of Rs. 150 crore in incentive approval. This achievement is a significant milestone in the UT's industrial journey.

While NCSS marks a new chapter in J&K's industrial development, the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS) 2017 continues to play a crucial role. Launched as a precursor to NCSS, IDS offers its own set of incentives, including central capital

investment support, interest subsidy, and GST reimbursement.

In FY 2023-24, IDS SLCs approved incentives worth Rs. 22.44 crore for Jammu division and Rs. 3.92 crore for Kashmir division. These additional incentives complement the support provided by NCSS, further strengthening the industrial ecosystem in the UT.

The combined efforts of NCSS and IDS are paving the way for a vibrant and robust industrial landscape in Jammu & Kashmir. With a focus on attracting investment, fostering innovation, and creating a conducive business environment, the UT is poised for sustained industrial growth in the years to come. This transformation will not only generate employment opportunities but also contribute significantly to J&K's overall economic development and prosperity.

DC Srinagar reviews preparedness for upcoming LS Election

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO) Wednesday chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the preparedness for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections in District.

At the outset, the DEO/DC Srinagar held a detailed discussion with the Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), designated Nodal Officers and Officers/Officials of District Election Authority Srinagar to assess the important aspects of the Election process mainly aimed at ensuring smooth and peaceful general elections in Srinagar District.

The DEO/DC took a first-hand appraisal of the preparedness regarding various crucial aspects and activities for upcoming Lok Sabha Elections including assessment of logistical requirements, manpower management plan, transportation of poll staff/Electronic Voting



Machines (EVMs), training management, expenditure monitoring, media communication, transport management, PWD voters, SVEEP activities and randomization of polling staff.

The DEO/DC asked the AROs and designated Nodal Officers to take all required measures to ensure that every necessary facility is made available at polling locations/stations, distribution/collections centres. He also stressed them to gear up the all available men and machinery on ground to ensure an effective and meticulous election management plan.

The DEO instructed for

establishing a robust District Level Control Room to efficiently monitor the forthcoming election. He also laid emphasis on ensuring Adequate Minimum Facilities (AMF) at all polling booths for electorates, polling staff and the security personnel deployed for electoral duties on the election day.

The DEO emphasised the importance of effective coordination among all stakeholders to ensure the smooth, transparent and peaceful conduct of the electoral process. He directed all the designated Nodal officers to complete their allotted tasks on time and maintain coop-

eration and coordination with the line executing Departments. He further asked them to go through comprehensive ECI guidelines regarding duties and responsibilities during the election period.

The DEO also asked the AROs to undertake a visit to Distribution/Collection Centres to ensure all requisite arrangements are put in place in adherence to the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

The DEO also asked the Officers to undertake necessary technological upgradation/ training of the poll staff with respect to the IT interventions launched by the ECI.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ARO/ERO- Zadibal), Dr Khalid Hussain Malik, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ARO/ERO- Hazratbal), Syed Ahmad Kataria, Deputy District Election Officer, Intiyaz Ahmad, Other AROs, Designated Nodal Officers for elections and other concerned from District Election Authority were present in the meeting.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION (KPDCL) GANDERBAL

Phone/Fax no: 0194-2416236

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NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e-NIT no: 117 of 2023-24 dated 12/03/2023

For and on Behalf of Managing Director KPDCL Kashmir, Tenders are hereby invited from resourceful/reputed Class A Electrical Contractors Registered with competent Authority / PDD/PDC /MES for following work for the following job:-

Name of the work	Est. cost (in Lacs)	CDR Amount (In Rupees)	Cost of tender document (Treasury Challan)	Completion Period	Position of funds
Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of installation of High Mast lights near Public park panchayat Ghar at Tulmulla-A under PRI Grants FY 2023-24	3.82	2% of Advertised Cost	Rs 500/-	Within 20 Days from the date of issuance of LOA	Authorized (80% Released)

The tender document consisting of terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities and other details can be seen/downloaded from official web site of JKPDCL or <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per following schedule:

S#	Description	Date	Time
1.	Publish/uploading of e NIT	12-03-24	18.00 hrs
2.	Documents Download/Sale start date	12-03-24	18.00 hrs
3.	Clarification Date Start	12-03-24	18.00 hrs
4.	Clarification Date End	13-03-24	14.00 hrs
5.	Bid submission Start date	13-03-24	09.00 hrs
6.	Bid submission end date	18-03-24	14.00 hrs
7.	Opening date for E-tender	19-03-24	14.00 hrs
8.	Venue of opening e bids	Office of the Executive Engineer ED Ganderbal	

No: EDG/ V/ 8042-48 /TS
Date: 12-03-2024

DIPP-NB-6019-23
DT: 13/03/2024

Executive Engineer
ED Ganderbal

Paradox Of **Courage**

Are Brave People Also Risk-Takers?

DR. REYAZ AHMAD



Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Child Prodigies

They are the blessed children. Very early on in their lives, they are guided properly, maintain a razor-sharp focus, an unflinching discipline, and maintain a proper itinerary. The result is before everyone. Child prodigies we call them, someone who achieved a major goal in arts or sports very early in their lives. Behind every child prodigy there is a coach who dedicates the prime of his/her youth in handholding these kids and acquainting them with the deft knowledge of a particular art and sport. The coaches do their part. Once the child prodigy wins any tournament, which acts as the first stepping stone of his career, then the real challenge begins. Coaching a kid may be a laborious exercise but coaching a half-baked professional in teenage or preteen years is an entirely different ball together. Kashmir did produce about a dozen child prodigies in various disciplines like martial arts, cricket, football, and arts over the last one decade. What happened to these child prodigies? Where did they lose direction? And most importantly, why did they not win any further tournaments after that? Fame can be a double-edged sword in mature years. But fame in childhood is extremely dangerous. These child prodigies need to have someone around them who can teach them how to handle fame and how to transform this fame into future tournament wins. Above all these child prodigies need to be provided a proper sports environment to thrive in. The parents also can play a major role and have to monitor whether or not the child is on the right path or not. We must collectively create an atmosphere of positivity in which these child prodigies could transform into proper performers in their mature years. This should be a task of high importance.

People who display extraordinary bravery and fearlessness, willingly taking on situations that most of us would find scary, come across us throughout our lives. These brave people inspire us with their unwavering determination and persistence in the face of adversity. However, it's also common to come across individuals who, despite their incredible bravery in certain domains of life, are incapable of finishing far simpler tasks. This begs the interesting question: Can we call someone brave when they embark on challenging tasks yet condemn them as cowardly or weak when they falter at easier ones? In this post, we aim to explore this extraordinary paradox.

An unreasonable apprehension of the "impossible" Motivational speakers frequently assert that nothing is insurmountably tough. Some even claim that the word 'impossible' is not in their lexicon. Their positivity may be contagious, but the reality is far more nuanced. There are boundaries to one's abilities, but these boundaries are influenced by many factors than just one's bravery, tenacity, or willpower.

The Benefits of Taking Chances: The crux of the issue lies in one's willingness to accept risks. While courage and bravery are commendable qualities, they are insufficient on their own without a willingness to take measured risks. Being truly courageous and taking chances go hand in hand. People who regularly succeed in seemingly impossible endeavors are those who are willing to embrace the unknown and overcome challenges.

Think about a person who has received numerous great awards for valor yet continues to smoke daily. This person dares to take on the seemingly simple task of quitting smoking despite being exceptionally brave in dangerous

situations. This is not a case of cowardice or weakness; rather, the problem is an unwillingness to take a chance on breaking a powerful habit.

Anecdote: My fear of driving is... Allow me to share a personal story to shed light on this conundrum. I've always been willing to aim high, take bold chances, and make daring decisions in my professional life. However, I find that fear overwhelms me when I'm driving in crowded places. The idea of navigating through crowded streets worries me, as does the potential for accidents. Driving is only safe in places with less traffic for me.

This autobiographical tale serves as a warning that not all people who take risks are made equal. I'm willing to take chances in some areas of my life, but in others, I worry about certain things. This merely demonstrates the diversity of courage and does not diminish my bravery when I am willing to take chances.

In Conclusion: Taking chances, being courageous, and being bold are all separate but connected ideas in the vast scheme of human experience. Courageous people can and should choose to avoid taking risks in all areas of their lives occasionally. Bravery and cowardice are often perceived differently

depending on the context and facts of the case. Can someone who excels at challenging jobs but falters at simpler ones still be considered brave? The answer is unquestionably yes. Given the richness and complexity of the human experience, anyone displaying courage is someone to be admired. We are all brave in our unique ways as we navigate through life, even though we all have certain worries and vulnerabilities.

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The Fastest Warming On Earth

ROBERT HUNZIKER

In the High Arctic scientists discovered million-year-old methane (CH4) trapped under some of the world's mightiest glaciers detected via unprecedented groundwater springs. Analyses of 123 springs found CH4 in all but one. As the massive glaciers recede, space opens at the edge of permafrost, releasing ancient methane. This is one more totally unexpected global warming headache.

Methane detected in the High Arctic puts a big hole in the Global Methane Pledge of more than 100 countries that agreed to cut emissions 30% by 2030. It's an add-on that nobody knows how to deal with.

The High Arctic location is Svalbard, Norway (pop. 2,642) which is the fastest warming region of the planet only 700 miles from the North Pole. It's ironic that the fastest warming is the farthest northern human outpost, deep into the Arctic North.

"On the Dot with David Schechter." CBS News released a 45-minute film December 4th, 2023, documenting the warmest place on Earth: Ancient Methane Escaping from Melting Glaciers Could Potentially Warm the Planet Even More.

The film is noteworthy for its elegant beauty of landscape and simplicity of explaining a very complex climate system. With a soft tell-all, David Schechter skillfully interviews climate scientists at the top of the world, thus revealing what every world citizen should be aware of, the inescapable conclusion that climate change is far and away our biggest threat, a menacing transformation of Earth's climate system that may, or may not, be too late to halt or reverse depending upon whom Schechter interviewed at any given sequence of the film.

Nevertheless, in a very straightforward easy-to-understand manner, the underlying message of the film is a climate system that has radically changed into a threatening monster filled with sudden unforeseen risks and ultimately the potential of a metaphoric runaway freight train barreling down a mountainside. The risks are only too evident, prompting a very straightforward question: Is it too late?

The answer found in the film is yes and no, depending.

Radical temperature changes are at the core. According to the film: Winters in the US are



3.7°F warmer than a couple of decades ago. In sharp contrast, Svalbard is a nerve-rattling 13.6°F warmer, bringing in its wake bigger and more frequent avalanches and landslides than ever before whilst simultaneously massive floods, massive drought, and massive wildfires clobber ecosystems thousands of miles away in Europe, in North America, in China, throughout the world. Everything with climate change is now on a massive scale. This is different than the past.

Wide-ranging climate change was beyond anything Svalbard was prepared for, e.g., homes destroyed by avalanches. Subsequently, Svalbard has been adapting by erecting avalanche barriers and walls.

The Ny-Alesund Research Station based in Svalbard is where scientists from around the world gather to study the High Arctic. It's the world's northern-most research facility with 35 year-round residents swelling to over 100 scientists that fly in from around the world during summer months when sunlight is 24/7.

A sculpture of renowned Arctic explorer Roald Amundsen (1872-1928) greets visitors at the centre of Ny-Alesund.

Jack Kohler, glaciologist, Norwegian Polar Institute, has studied glaciers in the region for 27 years... a significant glacier of his focus has retreated 4 kilometers over his tenure. At the water's edge, the glacier is as tall as a 15-story building and 2 miles wide.

Kohler says colleagues throughout the world are

Jack Kohler, glaciologist, Norwegian Polar Institute, has studied glaciers in the region for 27 years... a significant glacier of his focus has retreated 4 kilometers over his tenure.

seeing similar effects of climate change: (1) it's warming a lot (2) there is considerably more melt (3) there's no compensating increase in precipitation (4) winter snow season is shrinking because of a rapid increase in temperature. Indeed, it is an unnerving worldwide phenomenon.

At the heart of the global warming issue, according to

Jack Kohler: "It's happening really fast!"

The worldwide impact of sea water rise will be on the march. Accordingly, at current melt rates, it's estimated sea level rise in the US over the next 30 years will increase 10-14 inches on the East Coast, 14-18 inches on the Gulf Coast, and 4-8 inches on the West Coast. Florida is already seeing a troublesome impact, raising streets by 1-3 feet in Miami Beach. High tides become high floods.

The High Arctic is also home to Zeppelin Observatory at the top of Mount Zeppelin manned by Ove Hermansen, senior scientist, Norwegian Institute for Air Research. Super sensitive equipment at the mountain top measures gases in the atmosphere. Zeppelin Observatory coordinates its findings with a network of worldwide observatories, e.g., samples sent to Boulder, Colorado, National Center for Atmospheric Research. CO2 is 50% above pre-industrial since the 1980s with methane CH4 up 165%. If such growth rates continue, all bets are off for a global warming soft landing, more likely an overheated planet, eliminating human comfort zones across equatorial regions, and beyond.

Longyearbyen is the administrative centre for Svalbard where Anna Sjoblom serves as a meteorologist at the University Center in Longyearbyen. In her view, the Arctic is "the refrigerator or freezer for the rest of the world" but unfortunately thawing way too fast, as global warming works

double-time radically distorting the crucial jet stream at 20,000-40,000 feet altitude that, in turn, negatively impacts the entire Northern Hemisphere with atmospheric rivers and stationary heat waves that do not let up, throwing the climate system for a loop. According to Sjoblom: "We are getting a new type of normal in the world that nobody is ready for."

Dr. Andy Hodson, a glaciologist at University Center Svalbard has linked the rapid disappearance of glacial ice to the release of methane from deep underground. Glacial retreat is the driver of methane gas emitting via unprecedented pools of water on the surface where none existed before. In the central region underground springs bring CH4 to the surface as 123 of 124 streams were found with methane. As a result, this increases the risks of a global warming breakout, conditions are there to impact global warming far beyond current expectations, such behavior is now underway.

Svalbard's scientists are witnessing the fastest-ever climate change. For some of them, it seems to be "too late." Yet, for others, after experiencing the world's most rapid rate of global warming, a sense of urgency "to do something" overwhelms them. They can only hope that the film will serve as a wakeup call to leaders of the world to take the problem much more seriously. (C-Counter Currents)

Robert Hunziker is a journalist from Los Angeles

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Fasting As A Medical, Spiritual Therapy

MOHD ISHAQ SHAH

Fasting is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, along with the profession of faith, prayer, almsgiving, and pilgrimage. It's regarded as an act of worship to attain God-conscious piety and one of submission to God. The devout see benefits including practicing self-restraint, cultivating gratitude, growing closer to God, and feeling for the poor and hungry.

The beauty of Islam is that non-Muslims find it just as interesting and captivating as Muslims, and one of their most frequently asked questions concerning Ramadan is why Muslims fast during this blessed month. Allah (SWT) says in the Quran: "O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous". [Al-Baqarah 2:183]

As humans, we are susceptible to sins and transgression of the boundaries established by Islam and fasting, teaching us to be pious and restrain ourselves from worldly pleasures. The idea is to ensure believers are not led astray by materialistic desires and can control urges that can cloud judgment. This requires a fixed training period where Muslims have enough time to know and learn how to put an end to vices, learn virtues and obtain Allah's (SWT) blessing.

Spiritual Perspective: On a physical level, fasting is the procedure to refrain from taking solid and liquid foods and the activities that are legal during the Non-Fasting period, and on a spiritual level it is more than the fasting that the Qur'an calls Taqwa (purification of body and soul). It is one of five basic principles of Islam and ordained by Allah Subhana Watallah in the Qur'an: O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous - Surah Baqarah Ayah 183.

Fasting for a limited number of days. So whoever among you is ill or on a journey during them - then an equal number of days [are to be made up]. And upon those who are able [to fast, but with hardship] - a ransom [as substitute] of feeding a poor person [each day]. And whoever volunteers excess - it is better for him. But to fast is best for you, if you only knew. Surah Baqarah Ayah 184. Indeed, We sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree. And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree? The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace it is until the emergence of dawn. Surah Al Qadr: In the light of Ahadeeth: Kitab AL-Sawm-The Book of Fasting Book 6, Number 2361: Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: When there comes the month of Ramadan, the gates of mercy are opened, and the gates of Hell are locked and the devils are chained, Book 6, Number 2362: This hadith is reported by Abu Huraira (with a slight alteration of words) that the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) said: fasting in Ramadan should necessarily be commenced with the sight of the new moon and finished with the sight of the new moon if the weather is cloudy at the beginning or at the end, then complete thirty days Book 6, Number 2363: Ibn Umar (Allah



be pleased with both of them) reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying in connection with Ramadan: Do not fast till you see the new moon, and do not break fast till you see it, but if the weather is cloudy calculate about it.

Book 6, Number 2364: Ibn Umar reported that Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) made a mention of Ramadan and he with the gesture of his hand said: The month is thus and thus. (He then withdrew his thumb at the third time). He then said: Fast when you see it, and break your fast when you see it, and if the weather is cloudy calculate it (the months of Shaban and Shawwal) as thirty days. Book 6, Number 2365: This hadith is narrated on the authority of Ubaidullah with the same chain of transmitters, and he said: If (the sky) is cloudy for you, then calculate thirty days (for the month of Ramadan).

Book 6, Number 2366, Ubaidullah narrated on the authority of the same chain of transmitters that the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) made a mention of Ramadan and said: The month may consist of twenty-nine days, and it may be thus, thus and thus, and (he further) said: Calculate it, but he did not say thirty.

Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, self-improvement, and heightened devotion and worship. Muslims are expected to put more effort into following the teachings of Islam. The fast (sawm) begins at dawn and ends at sunset. In addition to abstaining from eating and drinking during this time, Muslims abstain from sexual relations and sinful speech and behavior during Ramadan fasting or month. The act of fasting is said to redirect the heart away from worldly activities, its purpose being to cleanse the soul by freeing it from harmful impurities. Muslims believe that Ramadan teaches them to practice self-discipline, self-control sacrifice, and empathy for those who are less fortunate, thus encouraging actions of generosity and compulsory charity (zakat) Muslims also believe fasting helps instill compassion for the food-insecure poor.

Exemptions from fasting include those traveling, menstruating, severely ill, pregnant, or breastfeeding. However, Muslims in these categories may

still choose to fast, to satisfy their spiritual needs, even though it is not recommended by hadith. Those unable to fast are obligated to make up the missed days later. **Medical Perspective:** Let's see what the medical science has to say about fasting and what the study reveals about the consequences of fasting. Based on the results of a currently published meta-analysis included 21 articles, 531 men and 299 women, fasting during Ramadan results in a moderate reduction in body weight in men but not in women (-0.24, 95% confidence interval [CI] = -0.36 to -0.12; P = 0.0001 and -0.04, 95% CI = -0.20 to 0.12; P = 0.62, respectively) The overall estimated effect size for both genders was also significant (-0.17, 95% CI = -0.26 to -0.07; P = 0.001). Moreover, within the study heterogeneity was not significant (I² = 0%, P = 0.82). A recent study reported that body weight, BMI, and body fat had a significant reduction in 3rd week of Ramadan compared to 1 week before or after Ramadan fasting (P < 0.01 for all). However, the changes in hip circumference, weight circumference, and waist-to-hip circumference ratio were not significant.

Moreover, lost weight during Ramadan was regained, and reduced BMI was returned to pre-Ramadan values in the short term after Ramadan. Moreover, a significant increase in body fat percent measured in the 30th day after Ramadan was observed in comparison to pre-Ramadan values. Meta-analysis of pre-Ramadan lipid profile in comparison to post-Ramadan values showed that TC (-0.44, 95% CI = -0.77 to -0.11; P = 0.009) and triglyceride (TG) (-0.35, 95% CI = -0.67 to -0.02; P = 0.04) were decreased in men and HDL (0.86, 95% CI = 0.11 to 1.61; P = 0.03) was increased among women.

Although the overall pooled changes for TC (-0.29, 95% CI = -0.57 to 0.00, P = 0.05) were marginally significant, the pooled effect sizes for TG (-0.20, 95% CI = -0.44 to 0.04, P = 0.1) and HDL (0.73, 95% CI = -0.10 to 1.57, P = 0.09) were not statistically significant. In both genders (500 men and 240 women), a significant reduction in LDL (-2.22, 95% CI = -3.47 to -0.96; P = 0.0005 in men and -0.81, 95% CI = -1.61 to -0.00 in women; P = 0.05) was observed. The data of 581 men and 225 women was used to calculate

the overall effect size of TC. Analyses for estimating overall changes in HDL were conducted on 462 men and 199 women. The effect of Ramadan fasting on lipid profile has been assessed among athletes Results showed that TC and LDL were decreased, and HDL and TG were increased during Ramadan in compared with pre-Ramadan assessment. A trend of reduction in TG and very low-density lipoprotein and an increase in HDL was observed after Ramadan month. TC and LDL reached pre-Ramadan values after the Ramadan fasting period.

Another study conducted on healthy subjects reported that Ramadan fasting had a favorable impact on LDL and HDL among men (P < 0.001 for both) The authors of the aforementioned study could not observe any reduction in TG and TC after Ramadan fasting in comparison with pre-Ramadan values in men (P = 0.25 for TG and P = 0.06 for TC). In women, although TC decreased during Ramadan in comparison with pre-Ramadan measurements, it reached higher values after the Ramadan period than pre-Ramadan. In contrast to LDL which showed a remarkable reduction trend, an increasing trend was observed for HDL and TG from pre-Ramadan to post-Ramadan period in women.

Reported evidence showed a decrease in intake of total fat, saturated fatty acid, cholesterol, and polyunsaturated fatty acid during Ramadan month among type 2 diabetic obese women. On the other hand, there are two major complications for diabetic patients during Ramadan: Hypoglycemia, and hyperglycemia. The risk of hypoglycemia is increased significantly among diabetic individuals during Ramadan. Hyperglycemia usually occurs due to overeating during the nonfasting hours of Ramadan and a change in the dosage of antidiabetic drugs to prevent hypoglycemia. Fasting from brightening to sunset results in remarkable changes in eating patterns and daily physical activity. Studies reported that insulin delivery should be rescheduled during Ramadan which needs insulin reduction in the daytime and an increase in nighttime Therefore, it is recommended that diabetic patients use the insulin pump for regulating their insulin requirement during Ramadan. Previ-

ous studies demonstrated that fasting blood sugar and postprandial plasma glucose were decreased among type 2 diabetic patients during Ramadan in comparison to before and after Ramadan values.

Serum fructosamine, an indicator of overall glycemic control, showed a favorable change during Ramadan fasting Reported guidelines for diabetic subjects during Ramadan emphasized that all recommendations should be individualized for each person Nutritional recommendations advised that the carbohydrate and fat content of sunset meals should be restricted and complex carbohydrates should be consumed before daily fasting. Diabetic patients should be aware that they have to break fast as hypoglycemia occurs Medical, nutritional, and physical activity consulting is necessary. In most cases, pregnant women have been forbidden to fast during Ramadan but arbitrary fasting is observed in pregnant women. An Iranian historical cohort study on pregnant women aged 20-35 years (n = 189) who fasted for 13 days on average, illustrated that in comparison to nonfasting mothers' offspring, fasting could not significantly affect on incidence of low body weight in neonatal. In comparison to those who were nonfasting during Ramadan, the risk of low birth weight was not statistically higher in fasting mothers (odds ratio: 1.50; 95% CI: 0.23-1.74; P 0.05). Overall, the results of the aforementioned study showed that Ramadan fasting had no effect on intrauterine growth, pregnancy duration, and anthropometrical measures of infants. Similarly, another study conducted on 25 fasting (mean of fasting days: 23 ± 6) and 27 nonfasting healthy women reported that there were no significant differences in femoral length, abdominal circumference, biparietal diameter, fetal weight, amount of amniotic fluid and fetal heart rate between two groups. The results of a prospective cohort study on 402 women (201 Ramadan fasted and 201 nonfasted) demonstrated that time of delivery had no difference between fasted and nonfasted pregnant women and BMI is the most important factor that affects the time of delivery mean of fasting days in the foresaid study were 22 ± 9. Moreover, the findings disclosed that Ramadan-fasted mothers had a lower rate of cesarean delivery (28.4% in fasted and 39.3% in nonfasted women; P = 0.027) and birth weight average (3094 ± 467 g in fasted and 3202 ± 473 g in nonfasted; P = 0.024) Research regarding the effect of fasting during Ramadan on offspring is not limited to childhood, and it is evaluated till adulthood. A recent population-based study compared the BMI and height of adults whose fetal period had been in Ramadan with those whose fetal period had not been in Ramadan After adjusting for adulthood BMI, results showed that subjects with the fetal period during Ramadan were thin. (A Journal of Medical Science).

Last but not least, fasting is a blessing for all humanity in general, and all Muslims in particular. It is a month of worship, prayers, and charity. Allah has promised to reward ten times for the virtue done in this month. But all we need to do is follow the commandments of Allah and Rasool (PBUH) in letter and spirit so that this Ramadan becomes a means of repentance and gaining favor from Allah. Amen.



These High-Fibre Foods Can Help Relieve Constipation

Constipation refers to infrequent bowel movements or difficulty passing stools. It can be characterised by hard, dry stools and may be accompanied by discomfort or a sense of incomplete evacuation. Various factors can contribute to constipation, including a low-fibre diet, dehydration, lack of physical activity, and certain medical conditions. Eating fibre-rich foods is a commonly recommended and effective way to relieve and prevent constipation. Fibre adds bulk to the stool, softens it, and promotes regular bowel movements. There are two types of dietary fibre: soluble and insoluble. Both play a role in maintaining healthy digestion. Read on as we share a list of fibre-rich foods you can add to your diet to cure constipation.

Here are 10 fibre-rich foods that can help alleviate constipation:

- Prunes**
Prunes contain both soluble and insoluble fibre, along with a natural sugar alcohol called sorbitol, which has a mild laxative effect. Eat a handful of prunes daily or drink prune juice.
- Apples**
Apples are high in soluble fibre (pectin) and insoluble fibre, both of which contribute to bowel regularity. Eat whole apples with the skin for maximum fibre content.
- Pears**
Pears are rich in soluble fibre and contain sorbitol, providing a gentle laxative effect. Eat fresh, ripe pears with the skin.
- Berries**
Berries such as strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries are high in fibre, especially insoluble fibre, which adds bulk



to the stool. Include a variety of berries in your diet, either fresh or frozen.



insoluble fibre, promoting regular bowel movements. Include lentils, chickpeas, black beans, and other legumes in soups, salads, or main dishes.



Whole grains like oats, quinoa, and brown rice provide a good source of insoluble fibre, helping to soften stools and support digestion. Choose whole grains over refined grains in

- Cereals, bread, and side dishes.**
- Leafy greens**
Leafy greens such as spinach, kale, and Swiss chard are rich in insoluble fibre and also provide essential nutrients for overall digestive health. Include a variety of leafy greens in salads, smoothies, or cooked dishes.
- Nuts and seeds**
Nuts and seeds are good sources of both soluble and insoluble fibre, promoting bowel regularity. Sprinkle seeds on yogurt, incorporate nuts into snacks, or add chia seeds to beverages.
- Sweet potatoes**
Sweet potatoes contain both types of fibre and are beneficial for maintaining digestive health. Roast or bake sweet potatoes with the skin for a fibre-rich side dish.
- Figs**
Figs are high in soluble fibre

and natural sugars, contributing to improved bowel function. Eat fresh or dried figs as a snack or add them to cereals and salads.

To achieve the best results in relieving constipation through fibre-rich foods:

- Drink plenty of water to help fibre move through the digestive tract.
- Gradually increase fibre intake to allow your digestive system to adjust.
- Exercise promotes bowel regularity and overall digestive health.
- Combine fibre-rich foods with a well-balanced diet for optimal digestive function.
- If constipation persists or worsens, it's essential to consult with a healthcare professional to rule out underlying medical conditions and receive appropriate guidance.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Final Call After

J&K including first time voters and voters above 100 years of age. "We will ensure free and fair polls," he said. The CEC of India said that incase of any mischief, violence or fake news, the same should be reported on cvigil portal. "Action will follow within 100 minutes of the uploading of the complaint," he said.

About the ECI team's visit to Kashmir and Jammu, Kumar said that they met various political parties in Srinagar and majority of them demanded concurrent LS and Assembly polls. "Some parties complained that security cover of their candidates has been trimmed unnecessarily and they are not given permissions to carry out political activities," he said.

Kumar said that the issue of less participation of migrant voters in the election process also popped up. "Official teams will visit migrant voters in Jammu and urge them to participate in polls," he said.

He said of the total voters, there are 44 lakh male and 42 female voters. "The ratio is almost the same," he said. "There are 67,000 voters with disabilities, 77,290 voters over the age of 85, and 2,886 centenarians. Notably, over 3.4 lakh individuals are first-time voters, reflecting a vibrant and dynamic electoral landscape," the CEC said.

The CEC said that victory of the ballot is a festival of democracy," he said, adding that for the first time, persons with disabilities will have a facility to vote from home. "A team will visit the house of disabled voter along with the candidate. Same will be videographed," he said. It may recalled that the Supreme Court in its judgement has stated that statehood to J&K should be granted and Assembly polls be held before September 2024—(KNO)

Sports Icons Are

cash award, in Pencak Silat and Chess disciplines, respectively.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor inaugurated a State-of-the-Art Synthetic Football Turf costing Rs 4.83 Cr at Parade Ground, Jammu. He also laid the foundation stone of the Synthetic Hockey Field at Bandhura-kh worth Rs 4.85 Cr.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, we have built modern sports infrastructure, providing world-class training and mentoring to athletes and all other supports to ensure J&K's sportspersons are able to achieve excellence in national and international sporting events," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor extended his felicitations to the Para teams and women athletes for their remarkable feat in major sporting events.

He said, the recent successes in Asian Para Games, National Games, National School Games of athletes and players from J&K have kindled brighter hope of an upswing in performances in many more international events.

The Lt Governor said that our Sports Icons are the true inspiration for the youth of Jammu Kashmir and the efforts of the government to take sports to villages, far-flung and border areas have bridged the decades-old gap between talents and the opportunities.

Adequate sports infrastructure, new sports policy, upgradation in the quality of coaches, youth engagement drives at Panchayat Level, LG rolling trophy and various other initiatives will create a robust sports culture involving all sections and secure attractive career track for athletes, he said.

A total of 702 sports projects have been completed in the last few years. Two athletic tracks, one each at Jammu University and Kashmir University; five synthetic hockey fields and two synthetic football fields have been constructed at Pulwama, Srinagar, Jammu, Poonch, Nagrota. Further, more athletic tracks, synthetic hockey and synthetic football fields are coming up at Jammu, Poonch, Sopore, Srinagar, Shopian, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Jagti Nagrota and Rajouri, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor commended the endeavours of Sports Department, Sports Council and associations for promoting sports activities in Jammu Kashmir.

He also highlighted the commitment of J&K Administration towards the welfare of the sportspersons bringing laurels to the country and the Union Territory. We are determined to complete the recruitment process of sportspersons at the earliest, he added.

The Lt Governor interacted with the sportspersons and handed over sports kits and equipments to the budding players.

Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Sh Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Ms Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; senior officials, eminent sports personalities and youth in large number were present.

PM Modi Launches

sanctioning credit support to one lakh entrepreneurs from the disadvantaged sections of the country.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister has ensured that no one is left behind. From basic facilities to education and financial inclusion, he has undertaken many reforms to create a large pool of young entrepreneurs from marginalized section of society," the Lt Governor said.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State, PMO, also joined the launch ceremony from Jammu.

On the occasion, Ayushman Health Cards and PPE kits were issued to beneficiaries of disadvantaged section of the society- Safai Karmcharis, Sewer and Septic Tank Workers - under National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE).

Hon'ble Prime Minister also interacted with Ms Neelam Kumari, a resident of Kathua who availed government loan facility to start her boutique. She is also a beneficiary of many welfare schemes like Ujjwala, PM Awas, Ayushman, and Swachh Bharat. The Prime Minister praised her for being a job giver and providing employment to other women.

The nationwide outreach event for credit support to disadvantaged sections witnessed the participation of about 3 lakh beneficiaries of various government schemes from disadvantaged groups who joined the program from over 500 districts across the country.

ACB Registers Case

misappropriation against Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar, Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Shopian, Ghulam Rasool Mir, Khilaf-warzi Officer, Naseer Ahmad Indrabi, Head Assistant, Showkat Hussain Teli, Works Supervisor, Shakeel Ahmad Bhat, Driver and others under sections 5(1)(c)(d) r/w 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act Svt 2006 and section 120-B RPC on the outcome of a verification.

During the course of verification, it surfaced that the Municipal Committee Shopian had purchased one Ashoka Leyland BS-IV Tipper from GeM Portal in the year 2018 against which they had issued fuel of 11,051 litres from January, 2018 to 31st March, 2020 by inflating the figures of fuel consumption, the statement reads.

"The Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Shopian constituted a committee which had fixed fuel consumption of 11 litres per hour against the said Tipper, whereas, the same during verification was computed only 3 litres per hour as per opinion of Mechanical Engineering Department. Thus, 8 litres of fuel per hour as such was usurped by the people at the helm of the Committee by misuse and abuse of their official position which aggregated to 11,051 litres for the above period.

Besides, against an already grounded Tipper, the committee had also illegally issued fuel measuring 3566 litres from February, 2018 to March, 2020 causing misappropriation of funds amounting to several lakhs," the statement said. After registration of a case searches in accordance with law were conducted at the residential houses of the accused situated at Bemina Srinagar, Frestbal Pampore, Puchal Pulwama, Batpora Shopian and Hargam Shopian.

During search some important documents related to the case were collected and consequently seized, the statement said, adding that further investigation of the case is in progress—(KNO)

4 Houses Damaged

houses were severely damaged in the fire. Also, the roofing, ceiling, doors, windows, along with household goods on the first and second floor of the other two three-storey houses were partly damaged.

"At around 12:30 AM, a fire surrounded the area. Being a congested area, Fire and Emergency services could not reach here

on time, but as they arrived, the fire was controlled, leaving four houses in ashes until 3:00 AM in the morning," said a lady from Islaam Yarbal area, while asking for help from the administration.

Another house owner, while describing the scene, told KNO, "at around 12:45, cries filled the area, and when I looked out from the window, I saw the neighboring house on fire. As I ran out from my house along with my children, my entire house was engulfed in flames."

"Now, we are appealing to the administration to help us as we have been left with nothing but ashes and a damaged house, and our belongings also got gutted in the blaze, and we want the administration to help us stand," he added—(KNO)

Food Deptt Starts

conducting tests in labs. We are collecting samples from every district of the Union territory," he said.

The Commissioner added, "Our staff has been working on this for the past few days, and we have collected samples. Mobile testing labs are also operational. We will only provide information after the results of the samples are available."

Yatoo said teams are active in each district of Kashmir and also in Jammu. "We cannot comment on artificially ripened or mature fruits until the results come in," he said—(KNO)

Since Article 370

as per the reports. Consequently, there was a significant increase of 7.72 lakh voters in Jammu and Kashmir, with the total number reaching more than 83 lakh as per the November 2022 voter list.

"The surge in voter numbers can be attributed to the newfound enthusiasm resulting from various communities acquiring citizenship rights post the abrogation of Article 370. Previously, a considerable portion of the population, including West Pakistani refugees, Valmiki, and Gorkha communities, were disenfranchised in state-related elections such as assembly, panchayat, and municipal body polls," the official said.

Earlier, separate lists were maintained for Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Despite having voting rights in Lok Sabha elections, a section of the population refrained from participating due to the lack of voting rights in the Legislative Assembly. To address this, a separate campaign was launched to enroll Kashmiri Pandits scattered across the country as voters. Special teams were deployed to Jammu, Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Delhi, and Chandigarh, visiting households to include individuals who had turned 18 and were previously excluded from the voter list.

Furthermore, the last delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir took place in 1995, resulting in 12 districts and 58 tehsils. Presently, the erstwhile state comprises 20 districts and 270 tehsils, with the most recent delimitation based on the 2011 census. Under the leadership of retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, the Delimitation Commission increased the number of assembly seats from 83 to 90—(KNO)

CS For Making Robust

of such projects beforehand and take measures accordingly to ground them within the onset of upcoming working season.

Dulloo also stressed on holding consultations among different departments to ascertain their urgent needs regarding augmentation of their capacities and mitigating of disaster management in future.

He even asked about the issues faced in completion of ongoing projects and the dates for their completion. He emphasised on ensuring that all the ongoing and newly taken up works are completed before December this year, which is the deadline of this project as well.

In her presentation, the CEO, ERA, Dr Syed SehrishAsgar briefed the meeting about the accomplishments made so far under JTFRP. She gave out that 213 sub-projects under different components were taken up at an estimated cost of Rs1810 Cr. She further informed that out of these 186 projects had been completed in the UT at an expenditure of Rs 1363 Cr.

Dr Sehrish further revealed that the major components includes reconstruction & strengthening of Critical infrastruc-

ture (40 projects), reconstruction of Roads and bridges (31 projects), Restoration of Urban Flood Management Infrastructure (13 projects), Restoration and Strengthening of Livelihoods (26 projects), Strengthening Disaster risk management capacity (22 projects) and Contingent Emergency Response (74 projects).

In addition it was revealed that the project was pivotal in introducing rigid pavement in roads, preparation of a digital risk database, building a semi arched trussed bridge, building schools with BALA (Building as a Learning Aid) feature, building first state of the art Emergency Operation Centre and introduction of Green Hospital Building here in the UT besides augmenting and upgrading critical infrastructure and damaged infrastructure across the districts of J&K.

J&K Govt Identifies

also decided to create a feedback mechanism to get insights into challenges being faced by the start-ups.

"The Government of Jammu and Kashmir will create quarterly feedback mechanisms from start-ups, mentors, incubators and other related stakeholders on its portal. These surveys, focus groups or public consultations will gather input from start-ups and other stakeholders on the implementation of the start-up policy. The feedback will help provide valuable insights into challenged being faced by the start-ups and the support they intend to receive," it said.

Pertinently, the union territory administration has targeted to establish Jammu and Kashmir as one of the leading start-up ecosystems in India by 2027.

Under the policy, the administration has targeted to set up at least 2000 new start-ups in Jammu and Kashmir in next five years.

Jammu and Kashmir under the policy has constituted a High-Level Empowered Committee (HLEC) to monitor the performance of Jammu and Kashmir start-up eco-system.

With Chief Secretary as the chairman of the 12-membered HLEC, the committee as per the document shall take necessary decisions for encouragement of innovations in Jammu and Kashmir and modify start-up policy, guidelines from time -to-time

The government has also constituted a start-up task force to monitor the implementation of policy and decisions of HLEC on a regular basis.

The 10-membered task force will be headed by administrative secretary Industries and Commerce department—(KNO)

Rains Lash

In the Ladakh region, Leh town had minus 6.5; Kargil minus 8.6; and Drass minus 11.1 as the minimum temperature.

Jammu city recorded 14.1; Katra 12.6; Batote 7.5; Bhaderwah 5.1; and Banihal 5.6 as the minimum temperature.

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New Zealand Dy PM, NSA Doval discuss Indo-Pacific challenges

IAN S

NEW DELHI: New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Winston Peters met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Wednesday and the two leaders discussed strategic security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

The highlight of Winston Peters' official visit to India from March 10-13 has been to build a "broader, deeper, mutually beneficial relationship" with India and cooperation in the development of the Pacific Islands region.

"They (Peters and Doval) discussed the strategic security challenges facing the Indo-Pacific region, and how New Zealand & India might work together more closely to help meet them," a post on Winston Peters' X handle read.



Earlier today, Winston Peters also called on Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar at the Uparashtrapati Nivas to discuss the enhancement of "economic cooperation, connectivity, and people-to-people ties" between the two nations.

"Discussions between the leaders highlighted the warm and friendly relations between India and New Zealand, founded on common values rooted in democracy and the rule of law," a post on Jagdeep Dhankhar's X handle read.

In addition, they also discussed how New Zealand and India, as Parliamentary democracies, could broaden and strengthen their bilateral relationship.

In his meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, he discussed cooperation in the Commonwealth and UNSC reform, in addition to sharing perspectives on the Indo-Pacific and global issues.

The two leaders agreed on enhancing political, trade, and economic ties, according to S. Jaishankar who called the meeting "warm and productive".

Concluding his New Delhi visit on Wednesday, Winston Peters will be flying to Singapore, and Indonesia to reinvigorate New Zealand's relations with the two South East Asian nations.

Devotee footfall at Ram Mandir in Ayodhya remains high

IAN S

LUCKNOW: Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust (SRJTKT) on Wednesday said that since the opening of Ram Mandir, the pilgrim footfall has not come down.

"The temple is witnessing an average of 1 to 1.5 lakh pilgrims daily," the Trust in a social media post said.

It said that the devotees are allowed for darshan from 6.30 a.m to 9.30 p.m.

"Devotees can enter the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir for Darshan from 6:30 AM to 9:30 PM," the Trust said.

The trust said that the entire process from entry to exit after darshan at the temple is extremely simple and convenient.

"Typically, devotees can have a darshan of Lord Ram Lalla within 60 to 75 minutes," it said.

The Trust said that the devotees are expected to leave their mobile phones, footwear, purses, etc., outside the temple premises for their convenience and to



save time. "Devotees should not bring flowers, garlands, prasad, etc to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple," it said.

The Trust said that to attend the Mangala Aarti at 4 a.m, Shringar Aarti at 6.15 a.m, and Shayan Aarti at 10 p.m, devotees require an entry pass.

It said that no entry passes are required for other aartis.

"Information such as the devotee's name, age, Aadhar card, mobile number, and city is required for the entry

pass. This entry pass can also be obtained from the website of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. The entry pass is free of charge," the Trust said in the social media post.

The Trust has clarified that there is no arrangement for special darshan by paying fees or through any special pass at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir.

The Trust has also warned devotees not to fall for such claims which could be fraud because the temple management has no connection to this.

"Wheelchairs are now available in the temple for the elderly and differently-abled," the Trust said.

It said that these wheelchairs are intended solely for use within the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir premises and not for Ayodhya City or any other temple.

"There is no rental fee for the wheelchair, but a nominal fee is to be given to the young volunteer assisting with the wheelchair," the Trust said.

'Mission Bharosa' launched in UP for safety of school children



IAN S

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh government has officially launched 'Mission Bharosa', its portal and mobile application to ensure the safety of school children.

Recognising the critical importance of safe transportation of school children, this initiative focuses on implementing appropriate measures, including police verification of drivers and attendants, to ensure safe journey to and from school for students.

Vehicles of any type, whether bus, van, auto-rickshaw or e-rickshaw used in transportation of children, are to be registered and integrated on the Bharosa platform and the condition, mandatory documentations and other safety features of school transport vehicles will be verified by the Regional Transport Office (RTO).

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "Bharosa provides a framework to establish proper coordination among various stakeholders like RTO, police, Education department, schools, CMO, transport owners, parents and citizens using an advanced Artificial Intelligence machine learning-enabled technology platform that strives to provide safe driver and vehicle

for transport of children." Lucknow Municipal Commissioner Inderjeet Singh said, "Mission Bharosa" stands as a beacon of commitment to the safety and security of our school-going children. In a world where every journey counts, especially for the young minds heading towards education, this proactive initiative takes lead in ensuring their well-being. 'Mission Bharosa' prioritises safe transportation of school children.

He added, "The highlight of the project is that the drivers and attendants are provided training and exposed to awareness programmes to enhance their understanding of child safety protocols, apart from regular health and eye check-up services. 'Mission Bharosa' is the need of the hour and deserves to be emulated across Uttar Pradesh and the country."

Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob said, "Parents, students, school authorities and common citizens are encouraged to provide feedback and report of any concerns via Bharosa Portal and mobile application regarding the school vehicle, driving performance or any other useful suggestions, facilitating prompt intervention and resolution."

PMs Modi, Sunak agree to work for early conclusion of FTA

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a "good conversation" with his British counterpart Rishi Sunak and both leaders agreed to work for an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement.

The telephonic conversation between the two

Exchanging views on regional and global developments of mutual interest, the two leaders "assessed positively" the progress made towards the early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement, the statement added.

Both Prime Ministers agreed to remain in touch and exchanged greetings on



leaders comes as India looks forward to sealing the free trade deal with the UK before the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

"Had a good conversation with PM @RishiSunak. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and work for early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement," PM Modi said in a post on X.

They also expressed satisfaction with the progress made under the Roadmap 2030 in diverse areas including trade, investment, defence, security, emerging technologies, and others, according to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office.

the upcoming festive occasion of Holi.

The development comes just as India on Sunday inked a landmark agreement with the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in New Delhi to usher in increased trade and investment flows, job creation, and economic growth in the country.

Since 2014, India has signed three such agreements with Mauritius, the UAE, and Australia, and it is also negotiating trade pacts with countries like the UK, Oman, Peru, and Israel.

Cabinet approves 3 pacts with Bhutan as part of India's NFP

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday, gave its approval for the signing of three MoUs between India and Bhutan, covering the supply of petroleum products, energy efficiency, and cooperation in food safety measures.

The MoU on the supply of petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL) and related products from India to Bhutan will promote bilateral trade in the hydrocarbon sector and ensure a secured and long-term supply of petroleum products to Bhutan.

The MoU will be a strategic fit as an Energy Bridge in India's Neighbourhood First Policy, an official statement issued after the Cabinet meeting said.

Since exports play a crucial role in realising Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the MoU will also give thrust towards self-reliant India, it added.

The second MoU was signed between India's Bureau of Energy Efficiency and Bhutan's Ministry of Energy.

As part of this MoU, India aims to assist Bhutan in enhancing energy efficiency in the household sector by promoting the

star labelling programme developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency. The formulation of building codes, to suit the climate condition of Bhutan, will be facilitated based on India's experience. The creation of a pool of energy professionals in Bhutan is envisaged by institutionalising the training of energy auditors.

Training of retailers would help in the dissemination of energy-efficient products with consumer audiences, regarding savings from star-rated appliances. India aims to support Bhutan in its endeavour to develop and implement the standards and labelling scheme.

The third MoU was signed between the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA), and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regarding cooperation in food safety.

The signing of this agreement will facilitate the trade between two neighbouring countries. The BFDA will issue a health certificate as proof of compliance with the requirements prescribed by the FSSAI while exporting the products to India. This will promote Ease of Doing Business and will reduce compliance costs on both sides.

NIA makes first arrest in Bengaluru cafe blast case

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has made its first arrest from Ballari, Karnataka in connection with the recent Bengaluru cafe blast.



The accused has been identified as Mohammed Shabbir.

Shabbir's arrest comes following intensive investigative efforts by the NIA, which took over the case on March 3. The anti-terror agency had been meticulously piecing together evidence since the explosion rocked a popular cafe in Bengaluru on March 1.

Sources said that Shabbir is believed to be an accomplice of the prime suspect, who was captured

on security camera footage leaving a bag at the cafe premises just before the blast occurred.

The blast, caused by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), resulted in several injuries and caused widespread panic among

patrons and residents in the vicinity. Last week, the NIA released four new photos of the suspected bomber. The photos show the suspected bomber without a cap, walking confidently with a backpack, wearing a pink T-shirt and trousers. He is seen wearing a mask in the photos.

In the earlier photographs released by the authorities, the suspect was wearing a cap and dark-coloured T-shirt.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION BARAMULLA PIN No.193101

Fax/Phone: 01952358801 Email: ifcdBaramulla@gmail.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No:19 of 2023-24 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders (in Single Cover) on item rate basis are invited for below mentioned job/ work from registered Tour and Travel (with Union Territory of J&K Govt.) / Drivers cum Vehicle Owners/agencies for Financial year of 2024-25.

S. No	Particulars/Nameofwork	Qty	Unit	Amount of CDR (in Rs)	e-NIT/Tender fee	Tender ID
01	Engagement / Hiring of Commercial vehicle(Mahindra Scorpio or equivalent) of 2013 or above make/model with J&K Registration only for use of Irrigation and FC Division Baramulla on monthly basis, along with the driver (must available for 24x7) for theyear2024-25(excluding fuel but including the day-to-day maintenance charges of the vehicle)	1.00	One Calendar Month	1000.00	Rs.200/=	2024_IFC_246959_1

1) The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	12-03-2024	from 1800Hrs
02	Download Date Start	12-03-2024	from 1800Hrs
03	Bid submission Date Start	13-03-2024	from 1100Hrs
04	Bid submission Date End	22-03-2024	from 1300Hrs
05	Bid opening Date	23-03-2024 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer I&FC Division Baramulla.	

3) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

4) The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 22-03-2024 at (11.00A.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer I&FC Division Baramulla in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the PWD Form 25 Double shall also remain in force.

No.I&FCDB/ 10603-15 Dated:12/03/2024. DIPP-17841-23 DT: 13/03/2024

Sd/- Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Division Baramulla

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN QAZIGUND

e-mail: cdpoqazigund20@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Withdrawal of Advertisement in respect of only One Anganwadi Center Panzath-E Ward NO:-01.

Reference: 1. Government order No 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated:30.11.2022.
Reference 2. Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023.
Reference 3. MD Poshan Communication NO:- SMD/ICDS/Recruitment/2022-23/6235-38 Dated:-21.02.2024
Reference 4. DPO Poshan Anantnag's Communication NO:- DPO/Poshan/Ang/2023-24/3569-76 Dated:-22.02.2024
Reference 5. Advertisement Notice No:- 04 of 2024 Dated:- 28.02.2024 issued under endorsement No: CDPO/POSHAN/QZD/2023-24/150-160 Dated:-28.02.2024

Whereas this office advertised posts for recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) vide advertisement Notice referenced above (Reference 5).

Whereas the advertisement was published through Rising Kashmir, Srinagar-e-Jung, Kashmir Leader Dated: 01.03.2024.

Whereas it has been observed that one posts of Sahiykas (Anganwadi Helper) mentioned below falling at S. No. 9 in the above referenced (Reference No. 5) and published Advertisement Notice is presently Sub-judge at Hon'ble District Court Anantnag.

Accordingly the post of Sahiykas (Anganwadi Helper) mentioned below is hereby withdrawn from the above referenced advertisement Notice abi-Intio and the applications received in respect of this post are hereby treated as Nul and Void. The terms and conditions and validity of the advertisement Notice in respect of the rest of the post shall remain same and unchanged.

Detail of Vacant Posts of Sahiykas (Anganwadi Helper) along with name and location of Anganwadi Centres			
S.No.	NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE	WARD NO.	NAME OF POST
9.	Panzath-E	Panch ward NO:-01	Sahiykas- (Anganwadi Helper)

No.:-CDPO/POSIAN/QZD/2023-24/238-46 Date: 13/03/2024

DIPP-17874-23 DT: 13/03/2024

Child Development Project Officer Poshan QAZIGUND

BJP Spokesperson calls on LG Sinha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Abhijeet Jasrotia, BJP Spokesperson Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

He apprised the Lt Governor of various issues of public importance including upgradation of road from the main gate of Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary to Kul Dev Mandir Baba Kaliveer.



Director Postal Services J&K calls on LG

JAMMU: Prateek Singh, Director Postal Services (HQ), J&K Circle called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

He briefed the Lt Governor about the functioning of the Department of Posts and presented a Souvenir of the Postal Stamp on Shri Ram Jambhoomi Temple.

The Lt Governor emphasized on taking all requisite measures to fur-



ther improve the Postal Services in J&K with special focus on far-flung and remote areas.

Secretary RDD reviews functioning of JKRLM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, emphasized the imperative need of initiating innovative and economically viable developmental projects.

He highlighted the significance of convergence not only within the department through various programs and schemes but also with other departments to maximize the impact and efficiency.

While chairing a meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission, Dr. Shahid directed for promoting convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). He emphasized the potential of construction of sheds for SHGs related to farming activities with MGNREGA convergence and developing infrastructure through convergence with RGSA. Dr. Shahid highlighted

that such convergence efforts would significantly enhance the financial status of women and empower them in a tangible manner. He said that steps should be taken for village empowerment.

He said that Umeed is an ideal and successful program, bringing pride as its achievements have garnered recognition from the Prime Minister.

During the meeting, bank linkage of women associated with self help groups, Bank Sukhi, Bank Mitra, to bring more women into the fold of Lakhpati Didis, declaration of Jammu and Kashmir as a difficult area, RBI rules for providing banking benefits to the number of women for self help groups, setting up of warehouses in Jammu and Srinagar for easy marketing access to manufactured products by SHGs and other issues were discussed.

On this occasion, Mission Director of Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission, Indu Kunwal Chib, stated that over 89,000 self help groups have been formed in the Union Territory

of Jammu and Kashmir, with 736,000 women associated with them.

She highlighted key focus areas for next fiscal year, which included federating 1.5 million rural women into SHGs, allocating Rs 75 crore for SHG capitalization, establishing district-level community managed training centers, providing credit linkage facility of Rs 400 crore, disbursing Rs 1801 crore among SHG members, deploying BC Sakhis for doorstep banking, training 100,000 women farmers in agro-ecological practices, nurturing 3700 enterprises at the block level, and focusing on sub-themes like food, nutrition, health, and wash, gender, and enhancing social inclusion. She added that coordination with other departments and schemes aims to enhance efficiency and empower women.

CEO IWMP, Rajnish Kumar, Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma, Additional Secretary, Waseem Raja and other officers were also present on the occasion.

DC Ganderbal chairs meeting of Nodal Officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir who is also District Election Officer (DEO) Wednesday convened a meeting of Nodal Officers responsible for overseeing the forthcoming Lok Sabha General Elections 2024, at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat, here.

The meeting focused on ensuring the readiness and efficiency of all officers involved in the electoral process. The DC addressed critical aspects of the upcoming elections and instructed the Nodal Officers to remain well-equipped for their roles and responsibilities.

Discussions encompassed various operational, logistical and administrative matters pertinent to the smooth conduct of the electoral process.

Nodal Officers were given a comprehensive briefing regarding their roles and responsibilities in overseeing the electoral process within their respective jurisdictions.

Emphasis was laid on enhancing operational efficiency and coordination

among different stakeholders involved in the electoral process, including law enforcement agencies, administrative authorities and electoral staff.

Nodal Officers were reminded of the importance of strict adherence to electoral laws, regulations and ethical standards to uphold the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

Strategies for conducting voter awareness campaigns and initiatives to encourage maximum voter participation were discussed to ensure inclusive and democratic elections.

The DC reiterated the significance of the Nodal Officers' roles in upholding the democratic values and principles of free and fair elections. He underscored the importance of their proactive engagement and commitment to ensuring a transparent, impartial, and efficient electoral process.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad and all the Nodal Officers appointed for various election assignments in the district.

'SILENT THIEF OF VISION'

Glaucoma among leading causes of irreversible blindness, say doctors

Stress regular eye screening, caution against self-medication

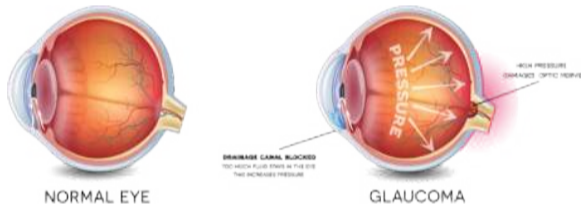
JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Glaucoma, often termed the "silent thief of vision", is one of the primary causes of irreversible blindness, and there is a critical need for regular eye screening, according to doctors.

Dr Shuguftha, Assistant Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at GMC Srinagar explained that Glaucoma manifests when the intraocular pressure – the pressure within the eyes – exceeds normal levels.

Contrary to popular belief, this pressure is distinct from blood pressure and can cause compression.

This pressure can lead to compression and damage of the optic nerve, which is essential for transmitting light signals to the brain, and can result in compromised vision, she said, adding that the damage



inflicted upon the optic nerve is permanent and irreversible.

While the exact cause of glaucoma may often be unknown (idiopathic), structural abnormalities of the eye and inflammatory eye diseases are potential contributing factors, Dr Shuguftha said, adding that conditions such as diabetes and myopia may be associated with glaucoma.

She said Glaucoma typically remains asymptomatic until it has advanced significantly. There is a need for regular monitoring, especially for people aged 40 and above, she added.

Dr Bhavani Raina, Additional Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at AIIMS Jammu, highlighted the severity of Glaucoma, saying it stands as a leading cause of global irreversible blindness.

"It causes progressive damage to the nerve which is associated with carrying visual stimulus from eye to our brain leading to a loss in vision and eventually blindness if left untreated," she said.

"Glaucoma often progresses slowly, earning its name as the 'silent thief of vision.' By the time symptoms manifest, consider-

able vision loss may have already occurred," Dr Raina remarked.

To combat this stealthy disease, doctors stressed the importance of comprehensive eye check-ups, particularly for individuals over 40 years of age. They identified several risk factors, including age, family history, and medical conditions like diabetes and hypertension, underlining the need for regular monitoring and early intervention.

Advocating for caution against self-medication, doctors urged adherence to prescribed anti-glaucoma medications and the avoidance of steroids. They called for regular eye screenings, medication adherence, and lifestyle modifications in combating Glaucoma and said collective efforts are needed to safeguard vision and prevent irreversible damage—(KNO)

Adani shares five key success mantras for young entrepreneurs

IAN5

MUMBAI: As more and more young Indians aim to become entrepreneurs, Adani Group Founder and Chairman, Gautam Adani, has laid out five mantras for them to succeed in life, hoping that "these will mean something for all of you".

Speaking at a YPO (Young Presidents' Organisation) Bombay chapter event this week, Gautam Adani said that all the success will come with its challenges and challenges.

"The greater your success, the bigger you will be as a target, and the true measure of your success will not be in your achievements, but in your ability to rise through the adversities that will come your way along with your achievements," the Adani Group Founder told the gathering.

Gautam Adani then elaborated with the recent example of the shorting that the Adani Group had

to go through.

"As most of you will be aware, last year on January 24, we were subjected to a massive attack by a US short-seller. The objective was not just to destabilise us, but also to politically defame India's governance practices. But despite the efforts to shake our foundations, we stood firm, not just safeguarding our reputation, but also ensuring that we remained focused on our operations," emphasised Gautam Adani.

"While there were several learnings, this episode also gave us confidence in our resilience. Our recovery highlights the essence of bouncing back stronger, symbolising the spirit of rising after every fall," he added.

The second mantra is that "we live in a complex world and it's easy to be sold on the theory of simplicity".

"While simplicity may be the goal, it is the ability to manage complexity that will differentiate you and make you the ones that can

navigate the deep waters as against those that remain on the shallow shores," said the Adani Group Founder.

"Every business that I have built has been far more difficult than I had anticipated, and over the years, I have become wiser in my belief that only if I can embrace complexity better than others will I be able to differentiate."

The third principle is that "the dynamic model of a fast-growing nation like ours requires a flexible approach that is rooted in local models as against models that often emphasise specialisation and core competencies".

"The crux of strategic differentiation often lies in recognising the limitations of bookish knowledge and Western-centric models. While it is important to source ideas from books and literature, keep in mind that these are after all opinions of brilliant storytellers with a great ability to influence," Gautam Adani noted.

He further said that resilience often requires the ability to withstand criticism.

"The higher you rise, the more you will need to prepare yourself to handle criticism. But instead of allowing it to deter progress, you must be willing to be misunderstood, and yet stay resilient. Therefore, it is about cultivating an inner strength that allows you to remain strong in your convictions, even in the face of severe opposition," Gautam Adani elaborated.

Number five and the most difficult of all -- stay humble.

"Your success will push back on your humility. But humility is the biggest differentiator you can build. Humility is not thinking less of yourself -- it is thinking of yourself a little less. True leadership lies in acknowledging your achievements without letting them overshadow the value of self-awareness," Gautam Adani told the audience.

Vehicle accessories shop damaged in fire in Srinagar

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: A vehicle accessories shop was damaged in a fire incident that broke out in Rawalpura area of Srinagar on Wednesday, officials said.

An official said that fire broke out in the shop near Jamkash Vehicleleads Srinagar Wednesday afternoon. He said that no loss of life was reported in the incident, while cause of fire is being ascertained—(KNO)

Abul Qasim to hold additional charge of A-CEO SMC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation Dr Owais Ahmad on Wednesday assigned additional charge of the post of Additional Chief Executive officer, Srinagar Smart City Ltd to Syed Abul Qasim, Joint Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation in addition to his own duties.

An order issued reads, "In the interest of administration and efficient implementation of Srinagar Smart City Projects Mr. Syed Abul Qasim, Joint Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, shall hold the charge of Additional Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited, in addition to his own duties till further orders or suitable is posted by the Government." (KDC)

NIT Srinagar organises seminar on semiconductors

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday organized a seminar on 'Contribution of NIT Srinagar in the field of Semiconductors'. The event commemorated the momentous occasion of the foundation laying ceremony by Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi for three semiconductor facilities across the nation.

The event was organized by the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, NIT Srinagar at the Common Hall of the Institute. The proceedings of the session on semiconductors were kick-started by 9:30 AM.

The inaugural session was hosted by Prof. Najeeb-Ud-Din who spoke about the history of 'Semiconductors in India and the way forward. He also highlighted the contribution of Indian scientists in various fields.

It was followed by Dr. Sheikh Aamir Ahsan, a faculty member at Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering who delivered his expert talk on 'Semiconductor Era in India: Oppor-



tunities Challenges and our potential Contribution.

In his speech, Dr. Ahsan covered the background of semiconductor industry, global landscape, industry initiatives, activities of NIT Srinagar and call for action. India's semiconductor market is currently \$34B (2023) and it is expected to increase to \$100B in 2032.

"This industry is expected to create 300 thousand jobs by 2026. The Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering has been running successfully a PG (M Tech) programme in Microelectronics from 2015. "Design tools including Synopsys, Mentor Graphics, C2S (Chip IN Cloud) etc are being used by the depart-

ment to train the students at the Institute," Dr. Ahsan said.

He said concluding his talk thanked Prof Najeeb ud din for giving him the chance to speak on the said occasion, and also thanked the Head of the Department, Dr Gausia Qazi for her support in organizing this seminar.

At 10:30 AM sharp, more than 400 participants including Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, Deans, senior faculty members and administrative staff watched live stream of Honorable PM Modi's address on India's Techade - Chips for Viksit Bharat - Chips for Viksit Bharat, who also laid the foundation stone of three semiconductor projects worth

about ₹1.25 lakh crore via video conferencing.

Following the foundation laying ceremony of three semiconductor facilities in the country by Honorable PM Modi, the event at NIT Srinagar proceeded to further discussions that covered the background of semiconductor industry and significance. The global landscape of semiconductors was also explored by the participants.

The event concluded at 1 PM with an open-ended discussion with the students. This interactive segment allowed students to share their thoughts, ask questions, and express their opinions on the semiconductor industry in India and how it can contribute to this growing area of technology.

NIT Srinagar had set up an organizing committee, headed by Prof R. N. Mir Dean (R&C), Prof. Gausia Qazi Head ECE Department as Convenor and Prof M S Mir Dean (AA), Prof A. Liman Dean (SW), Prof Najeeb-ud-din ECE Department, Prof A. Rehman (Registrar) and Mr. Faisal Irshad Ganie DR (Admin) as administrators for the event.

Viksit Bharat Event

Fragile five to 5th largest economy shows India's growing might: Hardeep Puri

IAN5

KOLKATA: Hardeep Singh Puri, the Minister of State (Independent charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs, attending the Viksit Bharat Ambassadors event in the city, credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government for the country's transformational shift from the fragile five to fifth-largest economy in the world.

Addressing the Viksit Bharat Ambassadors event in Kolkata, the Minister counted the landmark achievements under PM Modi-led government, and said that these formed the 'foundation' for India being seen as a bright spot and leading economy by the world's rating agencies.

The Minister stated that PM Modi-led government's determined focus and time-bound delivery of services, including infrastructure projects, has worked as the driving force behind the nation's fast-paced growth.

He told the 'ambassadors' that launching and realising the projects on time has been a key focus of PM

Modi-led government, and that is bearing fruits.

Speaking on the Centre's thrust on programmes for women's welfare, Hardeep Singh Puri said: "This government launched many women-centric development schemes like Swachhta Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and women-led developmental schemes like women's reservation scheme."

He further added that women are becoming an active participant in the nation's growth story today and this will serve as a force multiplier.

"Wherever women have led from the front, that nation's GDP has invariably gone up by several notches," the Minister said.

He further listed the series of projects that were launched years ago in previous Congress-led governments but failed to see the light of the day even after decades.

"From Calcutta underground Metro, sanctioned in 1969, to Dwarka Expressway to Saryu Irrigation project, many projects have remained in limbo

despite more than 40 years of their conceptualisation," he said.

He also said that the host of projects launched before 2003 are now getting finishing touches under the current government.

He also urged the young ambassadors to participate in the path-breaking initiative and said, "the role of Viksit Bharat will decide the journey of the next 20 years".

"You should be a participant of this drive and become partners in growth as this is about propelling India to the top of the world, propelling Indians to live their life with their head held high," the Minister urged.

The Viksit Bharat Ambassadors Programme is one of the flagship events of PM Modi-led government to propagate the message of development and progressive initiatives to common people.

PM Modi has made a clarion call to one and all to join this people-powered movement and help the country turn into Viksit Bharat by 2047.