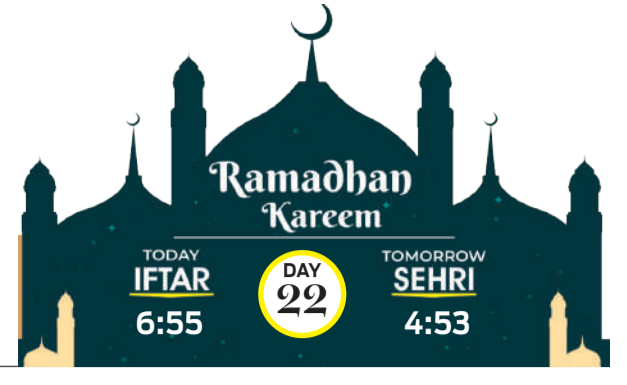


Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication



Srinagar • Tuesday 02, April 2024 • Vol: 15 • Issue No: 78 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

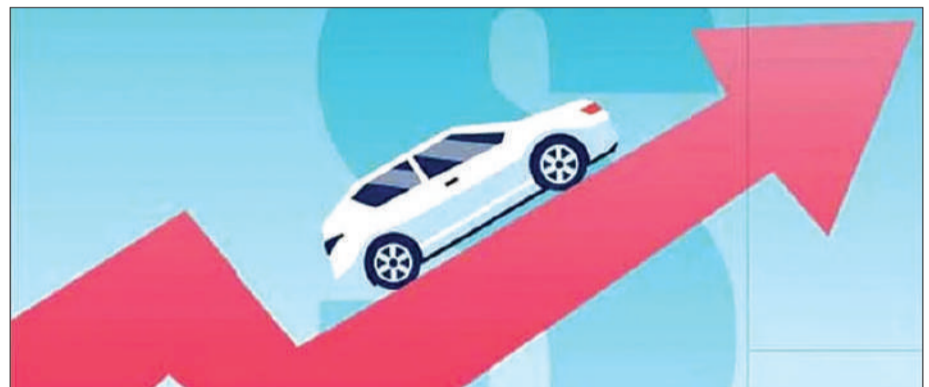
Five Booked Under PSA In B'la

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday said to have booked five miscreants under Public Safety Act and subsequently lodging them in Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu and District Jail Udhampur.

“Acting tough against ANEs (Anti-national Elements) Baramulla Police booked five persons namely Asif Ali Bhat son of Ali Mohammad resident of Badipora Tangmarg, Mohammad Yaqoob Bhat son of Gh Mohd resident of Tantraypora •P-06

Roads Or Death Traps

Accidents In J&K Claim 4251 Lives In 5 Years



RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Startling data released by the traffic headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir has shed light on the alarming number of road accidents in the Union Territory, with a huge toll on human lives and well-being.

Over the past five years, J&K has witnessed a total of 28,896 road accidents, resulting in 4,251 fatalities and 37,725 injuries, the data reveals. Jammu region has recorded the highest number of road accidents.

In 2019, Jammu reported 3,907 road accidents, leading to 695 fatalities and 4,987 injuries, while the Kashmir division recorded 1,889 accidents, resulting in 301 deaths and 2,545 injuries.

In the following years, the Jammu division reported a higher number of accidents compared to Kashmir. In 2020, Jammu witnessed 3,086 road accidents with 487 fatalities and 3,798 injuries, while Kashmir reported 1,774 accidents resulting in 241 deaths and 2,096 injuries.

The year 2021 saw Jammu division reporting 3,584 road accidents, leading to 560 fatalities and 4,640 injuries, whereas Kashmir witnessed 1,868 accidents, resulting in 214 deaths and 2,332 injuries.

Similarly, in 2022, the Jammu division recorded 3,886 accidents, with 562 fatalities and 5,554 injuries, while Kashmir

“THE DEPARTMENT IS DEDICATED TO RAISING awareness about road safety rules and regulations among the public. Initiatives are being taken to enhance the safe movement of two-wheeler traffic through awareness campaigns and strict enforcement measures, including issuing fines,”

Night Temp Rises Amid Dry Weather Forecast

SRINAGAR- Night temperature recorded increase in most parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a minimum of 6.4°C against 4.8°C on the previous night and it was normal for the

Steps Being Taken To Ensure Safe, Secure Environment For Polls: DGP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU- Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain on Monday said that steps are being taken to ensure a safe and secure environment to all during the Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory.

“The process of elections has started. We are taking steps to ensure a safe and secure environment. Keeping in view the safety and security of voters, public rallies and candidates, our officers and forces are engaged in the planning and execution round the clock”, DGP said while speaking



to reporters at Police Training School Kathua district of Jammu.

He said that police are playing their role in this democratic exercise in coordination with the Centre and its agencies.

DGP said that security shouldn't be a status symbol in the UT but a need basis affair as the force was working on a plan to ensure individual security is done away with.

“In Europe, police chief moves around with just two guards. There is a

Over 91,000 Tourists Visit Sonamarg In First Quarter Of 2024

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: Sonamarg, a renowned tourist destination in central Kashmir, witnessed a significant increase in visitors in the first three months of this year, with approximately 91,586 tourists,



ists, including 3,079 foreigners, exploring the area. Situated in the

picturesque hills of Ganderbal district, Sonamarg has become a premier attraction for both local and non-local travellers in Kashmir.

Since the beginning of the year, there has been a remarkable surge in tourism, with 91,586 tourists,

CS Reviews Admin's Readiness For Smooth Conduct Of SANJY 2024

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday had a detailed review of preparations being made by the administration for smooth conduct of annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2024.

Senior functionaries of civil and police administration attended the meeting along with DGP, Administrative Secretaries, concerned Deputy Commissioners and other HoDs and representatives from Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) and BRO, IMD, Telecom Service providers and Disaster Management agencies.

During the meeting, the

Chief Secretary took stock of measures taken, so far, by BRO regarding maintenance of tracks on both the Pahalgam and Baltal axis in light of the Supreme Court directions.

He assessed the status of works like widening of walking track/passages and installation of railing and retaining walls as per the directions of the Supreme Court. He enquired from the concerned DCs about the disaster mitigation measures like on ground demarcation of flood prone/ vulnerable zones and other disaster preparedness on part of the divisional administrations, as was done during 2023. He



Entrepreneurs Script Success

Kashmir Records Growth Of Commercial Floriculture Start-Ups

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: Every morning Waseem Ahmad Wani (26) leaves his home with a variety of flower saplings towards Srinagar-Baramulla highway.

He stations at multiple places along the highway selling a variety of native as well as exotic flower saplings to the people.

This has been his routine during the spring and summer seasons for the last three years and gives him enough returns to make ends meet.

“I was earlier working in a private company which gave

me a very low salary. In 2021, I learned about the scope of floriculture in Kashmir and utilized my five marlas of agriculture land growing a variety of follower saplings,” he said.

Wani said he sought assistance from the floriculture department in growing exotic flower saplings.

“I installed a greenhouse and bought some exotic seeds to grow them here. I am now making good money out

of this trade and I shall expand it to grow some more varieties in coming years,” he said.

Like Wani scores of the educated youth are exploring commercial floriculture to generate income and employment.

Traditionally known for its saffron cultivation, the region is now embracing the blooming flower industry as a promising avenue for economic growth.



Over 1 Million Tourists Took Gondola Ride At Gulmarg This Year



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: This year marked a historic milestone as the Gulmarg Gondola welcomed over one million tourists, generating revenue exceeding Rs 110 crore, officials said on Sunday.

“Gulmarg Gondola soars to new heights! For the first time ever more than 1 million tourists took the Gulmarg Gondola Cable Car Ride in FY 2023-24. Revenue crosses more than 110 Crores. J&K Tourism sees unprecedented growth which continues to surpass all previous figures.”

‘Mustard Bloom’ In Kashmir Valley Enthralls Tourists



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: With mustard fields in full bloom, hundreds of tourists have been visiting these fields along the National Highway for leisure, photography and reels to catch moments spent in Kashmir in camera for bright memories.

The picturesque fields with yellow and green hues of the flowers have been attracting hundreds of tourists for the last fortnight.

Mohammad Abbas, a resident of Awantipora

said that hundreds of tourists stop their vehicles and spend some time in fields and take photographs as well on a daily basis.

Like tourists click photographs in Dal Lake, Pahalgam, Gulmarg, saffron fields and other tourist spots, tourists are mesmerised by the beauty of mustard fields.

Lateef Ahmad, a resident of Aishmuqam area of Anantnag said that visitors are delighted by the beauty of the mustard, prompting them to come out of their vehicles and spend time in mustard.

Gulzar Ahmad a resident of Tangmarg area also said that tourists visiting Gulmarg are also spending some time and taking photographs in the mustard fields lying in the outskirts of Gulmarg.

KNO spoke to the tourists in fields, who said that they find themselves lucky to visit Kashmir in spring when mustard fields are in bloom.

Rahul Tripathi, a tourist from Gujarat said that visiting Kashmir and spending some time in

J&K Govt Announces Holidays On Poll Dates

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday announced public holiday on poll dates in five parliamentary constituencies in the Union Territory.

As per a government order, issued by the GAD, the government has notified five days as holidays under section 135 B of the Representation of the People Act 1951.

The order also declared the poll day as paid holiday for every eligible voter employed in any business, trade, industrial undertakings or any other establishment.

The order added that the daily wage and casual workers shall also be entitled for the holiday and wages on the poll day.

According to the order, the polling day of April 19 (Friday) will be a holiday in Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency. In Jammu Parliamentary Constituency, April 26 (Friday) will be observed as the holiday on account of polling day.

Similarly, for the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency, the polling day of May 07 (Tuesday) will be a holiday. For Srinagar

MOVIES Schedule

Tuesday 02 April

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW

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

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

CREW (HINDI)
12:00PM, 02:40PM, 04:00PM (U/A)

GODZILLA X KONG (U/A)
12:40PM (HINDI)
11:40AM, 03:10PM, 06:30PM (ENG)

YODHA (HINDI)
02:10PM (U/A)

SHAITAAN (HINDI)
05:30PM (U/A)

Lok Sabha Polls

Voters Awareness Program Held In Doda

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: A mega voters awareness programme was Monday organized at ANMT School Doda, here under the aegis of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

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

The program was attended by CMO, Dr. Om Kumar, DIO, Dr. Versha Sharma, Principal ANMT Doda, Anusuya Bhan, Dr. Javed Parry, Mohammad Shafi Attu, Priyanka Manhas, Indra Devi, Naveeda Anjum, Saima Kousar, Ram Raj, Sajad Hussain, Amjad Ali besides health staff participated in the awareness programme.

Faizan Ali Trambo, on the occasion highlighted the significance of inspiring people about active participation in democratic process.

Meanwhile, a pledge taking



ceremony under SVEEP was also held to vote enthusiastically in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

CMO Doda, in his address, highlighted the significance of empowering citizens and

urged everyone, especially first-time voters, to exercise their franchise responsibly in the upcoming elections.

Lok Sabha Polls

Training On Handling Of EVMs, VVPATs Held In Doda



GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: A training session on the handling of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines was Monday organised for female staff members of model polling stations here in the DC office.

The training aimed to ensure that female staff members are well-equipped with knowledge and skills required to effectively operate these machines during the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024.

District Election Officer, Harvinder Singh briefed the staff about their significant role in the election process and directed them to take full benefit of the training program and implement the same throughout their election related duties.

The training was conducted by District Level Master Trainers (DLMTs) and Assistant Level Master Trainers (ALMTs) who provided full guidance to participants in various facets of the electoral process and operator EVM/VVPAT.

The training session

covered various topics related to the functioning and maintenance of EVMs and VVPATs, including how to set up and test the machines, how to troubleshoot common issues, and the importance of maintaining the integrity and security of the voting process. The participants also had the opportunity to practice using the machines in a simulated polling station environment.

Chief Planning Officer Doda, Nodal Officer Trainings Doda and other concerned were also present at the event.

Provision Of AMF Reviewed In Polling Booths Of Doda

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: The District Administration Doda has geared up the stakeholder departments to make provision of electricity, washrooms and cleanliness in polling Stations to meet the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) prescribed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) Chief Education Officer, Parkash Lal Thapa, Nodal Officer for AMF, under the direction of District Election Officer, Harvinder Singh has been tasked to meet the set standards.

In this regard Chief Edu-

cation Officer today held a virtual meeting with Booth level officers (BLOs) to take feedback about the Assured Minimum Facilities in every polling station in the district.

The meeting was also attended by District Education Planning Officer, Dr. Anis Ahmed and 529 Booth Level Officers through Zoom. The CEO interacted with BLOs and instructed them to make sure basic arrangements including Power Supply, Washrooms with functional taps as well as cleanliness at every polling station well in time.

GDC Vijaypur Hosts Documentary Screening On 'Voting Awareness'



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA: NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of GDC Vijaypur Monday organized a screening of documentary on 'Types of Elections in India' under the banner of Vote ka Parv Desh Ka Garv and Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye to students and faculty members of the college.

The documentary was a great inspiration for the students as the students came to know about the importance of voting and types of elections in India. NSS volunteers and other college students participated in the documentary screening with great enthusiasm and zeal.

The documentary deliberated upon the purpose to inculcate constitutional obligations and to encourage staff and students to cast their vote. It also deliberated upon how India runs the world's biggest democratic elections. The event was organized under able guidance of Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Gupta, Principal of the college where she briefed the students about the fundamental rights and duties of the Indian Constitution. The idea of this programme is to educate college students about the importance of voting. She further said that voting is an important civic duty that can significantly

impact the future of our country. The event was organized with the support of senior faculty members like Prof. Anita Jamwal (HOD Political Science), Prof. Mamta Kundal (HOD Commerce) and Dr. Anoop Bhagat (HOD Sociology). The event was coordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental Sciences), Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri), Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO) and Prof. Meetu Sharma (HOD Geography). The event was co-coordinated by Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, Dr. Radhika Rasyal, Prof. Renuka Kundal, Prof. Rakesh Kumar, Prof. Mazid Malik, Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal.

SVEEP Program Held At GHSS Boys Bhandarwah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: A Voters' Awareness programme under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative was Monday organized at Government Higher Secondary School Boys Bhandarwah here.

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

Meanwhile, a pledge taking ceremony under SVEEP was also held. District Election Authority in Doda has initiated an extensive SVEEP Campaign Ahead of Lok Sabha Elections.

The SVEEP programmes were organized under the able guidance of District Elec-

tion Officer Doda, Harvinder Singh in various government schools in the district.

The SVEEP activities witnessed active participation from citizens of all age groups and backgrounds.

The program also utilized digital platforms and social media channels to reach out to tech-savvy voters, ensuring comprehensive coverage and engagement across all segments of society. Additionally, interactive sessions and workshops were conducted in educational institutions to educate students about the importance of electoral participation and civic responsibility.

Through initiatives like SVEEP, the administration endeavours to strengthen the foundation of democracy by fostering a culture of active citizenship and voter engagement.

Khyber Cement Spreads Ramadan Cheer Across Kashmir With Grand Iftar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Khyber Cement a leading name in the cement industry, initiated its Ramadan Iftar celebrations, bringing dealers and retailers together across Kashmir, in a significant milestone for the company. The gatherings, held at various locations, like Baramulla, Kupwara, Anantnag, Shopian, and Pulwama aimed to foster connections with the company's network of dealers and retailers and embrace the region's diversity.

The events were executed and organized by a team of 10 sales officers, with each officer assigned to a specific district and 3 technical service engineers covering the north,

south, and central zones of Kashmir. These efforts culminated in a special outreach iftar event at the Zakura crossing in Srinagar, which saw a large turnout.

These events reflected the spirit of unity, compassion, and community service.

Feroz Ahmar Shah, lead for institutional and retail sales at Khyber Cement, expressed gratitude to all participants and underscored the company's commitment to fostering harmony and goodwill in the region.

The events aimed to forge stronger relationships with Khyber Cement's dealers and retailers. This focus on unity and kindness made the gatherings a meaningful and memorable experience for all attendees.

Public Notice

I Have Lost My D.O.B Certificate Now I'm Applying For It's Duplicate If Anybody Have Any Objection. He / She May Contact For The Same At Registrar Birth And Death (SMC) Within 7 Days From The Date of Publication of This Notice, After That No Onjection Will Be Entertained

Mohd Hussain Sofi
Child Name : Maraysim Hussain
R/o : Rambagh Srinagar

Public Notice

I Have Lost My D.O.B Certificate , now I'm Applying For It's Duplicate. If Anybody Have Any Objection, He / She May Contact For The Same At Registrar Birth And Death (SMC) Within 7 Days From The Date of Publication of this Notice, After That No Onjection Will Be Entertained.

Gh Hassan Sofi
Child Name : Safer Hussain
R/o : Rambagh Srinagar

Public Notice

I Have Lost My D.O.B Certificate. Now I'm Applying For It's Duplicate, If Anybody Have Any Objection, He / She May Contact For The Same At Registrar Birth And Death (SMC) Within 7 Days From The Date of Publication of this Notice, After That No Onjection Will Be Entertained

Gh Hassan Sofi
Child Name : Mariam Sofi
R/o : Rambagh Srinagar

Public Notice

I Have Lost My D.O.B Certificate. Now I'm Applying For It's Duplicate. If Anybody Have Any Objection, He / She May Contact For The Same At Registrar Birth And Death (SMC) Within 7 Days From The Date of Publication of this Noticem, After That No Onjection Will Be Entertained

Gh Hassan Sofi
Child Name : Rabani
R/o : Rambagh Srinagar

Public Notice

I Have Lost My D.O.B Certificate. Now I'm Applying For It's Duplicate. If Anybody Have Any Objection, He / She May Contact For The Same At Registrar Birth And Death (SMC) Within 7 Days From The Date of Publication of this Notice, After That No Onjection Will Be Entertained

Bilal Ahmad Rather
Child Name : Iqra Bilal
R/o : Nowhatta Srinagar
Contact No : 7889946317

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KHANPETH GENERAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Application of Tavseef Ahmad Wani, S/o Noor Mohd Wani, R/o KP Sari Matipora , Tehsil Singhpora, Dist, Baramulla for obtaining legal heir certificate

Kindly refer to here subject cited above, in this context a report was sought from Patwari Halqa Matipora which reveals that the applicants mother deceased namely Zaina Begum W/o Noor Mohd Wani expired 24-04-2023 as death certificate wide registration no D/2-231-90048-000011 issued by Executive Officer Municipal Committee Pattan, the detail of the legal heirs of deceased are shown below.

S. No	Name of Legal Heirs	Relationship with deceased	Age	Occupation	Remarks
1	Tavseef Ahmad	Son	32 Yrs	Pvt Employee	
2	Zahida	Daughter	28 Yrs	H/W	Married
3	Suraiya	Daughter	26 Yrs	H/w	Married
4	Nusrat	Daughter	24 Yrs	H/w	Married

These are the legal heirs left behind by deceased , there is no other legal heir left behind by deceased except above mentioned. Now the applicant Tavseef Ahmad Wani wants to obtain legal heir certificate. Furthermore now, undersigned inform all the general public through newspaper with regard to issuance of instant certificate. If anybody have any objection regarding the issuance of legal heir certificate. He/ She may contact this office within the period of 7 days after the time no objection will be entertained.

Sd/-
Naib Tehsildar
Khanpeth

Eight-Year-Old Sopore Girl Captivates Internet With Cricket Skills

Hurmat Irshad's Remarkable Batting Talent Draws Attention Of Tendulkar

WARIS FAYAZ

SOPORE: An eight-year-old girl from north Kashmir's Sopore has taken the internet by storm with her extraordinary cricket batting skills, inspired by international star cricketers Fakhar Zaman and Mithali Raj.

Hurmat Irshad dreams of playing for Indian cricket team. Her remarkable talent has caught the attention of none other than the legendary Sachin Tendulkar.

Hailing from Puzalpora Boma, a small hamlet of Sopore town in Baramulla district, the young chap's video clip showcasing her impressive batting prowess has gone viral on social media platforms, garnering widespread

admiration and praise. Her extraordinary batting skills draw comparison to cricketer start Fakhar Zaman.

Hurmat, the 2nd standard student, said she is inspired by the achievements of Fakhar Zaman, a star cricketer of the Pakistan team and Mithali Raj, the former Indian cricketer. She aspires to represent the national cricket team on the international stage.

"I have been practising cricket for the last four years. It was my grandfather (Ghulam Nabi Bhat) who used to take me to a nearby playfield, sparking my interest in the sport," she said. "I love the way Fakhar Zaman and Mithali Raj play."

Hurmat's best shot is cover-drive and she is working hard to perfect it with dedication



and practice, "I hope to continue improving and will make a mark in the world of international cricket," she said.

Her video clips caught the eye of Sachin Tendulkar, popularly known as "Master Blaster". The legendary cricketer took to X to praise her talent. "Always good to see young girls playing cricket. Watching videos like these brings a smile to my face," Sachin wrote.

The young girl's parents have expressed pride and support for her aspirations. "I was repeatedly informed by the people about my daughter's exceptional talent and the need to support her. It was her grandfather who provided guidance and encouragement to her", Hurmat's father Irshad Ahmed Bhat said.

We were informed by media persons that Sachin Tendulkar tweeted about her, and it was a moment of immense joy for all of us.

"It felt like she was already playing for the Indian cricket team," the proud father expressed.

Bhat said they want to see their daughter representing the Indian cricket team.

Similarly, local cricket enthusiasts have hailed the young girl's talent as a testament to the growing interest and talent in cricket among youngsters in and around the locality.

They commended her dedication and skill at such a young age and pledged to support her journey towards achieving her cricketing goals—(KNO)

NC Feilds Mian Altaf As LS Candidate For Anantnag-Rajouri Seat

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) on Monday announced former minister and senior leader Mian Ahmad as party candidate for the Lok Sabha elections from Anantnag-Rajouri constituency.

The announcement was made by party vice-president Omar Abdullah.

He said that there will be no better candidate than Mian Altaf from the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, as he has never sought votes on religious or other lines.

Omar Abdullah said that Mian Altaf's has vast popularity across various segments of the society and that he would garner substantial support from the people.

Party general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar, state secretary Chowdhary Ramzan, provincial president Nasir Aslam Wani, and chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq were also present on the occasion.

Pertinently, NC has become the first party to have announced the candidate from South Kashmir constituency seat. The Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency remained the serious issue between the two allies of Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD).

With the announcement by NC today, the pact between the parties within the conglomerate has finally come to an end.

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) was formed in August 2019 when the govern-



ment abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. However, with the passage of time, some of the allies started parting ways and later opposed the alliance.

Today, the major parties have parted ways and thus put an end to the conglomerate, which was formed to fight against the abrogation of Article 370.

Since NC has nominated Mian Altaf Ahmed Larvi as its candidate for Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency, the twin districts of Pir Panjal are seeing it as a move to get hold of the Gujjar votes.

He being a Cult figure among Gujjars has a wide following within his community but whether he will be able to convert this into votes will depend on his campaigning.

NC announced Larvi's candidature today after having long discussion on selecting a suitable candidate for this seat, which has got a different look after delimitation of parliamentary constitu-

encies. Previously former jurist Hasnain Masoodi of NC was representing the Anantnag Lok Sabha seat.

A political analyst from Rajouri district from Gujjar community, wishing anonymity, told KNO that there are around six lakh Gujjar votes in Anantnag parliamentary seat which is spread in twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch, and in Anantnag district of south Kashmir. "Mian Altaf Ahmed Larvi is known to one and all but that doesn't mean he will be able to get all the votes of the community. Around 20 percent voters of the community are his followers which will vote in his favour whereas he may be able to fetch 25 to 30 percent more votes due to his cult figure and party influence," he said.

"He has some disadvantages as well which will get reflected during this election and those can go against the NC," the political analyst said, adding, "Mian

Altaf Ahmed is not from Rajouri and Poonch district and not even from south Kashmir. Hailing from Kangan area of Ganderbal district of central Kashmir, he can be seen as outsider by the voters which can go against him as well."

The total votes of Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat is 1925450 out of which around 11 lakh votes are from south Kashmir whereas Rajouri and Poonch districts have over 8 lakh votes.

Moreover, he said, when Mian Altaf was minister in Omar Abdullah led NC-Congress government in Jammu and Kashmir from 2009 to 2014, ST youth from Rajouri and Poonch district were getting reservation in jobs in Kashmir valley in district cadre and division cadre posts but the NC government ended this reservation and only kept it for Scheduled Tribe candidates. "Mian Altaf Ahmed also played a role in this and due to which educated ST youth of these two districts were up in arms against this decision and even held protests against Larvi," he reminded.

But the political analyst was of the opinion that Larvi might be able to get around 50 percent votes of ST community.

There is a huge chunk of Pahari votes in these two districts who are overjoyed after the government announced reservation for the community and Pahari leaders have assured the Bharatiya Janta Party of full support during the elections. If BJP is able to get majority of Pahari votes, then it will be a great loss to NC—(KNO)

Manzoor Qadiri Assumes Charges As DG Floriculture

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant development for the floriculture sector in Kashmir, Manzoor Ahmad Qadiri (JKAS) Monday assumed the role of Director General of Floriculture.

Qadiri, a seasoned administrator with a wealth of experience, was warmly welcomed by senior officials of the Department at the Directorate Complex in Emporium Garden, Srinagar. Having served in various capacities within the Administration, Qadiri brings a deep understand-



ing of the region's dynamics and challenges.

In his inaugural address, Director General, Qadiri expressed his unwavering commitment to fostering the growth and development of the floriculture sector. He outlined his vision for leveraging the natural beauty and

resources of Kashmir to enhance floriculture practices, aiming for sustainable growth and economic prosperity.

Under his leadership, stakeholders anticipate innovative strategies and concerted efforts to elevate Kashmir's floriculture industry to new heights, thereby contributing to the region's socio-economic advancement.

The appointment of Manzoor Ahmad Qadiri signifies a new era of leadership and dedication in the field of floriculture, promising a brighter future for the sector and the community it serves.

Traffic Police To Realign Deployments Ahead Of Eid

MUBASHIR ALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: Anticipating a surge in traffic ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, Srinagar traffic police are gearing up to recalibrate their deployment across the city.

A senior traffic police officer said that they expect an increase in traffic volume on Srinagar roads ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, and urged responsible parking behaviour from motorists to utilise designated parking areas rather than obstructing vehicular movement on roads.

"There is no doubt that traffic load will increase on Srinagar roads. We expect good behaviour from motorists and they should park their vehicles in parkings, not on roads," the senior officer said.

The officer said that in preparation for the anticipated traffic rush, particularly around the city center, traffic police were in process of strategizing their deployments too to ensure smooth and hassle-free commuting experiences. "As Eid-ul-Fitr draws

near, efforts are underway to facilitate safe and efficient traffic management in Srinagar. Traffic police's proactive measures aim to maintain order and safety on Srinagar's roads during this busy period," the officer added.

Notably, the last 10 days of the holy month of Ramadan traditionally sees increased footfall of shoppers purchasing items including clothing, groceries, bakery goods, mutton and other household items—(KNO)

365 To Serve In Kashmir Zone J&K Police Welcomes 915 New Constables For Enhanced Security

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In a significant development aimed at bolstering security measures and addressing gender-based violence, Jammu and Kashmir Police has welcomed 915 women constables following the formation of two dedicated women battalions.

The formation of women police battalions in Jammu and Kashmir was initiated to address the shortage of female personnel at various levels within the police force. Recognizing the importance of gender diversity and inclusivity in law enforcement, the Jammu and Kashmir government proposed the establishment of these battalions to the Union Home Ministry.

Subsequently, the proposal received approval during a meeting of the State Administrative Council (SAC) chaired by the then Governor, Satyapal Malik, in 2019. Following the requisite recruitment and training processes, a total of 915 women constables have now joined the police depart-

ment.

Among these newly recruited constables, 550 will be deployed in various districts of the Jammu Zone under Mahila Battalion One, while 365 will serve in districts across the Kashmir Zone as part of Mahila Battalion Two.

Following their passing out parade, these women constables will report to their respective zones, where they will be deployed based on operational requirements as determined by zone authorities.

The establishment of these women battalions was approved by the Home Ministry in June 2018, with one battalion designated for each of the Jammu and Kashmir regions. The formation of these battalions represents a significant investment in enhancing security measures and promoting gender equality within the police force.

Reports inform KNO that total expenditure incurred in the formation of these women battalions amounts to Rs 235.86 crore, with the central government contributing Rs 105.11 crore and the state government providing Rs 129.94 crore towards the initiative—(KNO)

Udhampur LS Seat

From 40 Contenders In 1967 To Mere 12 In 2024

ALI ASAD

SRINAGAR: The Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a fascinating evolution in the number and diversity of candidates vying for parliamentary representation. From a modest three contenders in its debut election to a staggering 40 candidates in 1996, the electoral landscape of Udhampur has reflected the dynamic political fervor of the region. Since its establishment in 1967, the constituency has traversed a remarkable trajectory.

1967: In its inaugural election, Udhampur saw a modest contest with three candidates. The contenders included representatives from Congress, Bharatiya Jan Sangh, and Jammu and Kashmir National Conference. Congress candidate GM Brigadier emerged victorious, setting the stage for subsequent electoral dynamics.

1971: The number of candidates doubled to eight, reflecting a growing political landscape. In addition to Congress and Bharatiya Jan Sangh, Shiromani Akali Dal also entered the fray. Political participation expanded, signaling increased interest in Udhampur's parliamentary seat.

1989: The electoral arena expanded further, with 24 candidates contesting from Udhampur. Independent candidates surged, comprising the majority of contenders. Congress, Janata Dal, BJP,



Panthers Party, and Protist Bloc of India also fielded their nominees.

1996: Witnessed a record-breaking turnout, with an unprecedented 40 candidates vying for victory. Major parties such as BJP, Congress, Janata Dal, BSP, and Panthers Party contested alongside a significant contingent of 34 independent candidates. BJP candidate Chaman Lal Gupta emerged victorious amid fierce competition, exemplifying the fervor of electoral engagement.

2004: The number of candidates reduced to 20, reflecting a consolidation in political participation. Independent candidates remained

notable, comprising a significant portion of the contestants. Despite fewer contenders, the electoral landscape remained vibrant with diverse political ideologies represented.

2024: In the forthcoming election, 12 candidates are vying for parliamentary representation, marking a continuation of the trend of declining candidate numbers. Major parties like Congress, BJP, and NC are fielding their nominees, alongside independent aspirants. While the number of candidates has decreased, the diversity of political representation remains integral to Udhampur's democratic discourse—(KNO)

ZEO Office Hawal Flays CEO, Director Education's Orders

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Office of the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Hawal is turning into a favoritism hub with concerned ZEO who recently attached superannuation not implementing the orders of the directorate, undermining the laid down rules and violating government directives.

As per the reports coming to the fore, the ZEO Office at Hawal has sidelined the recently issued order of rationalisation issued by Chief Education Officer Srinagar in view of the growing demand of teachers in district Srinagar.

The Order titled 'Rationalisation of Academic Teaching Staff across the UT of J&K' issued Vide Order Number CEO/Sgr/Estt/1880-96, dated:09-03-2024 is yet to be implemented to the fullest with several teachers posted at their earlier postings not asked to join the new places.

Sources informed that there were several teachers within the zone who were attached to different

schools of the zone in the past. However, the latest order issued by CEO Srinagar and even vetted by Director of School Education Kashmir nullified the previous postings or verbal attachments of teachers. "While the latest order had to be implemented in letter and spirit, violations were found and several teachers have been asked not to join their new places of posting. All this is being done insidiously and the palms of a few clerks are being greased by those teachers so that they are not moved away from their choosiest places," says a senior official at the Director School Education office.

He added that LG Office may be informed about such gross irregularities within this particular zone and it is highly likely that action is taken against the matter in hand. "We are keeping a very close vigil on this zone and it is concerning that the rationalisation order has not been implemented on the ground. We may ask the concerned office to rectify the mistakes sans delay," the officer divulged—(KNO)

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Hail Nine-Year-Old Hurmat

The nine-year-old girl from Sopore is famous on the internet. The girl has a special talent. When given a bat in her hand she can bat like a real professional cricketer and hit the ball over all parts of the ground. Even the boys who are much bigger than her age fail to stop her batting prowess.

So much so that one of her videos shared online earned accolades from a person no less than Sachin Tendulkar. Sachin Tendulkar spoke highly of her batting technique and was impressed by the fact that she could play alongside boys with such confident technique. Many other prominent netizens immediately started comparing her with the current team members of India's women cricket team. Others claimed that Kashmir has come a long way when girls were allowed to play alongside boys in the same playground.

The truth is that Kashmir is full of such talent. There are people who have done tremendously well in almost every sport. In martial arts, especially Kashmiris sportsmen have excelled with distinction. The same holds true for bodybuilding, weight-lifting, cricket and football. The people in Kashmir like to follow their passions tirelessly and with a clear focus. It is all about getting the right coaching. Finding a mentor is as important as finding a talent.

Child prodigies are important for a nation. They are rare to find and even harder to mentor. Usually, these child prodigies are found in areas and family backgrounds where pursuing an art or sport tirelessly can be considered a taboo or a useless activity. So finding the right mentor for these child prodigies and helping them pursue their passions determinedly is very important.

The sports authorities must designate a coach for Hurmat and ensure that she gets all the sports kits and the requisite support she needs. She looks like a promising talent who can make it to the Indian national team in some years. She first needs to be trained for Under-14 and Under-16 and some years of serious professional coaching are needed to that end. We wish Hurmat all the best for her future prospects.

A Call To Unite In Education



HILAL BUKHARI

Education is undoubtedly the real cure to the age-old maladies present in backward societies. It is the only medium that can differentiate civilized society from barbarians. That is why the great philosophers and thinkers emphasized education and stressed a state-controlled education system. For example, Plato knew the importance of unbiased and equitable education for everyone and said, "If the state is unable to provide education to everyone, it hardly matters what else it does."

The history is witness to the fact that only those nations have progressed and developed that were successful in creating equitable, judicious and robust educational systems for their citizens.

In India, The Right to Education Act 2009 was a laudable step for making education available and accessible to all including the weaker sections of the country. This Act makes it obligatory on the part of the government to ensure admission, attendance, and completion of elementary education by all children falling in the age group of six to fourteen years. Essentially, this Act ensures free elementary education to all children in the country. It is beneficial, particularly for the economically weaker sections of society.

However, the mafia-style employed by some private educational institutions is hindering the process of proper growth of education in our country.

Many of these institutions are only turning education into mere business. Their only aim seems to earn wealth by exploiting the helpless masses in the name of quality education.

The government took many laudable steps to curb this menace. The government prohibited private institutions from charging hefty admission fees to the parents. However, many parents blame these institutions for charging them in the name of annual charges, building fees, and many other names. Although the government has allowed private institutions to charge annual charges and other such necessary fees, they must refrain from making it an excuse for changing such amounts which goes against



the very basic rights of the citizens.

Recently the government of Jammu and Kashmir issued an order that all private institutions must implement the government curriculum in all schools and only those books would be taught which are printed and published by the board of school education for this cause. Many people believe that these government-prescribed books for the primary classes particularly, are not up to the level and are below standard. The availability of these books is another grave issue that the government must look after. The shortage of these books at the ground level at the beginning of each new session makes it hard to inspire the parents to select these books. These books reach the students in the government schools till half sessions are already over. This leaves a question mark for the whole education system controlled by the government.

The Private School Association also claims that the quality of the Board of School Education published books is below standard. However, this association has failed itself to establish a common curriculum for all the private institutions working under its tutelage. Every school has set up its kingdom and its own set of rules forcing the parents to buy costly books without any proper management to check this menace or at least the quality of the contents in these books. Accepted that the quality of these books is better than the books published by the board of school education, it is the duty of the government itself to regulate the prices of these books so that the common

masses do not suffer.

Some private institutions hold screening before admitting students to their schools and only after rigorous testing of students do they consider giving them admission in these institutions. The government of Jammu and Kashmir ruled that every student must be admitted to his or her age-appropriate class. But these institutions don't hesitate to demote the students based on their performance in the so-called screening tests. This is a gross violation of the government orders and the fundamental rights of the citizens. If you claim to provide better education then you should dare to admit everyone whosoever approaches you and only then dare to compete with the other institutions which you aver are below average in their achievements. The claim of giving better results does not hold ground when these institutions employ the pick-and-choose method which the other institutions can not afford to follow.

Even after charging hefty charges from the parents some of these private institutions pay very low wages to their employees. The private school teachers are the worst exploited lot in our valley. They go through everyday drudgery for a meager sum of a few thousand rupees. This exploitation of the teachers in turn affects the education of the students in these institutions.

The parents should become more aware of their rights. One of the most unfortunate realities about our society is that the parents are least aware of their rights. They hardly know the importance of raising their voices

properly. The most important reason for the worst performance of the government institutions is their lack of proper accommodation in these institutions. Most of our middle schools in our villages are functioning with poor and very poor accommodation facilities. You can not hope to get a better education for your wards when more than eight classes have to be accommodated only in two rooms. This is sheer mockery of the whole education system. Our parents must learn to raise their voices properly to force the government to provide better accommodation to their wards in every village. They have every right to provide better education to their beloved children but that doesn't mean that they let themselves be exploited and looted by these so-called better institutions. When the parents raise their voices demanding better facilities for their wards in the government institutions they will be able to save their hard-earned money and when they will learn to make everyone responsible from top to bottom, we shall witness the real revolution in the whole education system.

However, the problem of mere show-off is the main hindrance that forces our lower middle class and even the poor parents to send their children to these costly institutions. The parents join the race of choosing more and more costly institutions for the education of their children to satisfy their egos. Those who can not afford the costly education must learn to use the government facilities and institutions properly. Nowadays government schools are launching enrollment drives throughout the valley. It is the proper time for the parents to come forward, strengthen these public institutions, and make them more and more responsible for the betterment of the whole society.

The private, as well as government institutions, should work hand in hand without any confrontation to provide better education to our younger generations. Competition on the fairgrounds would always be beneficial for this society. But the confrontation and the fraudulent methods will only be poisonous for us in the long run. All these institutions and their organizers must work for the betterment of society at large and they must not see education only as a job-taking and money-making industry. All of us; parents, teachers, students, media, and different institutions must unite to provide better education to our younger generations which is the sole guarantee for a better future.

The author can be mailed at bukhari.hilalahmad5@gmail.com

Future Climate Change - Possibilities With Remedies



DR RAJKUMAR SINGH

Climate change poses significant challenges for future generations which include: a. Increased Severity of Natural Disasters: Climate change is contributing to the intensification of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts, floods, and wildfires. These events can cause massive destruction to infrastructure, homes, and ecosystems, leading to loss of life and property damage. b. Rising Sea Levels: As temperatures rise, glaciers and ice caps melt, causing sea levels to rise. This can lead to coastal erosion, loss of land, and increased flooding in coastal communities. Low-lying areas and islands are particularly vulnerable to being submerged, displacing millions of people.

Impact on Food Security: Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns can disrupt agricultural systems, leading to decreased crop yields and food shortages. This can exacerbate hunger and malnutrition, particularly in developing countries where food security is already a concern. d. Health Impacts: Climate change can worsen air quality, increase the spread of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever, and exacerbate heat-related illnesses. Vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and children, are particularly at risk. e. Economic Costs: The economic costs of climate change are substantial, including damage to infrastructure, increased health-care expenses, and loss of productivity due to extreme weather events. Addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation measures will require significant investments.

Resource Scarcity: Climate change can exacerbate competition for resources such as water and arable land, leading to conflicts over access to these essen-



tial resources. This can destabilize regions and exacerbate existing social and political tensions. g. Loss of Biodiversity: Climate change threatens biodiversity by altering ecosystems and habitats, leading to species extinction and loss of ecosystem services. This can have cascading effects on ecosystems and human well-being, as biodiversity is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems and providing resources such as clean water and air. Addressing climate change requires global cooperation and concerted efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transition to renewable energy sources, enhance resilience to climate impacts, and promote sustainable development practices and to take action will have profound consequences for future generations, affecting their quality of life, health, and economic opportunities.

Future possibilities: In considering future possibilities in climate change, it's important to recognize both the potential consequences of continued inaction as well as the opportunities for mitigation and adaptation: a. Continued Temperature Rise: Without significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, global temperatures are likely to continue rising, leading to more frequent and severe heatwaves, droughts, and other extreme weather events. Shifts in Ecosystems: Climate change is already causing shifts in ecosystems and changes in spe-

cies distributions. In the future, we may see further disruptions to ecosystems, including the loss of biodiversity and the collapse of ecosystems that provide essential services such as pollination and water purification. c. Impacts on Agriculture: Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns will continue to affect agricultural productivity, leading to shifts in crop yields and changes in the suitability of different regions for agriculture. This could have significant implications for food security and livelihoods, particularly in vulnerable regions.

Technological Innovations: There are opportunities for technological innovations to help mitigate and adapt to climate change. This includes advancements in renewable energy, energy efficiency, carbon capture and storage, and climate-resilient infrastructure. e. Policy Responses: Governments around the world are increasingly recognizing the urgency of addressing climate change and implementing policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainability. Future policy responses could include carbon pricing, regulations on emissions, and investments in renewable energy and green technologies.

Social and Behavioural Changes: As awareness of climate change grows, there may be shifts in societal attitudes and behaviours towards more sustainable practices. This could include

changes in consumption patterns, transportation habits, and support for policies that address climate change. g. International Cooperation: Addressing climate change requires global cooperation and coordination. Future possibilities include increased international collaboration on emissions reduction targets, technology sharing, and financial support for climate adaptation in vulnerable countries. Overall, the future trajectory of climate change will depend on a complex interplay of factors, including technological advancements, policy decisions, societal changes, and global cooperation. Although, the challenges are significant but there are also opportunities for innovation and positive action to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change and build a more sustainable future.

Expected remedies: In general, climate change requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach involving multiple stakeholders, from governments and businesses to communities and individuals: a. Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Implement policies and regulations to reduce emissions from major sources such as power plants, transportation, industry, and agriculture. This can include setting emissions targets, implementing carbon pricing mechanisms, and promoting the transition to renewable energy sources. b. Transition to Renewable Energy: Invest in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This can involve providing incentives for renewable energy development, improving energy efficiency, and phasing out subsidies for fossil fuels.

Increase Energy Efficiency: Promote energy efficiency measures in buildings, appliances, and transportation to reduce energy consumption and emissions. This can include implementing building codes, offering incentives for energy-efficient technologies, and investing in public transportation and infrastructure. d. Protect and Restore Ecosystems: Protect forests, wetlands, and other natural ecosystems that act as carbon sinks and help regulate the climate. Restore degraded ecosystems through reforestation, afforestation, and sustainable land management practices.

Adaptation and Resilience: Develop and implement strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as building climate-resilient infrastructure, improving water management systems, and strengthening disaster preparedness and response mechanisms. f. Invest in Research and Innovation: Support research and innovation in clean energy technologies, climate modeling, and adaptation strategies. This can include funding for research institutions, incentivizing private sector investment in clean technology, and promoting international collaboration on climate research.

Education and Awareness: Increase public awareness and understanding of climate change and its impacts. Educate individuals, communities, and businesses about the importance of reducing emissions, conserving resources, and adopting sustainable practices. h. International Cooperation: Strengthen international cooperation and collaboration on climate action. This can involve participating in multilateral agreements such as the Paris Agreement, providing financial and technical support to developing countries, and sharing knowledge and best practices across borders. i. Engage Businesses and Industry: Encourage businesses and industry to reduce emissions, adopt sustainable practices, and invest in clean technologies. This can be done through incentives, regulations, and voluntary initiatives such as corporate sustainability commitments. j. Empower Communities and Individuals: Support community-led initiatives and empower individuals to take action on climate change in their daily lives. This can involve providing resources, training, and support for community-based climate projects, as well as promoting sustainable consumption and lifestyle choices we can work towards

mitigating the impacts of climate change, building resilience to its effects, and creating a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Dr. Rajkumar Singh is a youth motivator and former Head of the University Department of Political Science, B.N. Mandal University

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

Imperial Fruit

Bananas, Costs, And Climate Change

DR BINOY KAMPARK

The curved course of the ubiquitous banana has often been the peel of empire, its sweetness masking a sharp, bitter legacy. Arab conquerors introduced it to the African continent as they cultivated a slave market. European imperialism did the same to the Americas via the Canary Islands, insinuating the luscious fruit into markets of solid exploitation and guaranteed returns. In time, demand for bananas grew. Cheap capital cushioned it.

Corporation power and secondary colonisation, exercised through such ruthless entities as the United Fruit Company (now the jauntily labelled Chiquita), continued the legacy, collaborating with corrupt elites while exerting control over large swathes of the local economy. The Banana Republic was axiomatic to the exertion of US power in the agriculture of the South. Names like Lorenzo D. Baker, who first imported bananas to the US in 1870, preceding Philadelphia's World Fair promotion in 1876, and Minor C. Keith and Andrew W. Preston, should be marked in bold in such efforts. It is they who led the way to the creation of the United Fruit Company.

Marcelo Bucheli offers an adequate description about United Fruit as a broad based alliance that led to the creation of an "impressive production and distribution network" made up of "plantations, hospitals, roads, railways, telegraph lines, housing facilities, and ports in the producing companies, a steamship fleet (the Great White Fleet, which eventually became the largest privately owned fleet in the world), and a distribution network in the United States." Some fruit; some capital.

The company's indelible staining of Latin America's politics was ingloriously affirmed with its role in overthrowing the democratically elected Guatemalan leader Jacobo Arbenz, whose expropriating measures to award property to landless citizens proved too much. The result-



ing Washington-backed coup, encouraged by such figures as United Fruit's main shareholder Samuel Zemurray, resulted in a military dictatorship leading to 200,000 deaths.

In 1954, with the coup in full swing, Arbenz could only observe with tragic sadness that "the pretext of anti-communism" had been cited to overthrow his government. "The truth is very different. The truth is to be found in the financial interests of the fruit company and other US monopolies which have invested great amounts of money in Latin America and fear that the example of Guatemala would be followed by other Latin American countries."

There is good reason then to take a rather withering view of the banana trade. It has become the feature fruit of monstrous monopolies, a brutal currency of exchange, the means by which

exploitation has been cultivated for huge corporate gain. In some cases, its pricing has been kept low as the costs in production, be they in terms of land and people. They are the unwanted ghosts in the unaccounted equation.

Following the fruit to lands of its cultivation is to take a journey to inequality. The island of Mindanao in the Philippines produces 84% of the country's bananas and hosts 25% of the country's population. On that same island live over 35% of the country's poorest residents. Historically, it was only the advent of the cooperative FARMCOOP and the passing of the Land Reform Law that enabled landless, indigent farmers to claim some degree of autonomy from the crushing conditions of the international banana market.

After the viciousness of imperialism, exploitation and profit, the

banana now faces something of a different challenge. Climate, it has become trite to say, is playing up. The banana moguls, sellers and cultivators are getting anxious. Supply lines and prices are being affected. "Producers like Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica, will see a negative impact of rising temperatures over the next few decades," predicts a confident Dan Bebbler, a student of crop pathogens and sustainable agriculture.

Climate disruptions have also been something of an encouragement to threatening diseases to the crop, notably the TR4 fungus. The World Banana Forum, which benignly sounds like the Sorghum Appreciation Society with polite tea breaks and conference papers, offered a stolid seriousness. The BBC was there to gather some material, coming with such prosaic spurts as

those of Pascal Lu, a senior economist at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO): the impact of climate change was such as to pose an "enormous threat" to banana production.

CBS News was also at hand to be told by Sabine Altendorf, yet another economist at the UNFAO with an interest in supply chains of agricultural products, that any such infection would essentially doom the crop. "Once a plantation has been infected, it cannot be eradicated. There is no pesticide or fungicide that is effective."

Lu offers a diplomatic splash on the whole matter. He speaks of certification, keeping the bananas "greener" (no irony intended) and extols the value of such regulations as "they help producers seize the opportunity of making their production systems more sustainable." Inevitably, he offers the following: "But of course, they also come with costs for producers because they require more control and monitoring systems on the part of the producers and the traders. And these costs have to trickle down to the final consumers."

Ultimately, such certification remains overwhelmingly voluntary, by which the producers pay a fee for the process, thereby receiving price premiums and market access for upholding certain market standards.

The environmental ledger for humanity, and much of the globe, engenders worry. Climate change is dooming us in various ways. States and communities will be submerged. Droughts will empty tracts of land of agrarian occupation. Agricultural patterns will alter. It is making the cultivation of crops in certain areas of the world unfeasible and untenable. And this potassium rich source, so revered for shape, size and flavour, its brutal legacy often ignored at the shopping counter, may have met its match. (C-Counter Currents)

Dr. Binoy Kampark was a Commonwealth Scholar at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He currently lectures at RMIT University. He can be mailed at bkampmark@gmail.com

Knowing The Autism And Autistic Genius

MOHD ISHAQ SHAH

World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognized day annually on April 2, encouraging Member States of the United Nations to take measures to raise awareness about autistic individuals throughout the world. It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly resolution passed in council on November 1, 2007, and adopted on December 18, 2007. It was proposed by Moza bint Nasser Al-Missned, the United Nations Representative from Qatar, and supported by all member states.

This resolution was passed and adopted without a vote in the UN General Assembly, mainly as a supplement to previous UN initiatives to improve human rights.

World Autism Day is one of only seven official health-specific UN Days. The terms "Autism Awareness Day" and "Autism Awareness Month" are often contested by autism rights advocates, who claim that they feed into ableism against autistic people. Such groups, including the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, advocate using the term "Autism Acceptance Day" as an alternative for both events under the belief that it promotes overcoming anti-autism prejudice rather than simply increasing awareness of autism.

Autism: also known as Autism spectrum disorder is a lifelong neurological disorder or a range of complex neurodevelopmental disorders that manifests during early childhood, irrespective of gender, race or socioeconomic status. The term Autism spectrum means a range of characteristics. It is characterized by social impairments, communication difficulties, and restricted, repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behaviour. In other words, we can say that Autism is a brain disorder that affects the ability of a person to communicate with others. It begins in childhood and lasts through adulthood.

Types of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Autistic Disorder: It is also known as classic autism. It is the most general form of autism. People suffering from this disorder usually face difficulty with language interruption, social and communication challenges, and



unusual behaviors and interests. Several people with this disorder may also have an intellectual disability.

Asperger Syndrome: People suffering from this disorder have mild symptoms of autistic disorder. They might face social challenges, unusual behaviors, and interests. Therefore, we can say that people with Asperger Syndrome do not have problems with language or intellectual disabilities.

Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS): It is also known as atypical autism. People who do not meet the criteria of autistic disorder or Asperger syndrome, but not all, may be diagnosed with PDD-NOS. People who suffer from PDD-NOS have milder or fewer symptoms of autistic disorder. The symptoms may cause only social and communication challenges. On this day several international communities, hundreds of thousands of landmarks, buildings, homes and communities around the world come together to provide support and love to people with autism. All month several activities and events take place like Autism-friendly events and educational activities with an aim to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism.

Educating and making people aware of autism is important. As we know the rate of autism in all regions of

the world is high, so it is important to make people understand that people with autism need care, love, and support otherwise it can have an impact on the individuals, their families and communities. Every year on April 2, the United Nations Member States observe World Autism Awareness Day, which promotes action to increase public understanding of autistic people around the globe.

Dan Aykroyd: One of the most famous people with Asperger's Syndrome is popular comic actor Dan Aykroyd. He had already been expelled from two different schools by the time a doctor diagnosed him with mild Asperger's as a child. Since then, Aykroyd has been pretty honest and up-front about his experiences with the autism spectrum. The Academy Award-nominated actor and writer has even spoken to a great extent about how his experiences with autism contributed to his character in Ghostbusters.

Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875): The experts go back and forth over whether Hans Christian Andersen, the beloved writer of such fairy tales as The Little Mermaid and The Ugly Duckling, was autistic or not. Most of those who insist that he appeared somewhere on the autism spectrum are those who are autistic themselves and therefore can relate to Andersen on a personal level. For

example, Andersen's diary describes in great length his many bouts of unrequited love for those who were unattainable — a common personal experience, say those on the spectrum who can relate. They also cite the recurring theme of outcast characters in his stories. Most never achieve their sought-after happy endings.

Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806)/Benjamin Banneker lived as a free man in 18th century America. Plenty of contemporary documents refer to Banneker's "unparalleled brilliance" and "odd methods of behaviour," lending credence to the common idea that Banneker had a high-functioning form of autism spectrum disorder. He was known to fixate on certain objects, such as a friend's watch until that fixation ultimately led to an experiment or invention of his own.

Susan Boyle (1961-present): Most people know Susan Boyle as the shy Scottish introvert who sold more than 14 million albums after appearing on Britain's Got Talent. But even more people found Boyle inspiring when she announced she had been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, a diagnosis that Boyle said, felt like "a relief." Boyle is still learning about the autism spectrum and how it affects her. But as long as she keeps singing, people are sure to continue to be inspired by her.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882): Trinity College professor Michael Fitzgerald, a leading psychiatrist, researched and published a paper concluding that Charles Darwin had Asperger's Syndrome. There are records from Darwin's childhood that state he was a very quiet and isolated child, who avoided interaction with others as much as he could. Like so many others with Asperger's, he sought alternative ways of communicating, such as writing letters. He had fixations with certain topics like chemistry but was a very visual thinker — all traits of someone on the autism spectrum.

Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727): Thanks to researchers at Cambridge University, we have a pretty good idea that Isaac Newton had Asperger's Syndrome or something else on the autism spectrum. The researchers, who also argue that Albert Einstein was autistic, mention in their evidence that Newton isolated himself as much as possible. He was notoriously awkward when it came to typical daily conversation. He was not good at keeping friends and relied strongly upon routines. Lastly, there are a number of reports suggesting that he was often so focused on his work, that he went for days at a time without eating or sleeping.

Michelangelo (1475-1564): Dr Muhammad Arshad published in the Royal Society of Medicine's Journal of Medical Biography a convincing paper arguing that Michelangelo was almost certainly autistic. Another leading researcher on the topic, Professor Michael Fitzgerald, agrees. Their evidence: Such characteristics were determined through dozens of contemporary notes and letters. They are consistent with those with high-functioning autism.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791): Most scholars agree that musical maestro Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was somewhere on the spectrum. Mozart was allegedly extremely sensitive to loud noises. He had a notoriously short attention span and could fly through a cycle of facial expressions within seconds. In one well-documented incident, a bored Mozart began doing cartwheels and vaults over tables while meowing loudly like a cat.

The author can be mailed at ishaq7007@gmail.com

Women Should Add These Zinc-Rich Foods To Their Diet For Better Health

Incorporating zinc-rich foods into the diet is important for overall health, particularly for women, as zinc plays a crucial role in various bodily functions including immune function, wound healing, DNA synthesis, and reproductive health. Keep reading as we share the many benefits of consuming zinc-rich foods for women.

Zinc-rich foods women should consume regularly:

1. Poultry

Chicken and turkey are good sources of zinc, which is essential for proper immune function, wound healing, and cell growth. Choose skinless, lean cuts of poultry and prepare them by grilling, baking, or roasting.

2. Legumes

Legumes are rich in zinc and provide a host of other nutrients such as fibre, protein, and antioxidants. Zinc from legumes supports immune function and helps maintain healthy skin. Incorporate legumes into salads, soups, stews, or curries for a nutritious boost.

3. Seeds

Seeds such as pumpkin seeds, hemp seeds, and sunflower seeds, particularly pumpkin seeds, are rich in zinc and also provide healthy fats, fibre, and



antioxidants. Zinc from seeds supports immune function and may help regulate hormone levels. Enjoy seeds as a snack, add them to yogurt, salads, or homemade granola, or sprinkle them over dishes for added crunch and nutrition.

4. Nuts

Nuts such as cashews, almonds, and pine nuts are a good source of zinc, along with healthy fats, protein, and fibre. Zinc from nuts supports immune function and aids in wound healing. Enjoy nuts as

a snack, sprinkle them over salads or oatmeal, or use them as a topping for yogurt or smoothie bowls.

5. Dairy products

Dairy products like cheese and yogurt contain zinc, calcium, and protein, which are essential

for bone health, immune function, and muscle repair. Include moderate amounts of dairy products in your diet, opting for low-fat or non-fat options to reduce saturated fat intake.

6. Whole grains

Whole grains are a source of

zinc as well as fibre, vitamins, and minerals. Zinc from whole grains supports immune function and helps regulate appetite and metabolism. Incorporate whole grains into meals such as salads, stir-fries, soups, or as a side dish with lean protein

and vegetables.

7. Dark chocolate

Dark chocolate contains zinc along with antioxidants like flavonoids, which have been linked to numerous health benefits including improved heart health and cognitive function. Enjoy dark chocolate with at least 70% cocoa content in moderation as a treat or dessert.

8. Eggs

Eggs are a good source of zinc as well as high-quality protein, vitamins, and minerals. Zinc from eggs supports immune function, aids in wound healing, and helps maintain healthy skin and hair. Include eggs in your diet by enjoying them boiled, scrambled, poached, or as part of dishes like omelettes or frittatas.

For optimal health benefits, it's important to consume a varied and balanced diet that includes a combination of these zinc-rich foods along with other nutrient-dense foods. Additionally, cooking methods that retain the nutritional content of foods, such as steaming, baking, or grilling, are preferable to frying or deep-frying. If you have specific dietary concerns or health conditions, it's recommended to consult with a healthcare professional or registered dietitian for personalised dietary advice.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Accidents In J&K

reported 2,206 accidents, leading to 243 deaths and 2,818 injuries.

In 2023, the Jammu division reported 3,943 road accidents, resulting in 598 fatalities and 5,486 injuries, and the Kashmir division recorded 2,355 accidents, leading to 295 deaths and 2,983 injuries.

As of January 31, 2024, the current year has witnessed 398 road accidents, resulting in 55 fatalities and 486 injuries. Of these, the Jammu Division reported 284 road accidents, 38 fatalities, and 342 injuries, while the Kashmir Division reported 114 accidents, 17 fatalities, and 144 injuries.

This data was shared by the traffic headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir in response to an RTI application filed by activist Dr M M Shuja. The RTI was submitted on February 2, 2024, and the response was provided by the department on March 9 of the same year.

An official from the traffic department said efforts are constantly underway to mitigate road accidents and the factors contributing to them.

"The department is dedicated to raising awareness about road safety rules and regulations among the public. Initiatives are being taken to enhance the safe movement of two-wheeler traffic through awareness campaigns and strict enforcement measures, including issuing fines," he said, adding that collaboration with various NGOs further strengthens the efforts to ensure better road safety for everyone—(KNO)

Steps Being Taken

different security system and atmosphere all around as they have secured the areas. We have not reached that stage yet....," DGP Swain told reporters in reply to a query that the Home Minister Amit Shah recently stated that the Centre was considering revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and troop-reduction in J&K. The J&K police chief said that police is working on a plan to create an atmosphere where security shouldn't be treated as "a status symbol but a need-based affair." The DGP Swain was speaking to reporters at Police Training School Kathua district of Jammu.

He said as far the reduction in security resources is concerned that is because of change in the situation. "There is another aspect which is to give security to people and protected persons in a professional manner," DGP said. "We are trying to get connected to the people and other stakeholders that police force is for them. We are trying to create an atmosphere where we will ensure that through technology, and other means give a proper security while cutting the size of persons entrusted to protect people."

He said that police were working on a plan where securing homes and individuals would no more be an issue.

To a query about security arrangements for upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the DGP said that top officials of the security grid are in touch with the Centre to ensure safe and secure environment for the polls, upcoming rallies and candidates in fray.

About the women participation in police, he said that there is a strong need to increase the women number in police. "At present women contribute only 6 per cent to police family. Today, 922 women constables joined as well. As far the expansion of force, that's a government

decision. We will request the government in future as per our need and requirement to expand the force," he said—(KNO INPUTS)

Over 91,000 Tourists

including 3,079, visiting the region in January and February alone, an official informed.

Local shopkeepers are delighted with the increase in tourist activity, expressing gratitude to the tourism department for its promotional efforts. They said the influx of tourists has surpassed previous records, indicating that the region is becoming increasingly appealing to travellers.

Members of the tourism sector enthusiastically welcome the tourists, seeing it as a revival of their businesses after nearly three years of hiatus. They urge the tourism department to continue promoting Sonamarg to attract even more visitors—(KNO)

Five Booked Under

Palhallan, Waseem Mehraj Farash @ Waseem Farash son of Mehraj ud din resident of Khanpora, Bashir Ahmad Sualiah son of Late Ghulam Mohammad resident of Mohalla Jaded Baramulla & Bilal Ahmad Dar @Shakir son of Gh Nabi resident of Wussan Khoie Pattan under Public Safety Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority," reads a statement issued. "The booked persons have been detained and subsequently lodged in District Jail Udhampur & Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jail Jammu."

"Pertinent to mention that many cases are registered against these persons and were involved in the disturbance of L&O and subversion. Despite their involvement in many FIRs they did not mend their anti national & Social activities," reads the statement further.

Night Temp Rises

summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 7.2°C against 5.8°C on the previous night and it was 2.1°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 0.7°C against 0.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.0°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 6.8°C against 4.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C above normal, the official said. (GNS)

CS Reviews Admin's

demarcation of safer zones for holding of langars and tentages for the pilgrims.

Dulloo also assessed the works to be done by the Rural Development Department (RDD) along with Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) to ensure adequate arrangements for sanitation during Yatra 2024. These included installation of requisite number of toilets/baths with provision of sufficient water supply, deploying sufficient number of sanitation workers & supervi-

sors, carrying out scientific disposal of waste etc.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the measures to be taken by Health, Jal Shakti, PDD, Animal Husbandry, FCS&CA, Transport, IMD and Information departments in providing hassle-free services to the pilgrims. He even enquired from Telecom service providers and Disaster Management agencies about their preparedness to make this year's yatra successful.

During the meeting, the Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Man-deep Kumar Bhandari, who is also CEO of the Shrine Board, threw light on different aspects and facilities being extended by the administration to the pilgrims during the yatra.

He apprised the meeting of the best practices to be emulated this year from Yatra, 2023. He also informed about the new measures to be taken on part of the administration for making this annual pilgrimage smooth and successful.

Kashmir Records

In recent years, several entrepreneurs have ventured into floriculture, drawn by the region's conducive climate and fertile soil, combined with increasing demand for flowers both domestically and internationally.

These start-ups are not only redefining the agricultural sector but also providing employment opportunities and contributing to the socio-economic development of the valley.

Another such start-up is "Kashmir Blossoms," founded by Muneer Shah, a young entrepreneur with a passion for floriculture. Shah, a native of Kashmir, recognized the potential of the flower industry and decided to capitalize on it. "Kashmir has a rich tradition of floriculture, and I saw an opportunity to modernize it by focusing on high-value flowers," said Shah.

Shah who hails from Narbal area said as many as 30 families in the village have been associated with commercial floriculture for the last three years. "It was me who started this business in my village and now we have more than 30 such businesses in my area," he said.

Moreover, the government's supportive policies and initiatives aimed at promoting floriculture have further propelled the growth of startups in the sector.

Officials said the subsidies on equipment, technical assistance, and access to markets have encouraged more individuals to venture into floriculture, thereby diversifying Kashmir's agricultural economy—(KNO)

Over 1 Million Tourists

Rs 110 crores. J&K Tourism sees unprecedented growth which continues to surpass all previous figures," the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department posted on X.

Last year (2022-2023) the number of tourists who had a Gondola ride were 8.5 lakh while in 2021-2022, 6 lakh tourists took the ride, Excelsior reported.

The Gulmarg Gondola, the second longest and second highest cable car system globally, stands as a prime attraction for tourists visiting the ski resort. It transports visitors from Gulmarg to Khilanmarg and Apharwat, reaching an altitude of 14,000 ft.

J&K Govt Announces

Parliamentary Constituency, the polling day of May 13 (Monday) will be observed as a holiday.

Likewise, the Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency will observe May 20 (Monday) as holiday on account of polling day.

The government order also stated that a person who is ordinarily resident of a constituency and registered as an elector, serving and employed in an industrial undertaking or an establishment located outside the constituency including casual workers shall also be entitled to the benefit of a paid holiday on the day of poll.

It is further ordered that the above paid holidays shall also be observed in terms of explanation to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

'Mustard Bloom'

mustard fields is giving him a peace of mind and he prefers to visit Kashmir in spring as Kashmir is more beautiful in this period.

Some tourists from other countries said that the beauty and weather of Kashmir is beyond imagination and one must visit this place at least once in life.

They said that this is really heaven on earth and spending time here is like spending time in heaven.

Meanwhile, officials said that land under mustard is increasing with each year under a holistic development programme and special attention is being given to develop agro-tourism in Kashmir—(KNO)

RAHI ADVERTISERS

+91-7006034174
SARAI DANGERPORA,
SUMBAL. 193501

Towards Zero Hunger

PM Modi Extends Support To India's Permanent Mission To UN

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, at its headquarters in New York, will be hosting an event on Tuesday, to commemorate India's significant contribution towards achieving Zero Hunger, in line with Sustainable Development Goal-2.

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations formally refers to the Indian delegation to the United Nations.

The occasion will have a message shared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Several eminent guests are expected to be in attendance.

It will witness opening remarks by Ambassador

Ruchira Kamboj, and keynote addresses by Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi. N. R. Narayana Murthy, Founder & Chairman Emeritus of Infosys, and Madhu Pandita Dasa, Chairman of The Akshaya Patra Foundation will also be in attendance.

The event, titled Achievements in Food Security: India's Strides Towards Sustainable Development Goals, deliberates on the initiatives undertaken by the Government of India and The Akshaya Patra Foundation towards achieving this goal. It also recognises Akshaya Patra's dedication and deliverance towards alleviating hunger both in India and overseas, over the last 23 years.



The event will also celebrate the remarkable milestone of serving four billion meals by the Akshaya Patra Foundation.

The Akshaya Patra Foundation was established in 2000. Going a step ahead with the ISKCON temple's tradition of feeding the hungry (whoever comes to the temple), it all began with feeding 1,500 children of five schools in Bengaluru.

This initiative grew to become the world's largest (not-for-profit run) mid-day meal programme, serving wholesome food to over two million children from 24,082 schools across 16 states and two Union Territory in India. Speaking to IANS, Navee-

na Neerada Dasa, Executive Director, Strategy and International Relations of ISKCON, Bangalore and The Akshaya Patra Foundation, said that they intend to bring together countries and entities to join this cause.

"Not a think-tank, we are a 'do-tank,'" he said.

He recommends setting up centralised kitchens to serve the purpose of a holistic, functional kitchen even during times of crisis and disaster, and cited the example of their services during the Covid-19 pandemic when they expanded their capacity to 110 per cent and continued to feed the hungry.

The event will begin at 8.30 p.m. IST (11.00 a.m. EST).

Excise Policy Case

CM Kejriwal Calls Own Party Leader Confused In Statement To ED

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Incarcerated Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, when confronted with the statement of AAP National Treasurer, ND Gupta, in the alleged excise scam by the ED, termed his own party leader "confused."

A Delhi court on Monday sent the AAP's National Convener Kejriwal to judicial custody till April 15 after his ED custody ended today.

CM Kejriwal was arrested on March 21 in the excise policy case by the financial probe agency.

"The arrestee (CM Kejriwal) has even given false and contrary evidence vis-à-vis other members of the AAP. When he was confronted with the statements given by his own party leaders he has called them confused," read the ED's judicial custody application submitted in the court on Monday.

The ED claimed that ND Gupta (CA and former President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India) in his statement has revealed that it is the AAP's National Convener Kejriwal, who appoints the state election incharge/Prabhari.

"State Prabhari is supposed to manage all election campaign-related matters. In case of the Goa elections Durgesh Pathak was chosen. However, CM Kejriwal states that it is the PAC (Political Affairs Committee) which decided the state elec-

tion incharge. Kejriwal first said that Gupta is an active member of the party and is a member of the PAC and has knowledge of the party's functioning. But when confronted with Gupta's statement wherein he reveals that the National Convener takes such decisions, Kejriwal calls Gupta confused," the ED's application read.

he ED further said that during the custodial interrogation, CM Kejriwal was also shown the evidence of Hawala transfers to the tune of Rs 45 crore which is corroborated with Call Details Record locations, IT department seized data of a Hawala firm in Goa, proof of payments being done in part cash and part bill and WhatsApp showing this arrangement.

"He was also shown multiple statements of witnesses, who worked on the AAP's campaign in Goa and received cash from one Chanpreet Singh, who was working for the AAP's campaign in Goa," said the ED in the application.

"This (Chanpreet Singh) person collected and facilitated collection of Rs 45 crore cash through Hawala and also received Rs 220,340 directly in his bank account from the AAP. Even after showing all the above evidence, the arrestee (CM Kejriwal) claimed unawareness even though the beneficiary of these funds is the AAP which is headed by the arrestee," it further read.

PM Lauds RBI, Says India Must Become Financially 'Atmanirbhar' In 10 Years



IAN S

MUMBAI: Over the next 10 years, India must strive to become a 'financially Atmanirbhar' economy that is shielded from all global events and continues to march ahead confidently for progress and development, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, said on Monday.

Speaking at the 90th anniversary celebrations of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the PM said that the country's economy has risen in the last few years from the inherited mess of 2014 when the BJP government took office,

and is now poised for take-off.

"India is among the youngest nations in the world... Our policies have opened up new sectors in the economy like green energy, digital technology, Defence which is getting into the export mode, MSMEs, space and tourism industries.

"The RBI must address the aspirations of the youth and develop 'out-of-the-box' policies for all these emerging sectors to help the youth," urged the PM.

Pointing out that globally there is a challenge for nations to strike a balance between inflation control and growth, the PM called upon the RBI to study and

develop a model for this, which can be a trendsetter for the world, especially the Global South, while ensuring that the Indian Rupee is accessible and acceptable world over.

He said that in the next 10 years, India will strive to improve its financial independence, with the country's economy getting impacted minimally by global developments "as we are already on the way to becoming a world growth engine."

Present at the celebrations were Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das, and other dignitaries.

Adani Ports Handles Record 420 MMT Cargo Globally



IAN S

AHMEDABAD: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) handled record 420 MMT (million metric tonne) cargo in FY24 (including international ports), which is an impressive 24 per cent growth (year-on-year), with domestic ports contributing over 408 MMT cargo, it announced on Monday.

The company handled its highest ever monthly cargo volumes (including international ports) of over 38 MMT in the month of March alone.

"While it took 14 years for the company to achieve the first 100 MMT of annual cargo throughput, the second and third 100 MMT throughputs were achieved in 5 years and 3 years," said Karan Adani, Managing Director, APSEZ.

During FY24, more than one-fourth of all India cargo volumes was routed through the APSEZ ports.

"The latest 100 MMT mark has been achieved in less than two years. This is a testament to our ongoing commitment and efforts towards enhancing operational efficiencies and maintaining our position as a top port operator

in the industry," Karan Adani added.

Eight ports - 84 per cent of the portfolio by volume - delivered double digit growth.

The flagship port Mundra became the first in India to handle 16 MMT cargo in a single month (October 2023).

These accomplishments were achieved despite multiple challenges, such as the global trade disruptions caused by the Red Sea crisis, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and issues at the Panama Canal, and disruption of operations due to Cyclone Biparjoy and Cyclone Michaung.

In the container segment, the ports at Mundra, Hazira, Kattupalli and Ennore handled record volumes. Around 44 per cent of the containerised seaborne cargo in India moves through APSEZ ports, said the company.

The company's container volumes have grown by two times of India's container growth in the last five years. In the dry cargo segment, ports such as Tuna, Mormugao, Karaikal, Krishnapatnam, Gangavaram and Dhamra handled record volumes this financial year, the company informed.

Cong, DMK Callousness On Katchatheevu Harmed Interests Of Our Poor Fishermen: PM

IAN S

CHENNAI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched a scathing attack on Congress and DMK on the Katchatheevu issue, saying that both parties have their family interests.

In a post on 'X', PM Modi said, "Rhetoric aside, DMK has done NOTHING to safeguard Tamil Nadu's interests. New details emerging on #Katchatheevu have UNMASKED the DMK's double standards totally. Congress and DMK are family units. They only care that their own sons and daughters rise. They don't care for anyone else. Their callousness on Katchatheevu has harmed the interests of our poor fishermen and fisherwomen in particular."

The PM was responding to a media report based on an RTI reply of the Ministry of External Affairs to the Tamil Nadu BJP President, K. Annamalai.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Modi said the Government of India under the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had ceded the Katchatheevu island to Sri Lanka in 1974.

In the reply to the RTI query, the MEA had

responded that the first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had written that "the island was inconsequential" and that "there was no reason in continuing with this".

The document procured by Annamalai and in public domain clearly states that the then Attorney General and one of the best legal brains of the country during those days, M.C. Setalvad had advised that India had a good legal case in the Katchatheevu island as this island's rights were handed over by the East India company to the then Ramanad (Ramanathapuram) king.

The fishermen of Tamil Nadu have been facing a tough situation with the Sri Lankan Navy arresting Indian fishermen and impounding their costly mechanised boats. Since 2024 January more than 125 Tamil fishermen have been arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy and there has been growing resentment among the fishermen and their families.

Fishermen families are on strike in Ramanathapuram, Nagapattinam, Pudukottai and many other fishing hamlets of Tamil Nadu against the arrests and impounding of costly boats.

It Is Torturous Watching One's Work On Screen: Roshan Mathew

SUKANT DEEPAK

NEW DELHI: He may have been discovered by Hindi audiences post his appearance in the film 'Darlings', though actor Roshan Mathew, who started his career with theatre, has long been effortlessly navigating the Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu film industries.

A pass-out from the Drama School in Mumbai, the actor smiles that it can be torturous watching one's work on the screen and a lot of people feel that way.

"Of course, it is essential to set your expectations high as one strives for artistic excellence. But remember, the actor enters the movie for a short duration during the entire filmmaking process. It is the director, who is involved in every aspect of the process. By the time the film comes out, and you watch yourself on the screen, you already know what is going to happen. One is surprised to observe the work that has gone into the post-production phase and all. So many people embellish your work. But yes, I have been trying to teach myself to get better at watching myself."

Someone who had his first major role in the 2016 film 'Puthiya Niyaamam', admits that 'Darlings' (2022) has been like a steroid for him.

"It was the biggest project I have worked on, both in terms of scale and stars. Every actor needs 'visibility', and I do not come from a film factory. 'Darlings' was watched by a large number of people and I quite liked my character in it," said the actor, whose father is a bank manager and mother a retired PWD engineer in Kottayam.

Even though Mathew works in diverse industries, he always 'comes back' to Malayalam cinema. Stressing that is where he belongs

and that is where his story started, he said: "My childhood was spent mostly in Kerala. Besides, fantastic films are being made in Malayalam. So many people continue to inspire me and the list of people I want to collaborate with is just growing. So there is always a reason to go back home."

From Karan Johar to filmmakers across the country, everyone is talking about Malayalam films that are making their presence felt at major film festivals across the country and also doing well in theatres. Mathew feels that in Kerala there has always been a climate that lends itself to the growth of independent films.

"As long as there is mainstream, there will always be a parallel stream. As long as there are people brave enough to think and envision, independent cinema will continue to thrive," said the actor, who was in Chandigarh during the recently concluded CineVesture International Film Festival (CIFF).

Is he also looking to work in independent films? "Of course, I would like to collaborate with parallel streams and people who are not doing mainstream cinema. They bring forth so many

original thoughts which can be illuminating to explore," he smiles.

The actor, who began his career with numerous theatre productions based in Chennai and Mumbai including 'The Glass Menagerie' directed by Rajit Kapoor and '07/07/07' directed by Faezeh Jalali, feels theatre has taught him everything, and before he did his debut film, he already had five years of professional theatre experience.

"I went into my first shoot with the assurance that I know how to act and the atmospherics were not alien to me."

Mathew, who played the lead role in 'Paradise' (2023), a Sri Lankan-Indian co-produced drama film co-written and directed by Prasanna Vithanage, which is being received well at film festivals across the world, said that he is glad that the movie is travelling so much.

"It is a story that is truly universal, revolving around a couple and things that can happen in a relationship. This film is very special to me, owing to the people involved and the fact that it is multilingual," concludes the actor, who will soon be seen with Janhvi Kapoor in the film 'Ulajh', a web series in Hindi and a Malayalam film.



Indian Indices On Strong Footing At Onset Of New Financial Year

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Indian market was on a strong footing at the onset of the new financial year on Monday.

At close on Monday, the Nifty was up 135.10 points, or 0.61 per cent, at 22,462, while the Sensex was up 363.20 points, or 0.49 per cent, at 74,014.55.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said this confidence is supported by a global rally in expectation of a US Fed rate cut in June and a healthy domestic earnings growth forecast in Q4FY24.

Metal stocks excelled on Monday, owing to the swift pace of Chinese PMI data, indicating traction in the economic recovery, Nair said.

Going ahead, the RBI monetary policy, PMI data, and US non-farm payroll

data will set the direction of the market, he added.

Vaibhav Vidwani, Research Analyst, Bonanza Portfolio, said Nifty Realty and Nifty Metal were the sectors that outperformed on Monday, up by 4.36 per cent and 3.70 per cent, respectively.

Monday's spike in metal stocks came from Chinese economic statistics suggesting that the manufacturing sector is recovering, which might mean higher demand for metals overall. China's manufacturing activity grew at the fastest pace in 13 months, marking the first expansion in six months, he said.

The top Nifty gainers included Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Adani Ports, Shriram Finance, and Divis Labs, while the top losers included Eicher Motors, Titan Company, Bajaj Auto, LTIMindtree, and Nestle.

UT Media Nodal Officer Interacts With AROs, Nodal Officers In Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: UT Media Nodal Officer for General Elections-2024, Sapna Kotwal (Secretary, J&K Advisory Board for Development of Pahari) Monday held an interaction session with Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) and Election Nodal Officers of District Srinagar here regarding Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities taken up in the district.

The meeting was held to take first hand appraisal of progress on activities being held under Systematic

Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign in Srinagar district for voter education, spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in view of the upcoming polls in 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

On the occasion, the UT Media Nodal Officer was given a detailed PowerPoint Presentation regarding the SVEEP activities held in Srinagar district during 2023-24. She was informed that over 90 thousand eligible new voters were added including over 25 thousand young voters during the SVEEP campaign held

across the district.

She appreciated the efforts of the SVEEP team of Srinagar district for sensitizing the new voters. She asked the officers to continue the SVEEP activities and install hoardings at prominent public places besides publicizing through different print/electronic and social media platforms to maximize the voter turnout in the district.

Besides, Deputy District Election Officer, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, the meeting was attended by AROs, Nodal Officer SVEEP and other concerned officials.

Martyrdom Anniversary Of Hazrat Ali (AS) Observed

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Thousands of Muslims thronged shrines and Imambargahs on Monday to mark the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Ali (AS), one of the most revered icons of Islam.

Every year, on the 21st day of Ramadan, mourners gather in mosques and religious centers across many parts of the Muslim world to attend ceremonies commemorating the martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat Ali.

In a poignant display of reverence and remembrance, locals here in Gangoo Village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district gathered on Monday to observe the martyrdom day of Imam Ali (AS). The solemn event unfolded at the Markazi Imam Bargah, where devout followers converged to honor the enduring legacy of Imam Ali (AS).

Renowned religious scholar, Moulana Sheikh Ghulam Rasool Noorie illuminated the gathering with profound insights into the life and teachings of Imam Ali (AS). Emphasizing Imam Ali's unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and compassion, Moulana



Noorie underscored the timeless relevance of his principles in today's world. He urged the attendees, particularly the youth, to internalize the profound philosophy of Imamat and wilayat exemplified by Imam Ali (AS), calling upon them to embody these values in their daily lives.

The commemorative event resonated with heartfelt rec-

tations of marsiya by local Zakireen, who eloquently paid tribute to the noble sacrifices of Moulana Imam Ali (as). The gathering, attended by scores of devotees, served as a poignant moment of reflection and solidarity, as participants collectively honored the memory of Imam Ali (AS) and his enduring impact on Islamic history.

Imam Ali (AS) met his mar-

tyrdom while in prayer at the mosque in Kufa, Iraq, on the 21st day, underscoring the profound significance of his sacrifice. The observance in Gangoo Village stood as a testament to the enduring reverence and admiration for Imam Ali (as) among believers, reaffirming his timeless legacy as a symbol of steadfast faith and unwavering commitment to righteousness.

Rigged 1987 Elections In J&K Under Rajiv Gandhi Responsible For Terrorism: Rana



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana Monday said the rigged elections to Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in 1987 during the tenure of the Congress government under Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi led to widespread disillusionment and eventually germination of terrorism.

"The Congress set a stage for Pakistan to take advantage of the situation post rigged elections to unleash terrorism that led to large scale destruction, mayhem and ethnic cleansing of the miniscule but peaceful minority community from their homes and hearths," Devender Rana said while addressing prominent members of Gujjar community of Tehsil Nagrota and Dansal here this evening along with DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan and District President Jammu North Mr. Omi Khajuria and former MLC Haji Mohammad Hussain.

He said the guns would not have entered into the Valley had the elections not been rigged and the concerns of the then Governor Jagmohan heeded to by the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. It was because of the muteness of the Congress government at New Delhi that led to eruption of terrorism, followed by total surrender by the then Union government, which served as a booster for terrorists and separatists to call the shots. Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Government played havoc with the democratic ethos and brought Jammu and Kashmir to such a morass that thousands of people got killed

and widespread destruction became the norm for nearly three decades, he added.

"But for the course correction by the BJP under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, the Congress with its lackeys in the political spectrum of Kashmir would have continued with their agenda of allowing political instability and disturbed conditions to bully New Delhi and remain leached to power", Devender Rana said, adding that the meaningful efforts towards restoring trust in the mechanism of governance by the double-engine dispensation has made a huge difference post August 6, 2019. Redressal of grievances has hugely contributed towards fostering peace and stability in the region that has manifested huge transformation on development and economic fronts, he said.

Devender Rana also referred to the path-breaking initiatives taken in the past over four years with thrust on transforming Jammu and Kashmir that has unfortunately been subjected to neglect and deprivation by successive governments. He said the people in this part of the country are for the first time having a feel of being at the centre stage of various schemes aimed at ameliorating their lot. The restoration of peace has paved the way for unprecedented initiatives on infrastructural development and the implementation of various schemes. The governmental efforts are seen at ground zero in a big way, as the people are now deriving the dividends of peace, he maintained.

Dr Iffat Gets Additional Charge Of Principal GMC Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Dr Iffat Hassan incharge principal GMC Handwara has been given additional charge of principal GMC Srinagar.

As per an order, the appointment has been made in view of the superannuation of principal GMC Srinagar Dr Masood Tanveer Bhat superannuated on March 31.

"Consequent upon the superannuation of Prof. (Dr.) Masood Tanvir Bhat, Principal GMC Srinagar

on 31-03-2024, and due to the Model Code of Conduct being in place because of General Elections to Lok Sabha - 2024 and in order to ensure patient care in Government Medical College, Srinagar & Associated Hospitals, it is hereby ordered that Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan I/c Principal Government Medical College Handwara shall look after the charge of Principal Government Medical College Srinagar, in addition to her own duties, till further orders," reads the order--(KNO)

Indian Defence Exports Crossed Rs 21000 Crore Mark For The First Time: Rajnath Singh

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh took to social media to announce that the country's defence exports have soared to unprecedented levels, crossing the milestone of Rs 21,000 crore for the first time in the history of Independent India.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh posted on x, "Delighted to inform everyone that the Indian Defence Exports have scaled to unprecedented heights and crossed Rs 21,000 crore mark for the first time in the history of Independent India! India's defence exports have reached to the level of Rs.21,083 Crore in the financial year 2023-24 which is a spectacular growth of 32.5 per cent over the previous fiscal."

According to the statement posted by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, India's defence exports surged to a staggering Rs 21,083 crore in the financial year 2023-24, marking a remarkable growth rate of 32.5 per cent over the previous fiscal year.

India's defence exports span across 84 countries and regions worldwide.

This phenomenal growth reflects the concerted efforts and strategic initiatives undertaken by the Defence Ministry, particularly under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to bolster India's defence manufacturing capabilities and promote indigenous defence production.

The Defence Ministry has implemented a series of initiatives aimed at catalysing India's defence manufacturing sector.

These initiatives have not only facilitated technological advance-



ments but have also created a conducive environment for both public and private sectors to actively participate and contribute to the nation's defence exports.

The success story of India's defence exports owes much to the collective efforts of about 50 Indian companies, spanning both the public and private sectors, who have played a pivotal role in achieving this feat.

These companies have demonstrated commendable innovation, efficiency, and quality standards, thereby enhancing India's reputation as a reliable supplier of defence equipment and technology.

India's defence exports have diversified geographically, with exports reaching countries such as Italy, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Russia, UAE, Poland, Philippines, Saudi

Arabia, Egypt, Israel, Spain, Chile, among others.

This global outreach underscores the growing demand for Indian defence products and the increasing recognition of India's capabilities in meeting the evolving security needs of nations worldwide.

Among the major defence items being exported, Personal Protective Items, Offshore Patrol Vehicles, ALH Helicopters, SU Avionics, Coastal Surveillance Systems, Light Engineering Mechanical Parts, Kavach MoD, among others, have emerged as key contributors to India's defence export portfolio.

These cutting-edge defence technologies and equipment have garnered significant interest from international buyers, further enhancing India's position as a leading exporter of defence hardware.

Safeguards Must Be Established To Prevent Abuse Of AI: CJI



IANS

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday said that adequate safeguards must be established to prevent abuse of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and other advanced technologies.

Delivering 20th D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture on the occasion of CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) Raising Day, CJI Chandrachud said that AI is not free of prejudice and biases and because of skewed data, AI may lead to community-based profiling of marginalised social groups.

"This may not only abuse the privacy rights of individuals but also lead to disproportionate targeting of social groups. AI is a gift which must only be wielded within ethical boundaries," he said.

CJI Chandrachud added that the benefits of technological advancement should reach all members of society to build trust and confidence among stakeholders and uphold the integrity of our justice system.

He said that with the

assistance of AI algorithms, law enforcement agencies like the CBI can analyse vast amounts of data rapidly, identifying trends, anomalies, and potential leads with unprecedented accuracy.

"For example, in a human trafficking case, AI-powered algorithms analysed social media data to identify patterns of suspicious behaviour and communication among potential perpetrators," CJI Chandrachud said.

By leveraging AI technology, law enforcement could sift through vast amounts of data quickly and efficiently, pinpointing critical leads and actionable intelligence that might have otherwise gone unnoticed, the CJI added.

CJI Chandrachud also presented President's Police Medals (PPM) and Police Medals (PM) to CBI officers on the occasion.

The CBI was established by the Union government vide a resolution dated April 1, 1963 to investigate cases of bribery and corruption, including violation of central fiscal laws and serious crimes.

Vinod Kumar Holds Meeting To Discuss Preparations For LS Polls



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu, Dr. Vinod Kumar, led a crucial meeting at the District Police Line (DPL) in Jammu to address preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The gathering, attended by Zonal SPs, operational SPs, and other key officers, focused on ensuring a safe and conducive environment for voters to exercise their democratic rights.

During the meeting, various security measures were discussed to maintain law and order and ensure peace and stability in the district. Emphasis was placed on quality investigation of cases, crime disposal, and addressing social crimes effectively. SSP Jammu underscored the importance of both quantitative and qualitative case disposal and urged officers to take strict

action against those involved in criminal activities. Additionally, preparations for the parliamentary elections were thoroughly reviewed, covering coordination and deployment of security personnel, implementation of stringent security protocols, and collaboration with relevant authorities to address emerging security challenges.

SSP Jammu reiterated the commitment of the Jammu Police to uphold fairness, transparency, and impartiality throughout the electoral process. He emphasized the importance of maintaining vigilance against electoral malpractices and ensuring a safe voting environment for citizens. Furthermore, officers were directed to provide exemplary policing services to the public, adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption and crime, and uphold discipline at all levels of operation--(KNO)

Lok Sabha Polls

CEO Reviews Election Preparedness In Poonch

GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole, Monday chaired a meeting of officers on Monday to review preparations being put in place for the upcoming Lok Sabha Election 2024.

The meeting had a comprehensive review of District Election Management Plans for Poonch besides deliberating on implementation of electoral roll process, assessment of logistical requirements, manpower management plan, risk management plan, transportation of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), polling staff and security personnel, security arrangements both in plains and border areas. District Election offi-



cer Poonch, Mohd Yaseen Chaudhary, SSP, Yugal Manhas, Additional District Development Commissioner Sandesh Kumar Sharma, Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, AROs, and all zonal and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

The meeting further deliberated on allocation of sufficient Human Resources, implementation of SVEEP plan at booth level, formulation of a comprehensive material management plan, efficient and secure route

mapping and development of an extensive training program tailored for Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) and designated nodal officers to ensure extensive preparation for the elections.

The officers were instructed to monitor various aspects of the election process through already established control rooms. Further, the Chief Electoral Officer instructed the AROs for implementation of widespread awareness

campaigns at booth level by engaging BLOs, sports personalities, government employees, youth icons, influencers and by organising sports events, rallies, competitions and door-to-door campaigns to increase public participation in the electoral process.

The Chief Electoral Officer also underscored the importance of guaranteeing Adequate Minimum Facilities (AMF) for the polling staff and the security personnel deployed for electoral duties on the election day. He instructed the appointed Welfare Officers to ensure availability of clean washrooms, drinking water, first aid and electricity, at their designated camping areas for their comfort and well-being while fulfilling their duties during the elections.