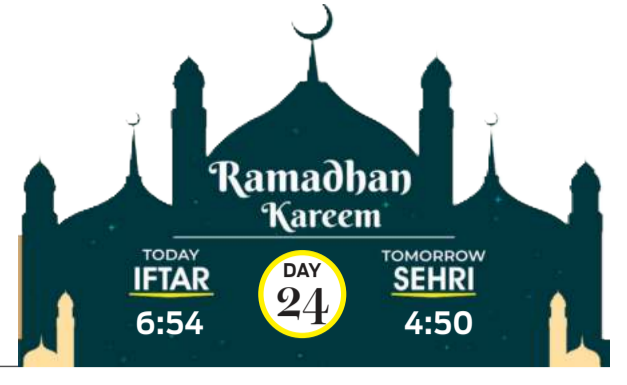


Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication



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Night Temp Rises In J&K

SRINAGAR: Amid cloud cover with possibility of rains during next 24 hours, night temperature recorded an increase in most parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a minimum of 8.0°C against 4.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.6°C above normal for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 7.0°C against 4.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C. ●P-06

LG Sinha Chairs 72nd Board Meeting Of SMVD Shrine Board

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday chaired the 72nd Board Meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) at Raj Bhawan.

The meeting was attended by Members of the Board - Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giri Maharaj; Shri Kul Bhushan Ahuja; Shri Baleshwar Rai; Dr Ashok Bhan; Dr Neelam Sareen; Shri K K Sharma; Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma and Shri Raghu K. Mehta. Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor and Sh Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB also attended the meeting.

The Board reviewed the progress of its various past decisions, progress of different developmental initiatives and held extensive deliberations on crucial aspects of pilgrim facilitation, ratified and gave in-principle approvals to as many as 27 agenda items to augment pilgrim services and to ensure smooth func-



HE ASKED the CEO to come up with a comprehensive plan for consideration.

buildings in various Sectors aimed at augmenting capacities etc. were the major decisions taken at the meeting.

The Board observed that direct helicopter service between Jammu Airport and Panchhi Helipad on the Shrine track will not only bolster emergency response capabilities but also improve pilgrimage experience of devotees. ●P-06

NSA Doval Highlights Cross-Border Terrorism Concerns At SCO Meeting

AGENCIES

KAZAKHSTAN: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval led a delegation at the 19th Meeting of Secretaries of the Security Council of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Astana. In his address, Doval highlighted the need to shun double standards and hold sponsors, financiers and facilitators of terrorism accountable.

In his address, NSA Doval stated that any act of terror committed by whomsoever, whenever and for whatever reasons is not justified. He asserted that perpetrators of terrorism should be effectively and expeditiously dealt with, including those involved in cross-border terrorism.

He raised the issue of the continued threat posed by various terror groups in the SCO region, including those designated by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), including Al Qaeda



and its affiliates, ISIS & its affiliates, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad.

NSA Doval stressed the need to counter the use of technology by terrorists, including drones for cross-border smuggling of weapons and drugs. He said that India supports the creation of effective mechanisms for countering terror financing and supports further strengthening of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) SCO in this regard.

Highlighting the ties between SCO nations and India, he stated that the relationship goes back several centuries and is committed to further deepening it. He emphasised that India is committed to enhancing transit trade and connectivity, which he stressed must be fully respectful of sovereignty and territorial integrity of SCO member States.

In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in Kazakhstan stated, "Shri Ajit Doval, NSA led delegation at 19th Meeting of Secretaries of Security Council of @sco_rblx in #Astana. NSA Ajit Doval also called on the President of Kazakhstan @TokayevKZ along with Representatives of other Member States."

In his speech, he strongly condemned the terrorist attack at Crocus City Hall in Moscow on March 22 and offered condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones. He also conveyed India's solidarity ●P-06

DURING HIS VISIT, NSA DOVAL AND REPRESENTATIVES OF other member states called on Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. During the meeting, Doval conveyed India's support for Kazakh initiatives in SCO and a successful presidency.

Gurez Receives Fresh Snowfall, Rains Lash Plains

OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: As a weak Western Disturbance (WD) affected Jammu & Kashmir, a few areas in the higher reaches received fresh snowfall while the rains lashed plains of the valley on Wednesday.

Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora area ●P-06

Power Woes New Poll Plank For Parties In J&K

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, electricity has emerged as a crucial election issue and is set to become the major poll plank for the parties in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Despite ongoing efforts to bolster the power infrastructure, dissatisfaction simmers among over 20 lakh consumers, signaling widespread discontentment that political parties are poised to exploit in the upcoming elections.

The palpable frustration stems from the sluggish progress in rectifying the ailing electricity infrastructure, with rural areas bearing the brunt of dilapidated transformers, poles, and wires. While urban regions witness a semblance of progress, rural locales grapple with prolonged power outages during peak seasons, exacerbating the daily struggles of residents.

Over the past decade, various initiatives under the Prime Minister's Development Program, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, and the Integrated Power Development ●P-06

Gangster, Police Officer Killed In Kathua Shoot-Out

DGP Vows To Go 'Hammer And Tongs' Against Criminals



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A police officer and a gangster were killed in a shoot-out in Jammu's Kathua district on April 3.

Officials said an encounter between the police and the gangster broke out within the premises of the Government Medical College, Kathua, during a chase.

The ganster was being chased by a team of ●P-06

LG Pays Tribute To Cop Killed In Kathua Shootout

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday paid tributes to the PSI Deepak Sharma, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

Sharma was initially injured in a Kathua shootout but later succumbed to his injuries at Amandeep Hospital ●P-06

Kashmiri Pandit Leads 'Street Iftaar' In Srinagar

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: In a heart-warming display of communal harmony, Kashmiri Pandits organised a Street Iftaar in the historic neighbourhood of Bohri Kadal in Downtown Srinagar.

Despite the bustling streets and wet weather conditions, the distribution of Iftaar Kits aimed to foster unity and understanding among people of different backgrounds.

The distribution of Iftaar Kits was led by Sandeep Mawa, a Kashmiri Pandit and a respected figure in the community. Mawa is the Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Reconciliation Front.

Speaking about the kit distribution, Sandeep expressed his joy at seeing people from all walks of life gathering to share a meal and exchange warm greetings. He emphasized the need for such initiatives to continue bridging divides and promoting peace in the region.

Moreover, a local, Sahil, shared his thoughts on the event, saying, "This Street Iftaar is a beautiful ●P-06

Eid-ul-Fitr Ahead Arabic Traditional Attire Jubba Finds Its Way In Kashmir

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: Arabic traditional attire Jubba has found its way into the streets of Kashmir, thanks to the holy month of Ramadan during which Muslims mostly prefer to wear modest outfits.

Ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, sales of Jubbas have picked up in Kashmir as a large section of the people, mostly youth, prefer to wear it during the festival.

Jubba, also known as Thobe or Dishdasha in other parts of the Muslim world, is a flowing ankle-length garment, typically made of light fabric such as cotton or linen, worn by men. Its loose-fitting nature allows comfort, making it a popular choice during the festival of Eid Ul Fitr and Eid Ul Adha.

Inspired by the rich heritage of Arabian attire, Kashmiri youth are embracing these garments as a symbol of contemporary style and cultural amalgamation.

Kashmir has seen a notable increase in demand for jubba over the past several years, particularly on Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha.



Many of the males these days can be seen offering Eid prayers in mosques or Eidgahs while sporting white and colored Jubbas.

"I have been in Saudi Arabia for many years and I imbibed the habit of wearing Jubba from there only. In Kashmir ●P-06

Div Com Reviews Arrangements For Eid Ul Fitr



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Wednesday convened a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and officers of various departments to review the arrangements for the celebration of upcoming religious festivals by different communities including Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus.

The Div Com reviewed comprehensive arrangements for the observance of Shab-e-Qadr, Friday following and the celebration of Eid ul Fitr, Baisakhi and Navratra in the valley.

Addressing the meeting, Bidhuri enjoined on all the officers to ensure availability of all requisite services and facilities to the people including electricity, drinking water, sanitation, cleanliness, food items and other essentials. ●P-06

MOVIES Schedule

Thursday 04 April

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

CREW (HINDI)
12:00PM, 02:40PM, 06:00PM (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)

Call 95416 13868 For assistance with tickets

Sports Activities in Full Bloom across J&K

YSS Promotes Sports Culture, Drug-Free Society Across J&K: Dir YSS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports organise a wide range of sports and other activities for students and youth in general across all the 20 districts of the Union Territory of J&K throughout the year. "Aiming to promote sports culture/ Drug free Society and a healthy Nation, Zonal and District level Offices play an important role in engaging students in different games and allied activities", this was stated by Director Department of Youth Services and Sports Subash C Chhibber while appreciating the efforts of field staff of the Department in taping sports talent in school children and giving it a positive direction.



Pertinently the Department has started a variety of sports activities through Zonal Offices. Zone Zaldagar conducted Volleyball /Tug of war and recreational games on Wednesday, engaging a large Number of students hailing from the Zone. The event was inaugurated by the Principal MPML HSS Nikhat Mir in presence of ZPEO Zaldagar Javed Ahmad Malik and Officials of the Department of Y&S&S. An anti drug pledge was administered before

starting the event. Later the winners were awarded by the ZPEO concerned. Meanwhile Zone Rainawari conducted Chess and Carrom Competitions at Boys High School Rainawari in which more than 50 students of the Zone overwhelmingly participated. The event was inaugurated by ZPEO Rainawari Rifat Shafi. She urged the students to be safe from drugs and to adopt games and Sports as part of life. Meanwhile in an inspiring endeavor to foster cultural and spiritual understanding among youth, the Department of Youth Services and Sports orga-

minated with a keynote address by the District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Anantnag, who emphasized the time-less lessons from the life of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). Competitions in Tug of War and Carrom were also organized for AAG Boys and Girls in the District. The event commenced with the ceremonial inauguration by the ZPEO Manzoor Ahmad Ganie, whose words resonated with the essence of sportsmanship and discipline.

Meanwhile, Youth Services and Sports Office Ganderbal also organized Intramural Sports Activities Across the District. Students from different sports zones of the District participated in multiple sports events, showcasing their enthusiasm and passion for sports. Sheikh Shafiq Iqbal, District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Ganderbal, extended a warm welcome to the Departmental officials and students, applauding their participation in the season's inaugural sporting events. "This initiative aims to foster a culture of physical activity, teamwork, and healthy competition among the youth across all zones of the district", DYSSO said.

SVEEP

Voters Awareness program held in Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: On the directions of District Election Officer (DEO), Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, mega Voters Awareness programs under the aegis of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign were Wednesday organized at different education clusters of the district.

These programmes were aimed to raise awareness about various voting-related activities and promote electoral literacy, education and awareness among citizens, especially first-time voters in the run-up to the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections.

Voters Awareness programs organized by Nodal Officer SVEEP/CEO Kupwara were held at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Haril, Government



Boys Higher Secondary School Drugmulla, Government Boys Higher Secondary School Trehgam and Government Higher Secondary School Nachyan Karnah. The events were attended by the Principals, ZEOs,

teachers, and students from different schools, general public, first time voters, community leaders, local artists and other target groups. Speaking at the events, concerned Cluster Heads,

ZEOs and Resource Persons emphasized on the significance of electoral literacy in empowering citizens and urged everyone, especially first-time voters, to exercise their franchise responsibly in the upcoming elections.

Motivational skits on voting were presented by students who highlighted the importance of voting. Quiz competitions and Interactive sessions designed to educate and aware the target groups inspired the young voters to actively participate in the democratic process.

Voter Pledge ceremonies under SVEEP were held where participants took the pledge to vote enthusiastically in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

As a token of appreciation, achiever students were also felicitated with appreciation certifications.

DEO B'pura conducts comprehensive inspection of polling stations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The District Election Officer (DEO/DC) Bandipora, Sha-keel ul Rehman Wednesday conducted a comprehensive inspection of various polling stations of Bandipora including Chaliwaan- Chittaybandi, Brar and other adjacent areas.

The visit was aimed to ensure smooth conduct of elections and assess readiness and functionality of polling stations for the ongoing General Elections to Lok Sabha-2024.

The DEO was accompanied by DyDEO Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, ACD Mumtaz Ahmad Pir, Tehsildar and other concerned officers.

The DEO on the occa-

sion inspected accessibility measures, besides availability of Assured Minimum Facilities at polling stations.

Areas needing improvement were promptly identified besides DEO passed on spot directions to address the issues in order to guarantee a fair and transparent electoral process.

The DEO emphasized that all necessary arrangements are in place to facilitate smooth voting and uphold the integrity of the electoral system.

He also directed the concerned to ensure preparedness and adherence to ECI guidelines besides stressing that all guidelines of Election Commission of India shall be implemented in letter and spirit.

Training imparted to Sector Magistrates in Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: As part of the preparations for the smooth conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha election 2024, District Election Office, Kupwara Wednesday organized a training session for Sector Magistrates/ Sector Officers at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, Kupwara.

Training session was presided over by Special Nodal Officer Elections/NLMT, Sameer Jan. NLMT briefed the participants about their roles in the election process and

provided comprehensive information on the preparation and conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha election 2024.

On the occasion, EVM Hands-on training was also imparted to Sector Magistrates/ Sector Officers of all the six assembly segments of Kupwara district. Sector Magistrates were trained about various aspects of the electoral process and practical demonstration was given to them regarding the functioning of EVMs to boost their understanding and proficiency in handling Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

LS Polls

Training session conducted for sectoral Magistrates in Reasi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

REASI: In anticipation of forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024, a comprehensive training session was organized Wednesday for zonal/ sectoral Magistrates under the guidance of District Election Officer, Vishesh Mahajan at conference hall of DC office here.

Speaking on the occasion, District Election Officer reiterated the unwavering commitment to ensure the integrity and transparency of the electoral process. He emphasized strict adherence to election rules outlined by the Election Commission of India (ECI), underscoring the paramount importance

of maintaining a fair and equitable electoral environment for all stakeholders.

During the session, magistrates were briefed on their crucial roles and responsibilities. Special attention was given to enforcement of law and order, supervision of polling stations, and guaranteeing the safety and security of voters throughout the electoral proceedings.

Notable officials present at the event included Nodal officer for MCC, Kulbhushan Khajuria, Nodal officer for Training, Mohammad Anwar Bandy, ARO 57-Reasi, Anshumali Sharma, Deputy District Election Officer, Rakesh Kumar and Master Trainer, among other officers.

SVEEP programme empowers Tribal Voters in Anderwan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: In yet another endeavor of heralding the importance of democratic right to vote, SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) awareness programme was Wednesday organized at Government High School Anderwan targeting the tribal population there.

The programme proved to be a pivotal platform for empowering tribal voters.

Led by District Level Master Trainers (DLMTs), teachers, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), AAYAs, and students, the event emphasized the importance of democratic participation. Tribal populations in

Anderwan were urged to actively engage in the upcoming general Lok Sabha Elections 2024, underscoring their role in shaping the nation's future.

The programme fostered a culture of electoral awareness and responsibility among attendees, particularly the tribal community. DLMTs played a crucial role in educating participants about the significance of their voting rights and the impact of their involvement in the democratic process.

Through interactive sessions and impassioned pleas, the audience was encouraged to embrace their civic duty with fervor and dedication, paving the way for positive change in their society.

Traffic police issues route plan in view of Shab-e-Qadr, Jumat-ul-Vida

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Traffic Police City on Wednesday issued route plan for smooth regulation of traffic movement ahead of Jumat-ul-Vida and Shab-i-Qadr.

An official said that a large number of devotees are expected to assemble at Asari Sharief Hazratbal for the celebrations of Jumat-ul-Vida on 5th of April-2024 and Shab-i-Qadr falling on the intervening night of 6th/7th of April 2024.

NORTH KASHMIR: Vehicles coming from North Kashmir carrying devotees after reaching Shalteng shall adopt the following route to reach Hazratbal, Shrine:

SHALTENG - PARIMPORA - QAMARWARI - CEMENT BRIDGE - NOORBAGH - SEKIDAFAR - EIDGAH - ALIMASJID - SAZGARIPORA - HAWAL - ALAMGARI BAZAR - MILL STOP - MOLVISTOP (LAL BAZAR) - BOTSHAH MOHALLAH - KANITAR - UNIVERSITY PARKING (SADERBAL SIDE)

SOUTH KASHMIR: Vehicles carrying devotees coming from South Kashmir after reaching Panthachowk shall adopt the following route to reach Hazratbal, Shrine:

PANTHACHOWK - STONE

QUARRY (ATHAWAJAN) - BATWARA - SONWAR BAZAR - RAM MUNSHI BAGH - GUPKAR - GRAND PALACE - ZETHIYAR GHAT - NISHAT - FORESHORE ROAD - HABAK CROSSING - UNIVERSITY PARKING (NASEEMBAGH SIDE)

CENTRAL KASHMIR: FROM BUDGAM: Vehicles carrying devotees coming from Budgam and adjoining areas shall adopt the following route to reach Hazratbal, Shrine:

HYDERPORA - TENG-PORA - BEMINA BYPASS - BEMINA CROSSING - QAMARWARI - CEMENT BRIDGE - NOORBAGH - SEKIDAFAR - EIDGAH - ALIMASJID - SAZGARIPORA - HAWAL - ALAMGARI BAZAR - MILL STOP - MOLVISTOP (LAL BAZAR) - BOTSHAH MOHALLAH - KANITAR - UNIVERSITY PARKING (SADERBAL SIDE)

FROM LALCHOWK: LAL CHOWK - SRTC CROSSING - IKHWAN CHOWK - KHANYAR CHOWK - BHORI KADAL - RAJOURI KADAL - GOJWARI CHOWK - HAWAL - ALAMGARI BAZAR - MILL STOP - MOLVISTOP (LAL BAZAR) - BOTSHAH MOHALLAH - KANITAR - UNIVERSITY PARKING (SADERBAL SIDE)

FROM GANDERBAL:

NAGBAL - ZAKOORA - HABAK - NASEEMBAGH PARKING

RETURN ROUTES: NORTH KASHMIR: North bound vehicles on return from Hazratbal Shrine shall adopt the following routes:

UNIVERSITY PARKING (SADERBAL SIDE) - ASHAI BAGH CROSSING - RAINAWARI - KHANYAR - NOWPORA - DALGATE - M.A ROAD - BUDSHAH BRIDGE - JEHANGIR CHOWK FLYOVER - BATMALOO - MOMINABAD - TENG-PORA - BEMINA BYPASS - PARIMPORA - SHALTENG - AND ONWARDS.

SOUTH KASHMIR: South Kashmir bound vehicles on return from Hazratbal Shrine shall adopt the following routes:

NASEEM BAGH PARKING - HABAK CROSSING - FORESHORE ROAD - NISHAT - ZETHIYAR GHAT - GUPKAR - RAM MUNSHI BAGH - SONWAR BAZAR - PANTHACHOWK - ONWARDS.

CENTRAL KASHMIR: Vehicles bound for Central Kashmir areas on return from Hazratbal Shrine shall adopt the following routes: FOR BUDGAM: NIT - ASHAI BAGH CROSSING - RAINAWARI - KHANYAR - NOWPORA - DALGATE - GOLF CROSSING - RADIO KASHMIR - ABDUL-

LAH BRIDGE - HATRIC - CONVENT CROSSING - P/S RAJBAGH - JAWHARNAGAR CHOWK - JAWHARNAGAR BUND - RAMBAGH - BARZUL-LAH BRIDGE - SADDER CROSSING - HYDERPORA - ONWARDS.

FOR GANDERBAL: NASEEM BAGH PARKING - HABAK - ZAKOORA - NAGBAL AND ONWARDS.

FOR LALCHOWK: NIT PARKING - ASHAI BAGH CROSSING - RAINAWARI - KHANYAR - NOWPORA - KHAYAM CHOWK - DALGATE - M.A ROAD - LALCHOWK.

PARKING PLAN: Elaborate parking arrangements have been made at available locations around the Hazratbal:

For vehicles from North/ Central Kashmir: Inside University campus through Sir Syed Gate (Saderbal Side)

For vehicles from South Kashmir including Ganderbal: Inside NaseemBagh University Campus through Budshah Gate (Habbak Side)

For vehicle moving from Rainawari Khanyar towards Hazratbal Shrine: NIT Parking / Multi Level Parking The official said that there will be a Traffic camp at Hazratbal (VIP Parking), and is specifically earmarked for official vehicles.

Beacon labourer dies of cardiac arrest in Ganderbal

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: A beacon labourer died after suffering cardiac arrest in Railpathri Baltal Area of Central Kashmir Ganderbal district on Tuesday late evening.

An official said that a

labourer of Beacon 122 RCC Abdul Rashid Bhat son of Ali Mohammad resident of Kullian Gund fell unconscious at Railpathri Baltal Ganderbal.

He said that the labourer was shifted to PHC Sonamarg where doctors declared him brought dead.

0194-2310283 | Government of Jammu & Kashmir | exenrajbaghsgr@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION RAJBAGH SRINAGAR.

LAL MANDI, NEAR L.D. HOSPITAL SRINAGAR- 190008.

ELECTION URGENT

E-NIT No.01/R&B/RAJ of 2024-2025 issued under Endorsement No.65-75 Dated: 03.04.2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rupees in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Major Head	Class of Contractor
1	Establishment of Collection / Distribution Centre for upcoming Parliamentary Elections at S.P Hr. Sec School/ S.P. College Srinagar (Zadibal Constituency) by way of Construction of New Road from Munawarabad Road to S.P. College Ground.	12.16	600/-	24320/-	10 Days	Lok Sabha Election 2024	BEE/CEE/DEE
2	Construction of Temporary Road and Gate and Disposal of Same after election for Upcoming Parliamentary Elections at S.P. Hr. Sec. School/ S.P College (Zadibal Constituency / 21 HabbaKadal Constituency).	8.62	600/-	17240/-	10 Days		"CEE/DEE"

Position of Funds: Available/Committed/Budgeted.

- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03.04.2024.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	04.04.2024 from 10:00AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	04.04.2024 from 10:00AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	09.04.2024 Upto 04.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	10.04.2024 at 11.00AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challans should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).
- At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/ Bid Security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (The date of Earnest Money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of contract award. The Earnest Money/ Bid Security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released under rules after successful completion of the DLP.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).

No.65-75
Dated: 03.04.2024
DIPK-8-24
DT: 03/04/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Rajbagh Division
Srinagar (NM)

Contesting LS polls to carry on fight for restoration of J&K statehood: Azad

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: DPAP founder Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday said he has decided to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls to carry on his fight for the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir and for the protection of land and job rights of its residents.

Azad, the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, will contest the Lok Sabha polls from Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) announced on Tuesday.

Azad left the Congress in 2022, ending his five-decade-long association with the party, and floated the DPAP.

"There are speculations that statehood will be restored in Jammu and Kashmir but on the pattern of Delhi and Puducherry where the LG has to

approve every decision made by the chief minister and his government.

"This is not acceptable to Ghulam Nabi Azad. Perhaps, it will not be acceptable to any Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Gujjar or Pahari of Jammu and Kashmir," Azad told reporters here.

Azad said that while he had several reasons for contesting the Lok Sabha elections, safeguarding the jobs and land of the people of Jammu and Kashmir was his top priority.

"For that to happen, we need full statehood as the Assembly can then pass laws which will reserve the jobs only for the people of the state while the outsiders cannot buy land here," he said.

Azad said he will use his experience and influence of 40 years as a parliamentarian to get full statehood for Jammu and Kashmir.

"I have fought for the people of the country in the Rajya Sabha whether



it was the Congress government or the BJP government. I feel there is a need for another battle in the Lok Sabha," Azad said. The DPAP leader said after the abrogation of Article 370, he fought for one month. "The result was that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah agreed to restore the statehood. I think this fight has not been taken to the logical conclusion," he added.

Responding to National Conference leader Omar Abdullah expressing surprise at Azad's choice of constituency to contest the polls, the veteran politician said, "This is my state. It would be wrong for anyone to say that you are an outsider... We are all Indians." "I contested my first election from Maharashtra, second and third elections also from Maharashtra... Omar was probably in school at that time.

"Here (J&K) we are talking about adjoining districts. I am not coming in anybody's way. I have a political vision, I have a political cause to fight for. If anyone has difficulty due to that, what can I do?" he said.

On accusations that he can join hands with any party, including the BJP, Azad said, "Those who want to become slaves (of people) who look for refuge. I am the Ghulam of Nabi (Prophet) and do not need to go with anyone."

Farooq Abdullah won't contest LS polls due to health reasons: Omar Abdullah

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: National Conference president and sitting MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah would not contest the Lok Sabha polls owing to his health, the party said on Wednesday.

The announcement was made by his son and NC vice president Omar Abdullah at a party function in Rawalpura on the outskirts of the city here. "He (Farooq Abdullah) has taken permission from (party's general secretary) (Ali Mohammad) Sagar and other party members to not contest the polls this time because of his health," Omar Abdullah said.

He said it is now the party's responsibility to field the best candidate from the constituency. He hoped that the voters would help the NC candidate succeed so that he/she becomes a voice of the people of Srinagar in Delhi.

In the 2002 Legislative

Assembly elections, Omar Abdullah was chosen to lead the NC, while the 86-year-old Farooq Abdullah shifted base to the Centre.

Farooq Abdullah was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2002 from Jammu and

ance government as a Cabinet Minister of New and Renewable Energy.

Abdullah contested the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat again in the 2014 elections but was defeated by the Peoples Democratic Party candidate Tariq Hameed Karra.



Kashmir and then re-elected in 2009. He resigned from the Rajya Sabha in May 2009 and won a seat in the Lok Sabha from Srinagar.

Abdullah joined the United Progressive Alli-

ance government as a Cabinet Minister of New and Renewable Energy.

Abdullah contested the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat again in the 2014 elections but was defeated by the Peoples Democratic Party candidate Tariq Hameed Karra.

However, Karra resigned from Lok Sabha in 2017 leading to a by-election for the Srinagar parliamentary seat which Abdullah won defeating the PDP candidate Nazir

Ahmed Khan. He won the polls again in 2019.

Omar Abdullah said the upcoming Parliamentary election was very different from the past polls.

"For the last 30 years, the elections have been affected in one way or the other due to which the people did not participate in the polls -- be it because of the gun or boycott calls. Our politics in Srinagar had been limited. Few areas used to come out to vote and our politics used to run on that.

"This time, the atmosphere will be different. We will not see any boycott calls, and the impact of guns will be far less. This time, the people of Srinagar have to decide whether they want to participate in politics here or not. They have to decide whether they want to raise their voice or not, whether they want to choose their representative or not," the NC vice president said.

LOK SABHA POLLS

Cash, liquor worth Rs 91 lakh seized in Kathua in J-K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: More than Rs 51 lakh in cash and liquor worth nearly Rs 40 lakh were seized in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Wednesday, taking the total seizures to Rs 1.20 crore since the enforcement of the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha elections, officials said.

Enforcement teams intercepted some vehicles and seized Rs 51.54 lakh in cash along with liquor valued at Rs 39.63 lakh, they said.

These decisive actions underscore a collective commitment to preserving the integrity of the electoral process, they added.

District Election Officer of Kathua Rakesh Minhas

said, "We are continuously working to swiftly and resolutely identify and rectify any breach of the model code of conduct."

He emphasized that such efforts are pivotal in deterring illicit activities that may compromise the democratic process and ensuring that voters can exercise their rights without any external influence or coercion.

The administration urged citizens to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activity or violation of the poll code to the authorities concerned.

On March 28, cash and liquor worth Rs 29 lakh were seized in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district. (Agencies)

BRO intensifies snow clearance on Baltal-Domail road for Amarnath pilgrims



RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: In Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has launched a vigorous snow clearance campaign along the Baltal Domail Road, which is crucial for pilgrims journeying to the revered Amarnath cave.

This initiative, aimed at facilitating a seamless pilgrimage experience, underscores the organisation's dedication to ensuring safe passage for devotees, a BRO official said.

Initiated in 2022 by the administration, the road construction project from Baltal to Domail initially fell under the purview of the Roads & Buildings

(R&B) department. Subsequently, the responsibility was transitioned to BRO, recognising their specialised skills in managing such endeavours efficiently.

The official said the recent efforts have concentrated on clearing snow along the Baltal Domail track, with the combined efforts of Beacon and diligent labourers working tirelessly over the past week.

Despite encountering challenges posed by potential avalanches, BRO remains resolute in swiftly completing the snow clearance operation, contingent upon favourable weather conditions, he said—(KNO)

Rana slams Congress for playing 'murky games' in J&K since 1947

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana Wednesday slammed the Congress for its murky games in Jammu and Kashmir post 1947, saying the region witnessed a myriad of political manoeuvres characterized by intrigue, betrayal and manipulation in active connivance with its local political allies in different avatars from time to time.

"From the 1963 Kamraj Plan to Khaliq DC model of MLAs and from 1984 G.M Shah sponsored coup to 1987 rigged elections, the Congress has remained hand in glove in destabilizing Jammu and Kashmir that manifested in dangerous and sinister consequences for the nation to face", Mr Rana said while addressing series of meetings in Panchayat Amb Upper, Amb Lower, Ghaink and Doomi in Amb Gharota Mandal along with DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan, District President Jammu North Mr Omi Khajuria and Former MLA Shiv Dev Singh.

He said the manipulation of democratic processes, more importantly rigged elections, coercive tactics and regional imbalances



became entrenched tools in the armoury of the political actors seeking to monopolize the control over the then state. It eventually gave rise to separatist sentiments and provided fertile ground to the rogue neighbour in the backyard for unleashing terrorism aimed at ethnic cleansing and enforcement of radicalized way of life. The nexus between political elites with clandestine external support perpetuated a culture, unknown to this part of the country that impacted governance hugely. In the process corruption and nepotism became the order of the day with common people finding themselves pushed to the wall, he added.

Devender Rana said the marginalization of various segments of the society including Valmikis, West Pakistan refugees, Paharis, Gujjar and Bakerwals,

Scheduled Castes and the other weaker sections of the society only served to deepen the sense of alienation of the people. This state of despondency, however, saw a soothing ending on August 5 and 6, 2019 when the so-called special status got repealed, opening vistas of opportunities for all in the wake of various central laws becoming operative in Jammu and Kashmir, like rest of the country, he said.

Rana said the Congress plus allies led reign of discrimination, misgovernance, corruption and deprivation is now the nightmare of the past with hope of holistic development, infrastructural revolution, thrust on education, health and tourism, accountability in governance, time bound delivery of utility services and vistas of opportuni-

ties to all, irrespective of caste, religion and region becoming a reality under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modiji, he maintained.

"As Jammu and Kashmir has bade farewell to the vicious circle of violence, corruption, nepotism and long spell of misgovernance over the decades, it is imperative to acknowledge the progress registered in the recent past as per the cherished agenda of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas," Rana said while urging the people to move forward by supporting inclusivity, the political philosophy of the BJP. He called for continuation of the crusade against shackles of the past and paving the way for a more equitable and peaceful future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

LS POLLS

Election Training programme for Female employees held in Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In connection with forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024, a specialized training program was Wednesday organized by District Election Office, Srinagar at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex here to impart necessary election-related training to female employees for ensuring effective management of Pink Polling Stations in Srinagar District.

The programme was presided over by District Election Officer (DEO), Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat to familiarize female employees to be deputed for election duty at pink polling stations with the necessary skills and knowledge of the electoral process.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO said that the training program is focused on preparing female employees for their roles in facilitating Pink Polling Stations during the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in Srinagar District. The DEO underlined various aspects of the Pink

Polling Stations and roles and responsibility of female employees at pink polling stations and emphasis on meticulous training of female employees for effective management of pink polling stations.

He added that the training session on the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) was organized to ensure that female employees are proficient in operating the necessary equipment at designated Pink Polling Stations.

During the programme, District Level Master Trainer, highlighted various electoral procedures including voter registration, polling processes, and vote counting.

Deputy District Election Officer, Mir Intiyaz U1 Aziz, Nodal Officer Pink Polling Stations, Mantasha Binte Rashid, Female Nodal Officers of all 8 Assembly Segments of Srinagar District, Coordinator Manpower and Trainings and other officials of District Election Authority were present in the programme.

Govt set to rationalise, streamline payment procedures for Infa projects



RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: In a bid to expedite infrastructure development, the government is all set to rationalise and streamline the payment procedures for infrastructure projects in FY 2024-25.

A circular issued by the Finance Department regarding the rationalisation and streamlining of the payment procedures which would also help in improving the financial management and eradicating the huge outstanding liabilities of the last fiscal.

The decision is in line with the government's commitment to improve the capital expenditure so that funds be spent under the centrally sponsored schemes which will ensure efficient utilisation of all the resources.

There was a massive increase in the capital expenditure in key sectors like Road Connectivity, Power Development, Tourism, Industry, Education, Health, Water Supply etc, during the last fiscal ending March 31, 2024, to ensure rapid infrastructure upgradation of the UT.

The Government has

been also able to control the non-priority revenue expenditure with significant jump in the tax revenue and improvement in the central support.

According to the provisional data, the capital expenditure has increased from Rs. 14,666 crore in the financial year 2022-23 to Rs. 22,400 crore in the financial year 2023-24. The fiscal projection estimates a Rs. 15,000 installation for the year 2023-24, suggesting an almost 50 percent rise in infrastructure investment.

Meanwhile, the government has been able to generate more than Rs 10,300 crore from the schemes, implying a fiscal deficit for the year 2023-24.

The administration has admitted the requirement of keeping in place structured expenditure norms to avoid any unjustified rush and for the purpose of managing the public fund judiciously.

Meanwhile, to remove the bureaucratic bottleneck in settling of outstanding liabilities of the last fiscal year related with infrastructure development works, the guidelines have been issued by the UT to process mobile and other prior pending claims quickly—(KNO)

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department (IAPMD)
Zonal Office Srinagar
M.A. ROAD SRINAGAR, KASHMIR-190001

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

1. Abdul Rouf Bhat S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat R/o Banpora, Batamaloo, Srinagar
2. Mst. Shafiq W/o Ali Mohammad Bhat R/o Banpora, Batamaloo, Srinagar
3. Aijaz Ahmad Bhat S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat R/o Banpora, Batamaloo, Srinagar
4. Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat Ali Mohammad Bhat R/o Banpora, Batamaloo, Srinagar
5. Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat Ali Mohammad Bhat R/o Banpora, Batamaloo, Srinagar
6. Asmat Jan Ali Mohammad Bhat R/o Banpora, Batamaloo, Srinagar

(All legal heirs of deceased borrower/mortgagor Ali Mohammad Bhat)

Subject: Notice for Redemption of the property in terms of right vested with Borrower under Section 13(8) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act, 2002").

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware that the Authorized officer of the Bank had issued a demand notice on 04.04.2018 under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter called the Act), against secured interest mentioned therein, which had been offered as security by your father towards his loan facilities. Subsequently, the Authorized Officer took possession of the secured assets in the nature of "Residential House along with Land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring 01 Kanal falling under Khasra No.2396/425 in Khata No.1024 of Khewat No.349 situated in Mouza Batamaloo, Tehsil Khas and District Srinagar" on 22.03.2022 under Section 13(4) of the Act.

Whereas you have failed to satisfy the borrower's liabilities to the Bank even after receipt of notices under Section 13(2) and 13(4) of the Act. Therefore, the Bank in exercise of its rights granted under the Act and Rules made thereunder, intends to initiate process of sale for recovery of the amount due.

You are hereby called upon to discharge in full the borrower's liabilities amounting to Rs.49,16,025.26 (Rupees Forty Nine Lacs Sixteen Thousand Twenty Five and Paise Twenty Six only) as on 30.09.2022 with interest, costs and other charges within 15 days from the date of this notice, failing which, the Bank shall proceed to realize the outstanding by sale of the mortgaged property. May note that your right to redeem the mortgaged property shall extinguish on the date the Bank issues notice of sale as per Act and Rules made thereunder.

Yours faithfully,

Authorized Officer

Registered Office: Corporate Headquarters
M.A. Road, Srinagar
Kashmir, India 190001

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A.G.9cm

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Marital Discords

There is an upward trend in the number of marital discords being witnessed in Kashmir valley. Horrifying details of infidelity, maltreatment and ghosting do the rounds in the social circles of Kashmir. Strangely enough, marital discord are more common in educated families than in uneducated families. Education should equip people with the knowledge to understand each other, to understand marriage in itself and to understand the rights and responsibilities of your life partner. Lawyers are kept busy with divorce cases. Alimony, custody – these words were unheard of in Kashmiri society. But now these words are being discussed more frequently. Trouble brews up right from the first day of the marriage. Mother and the sister of the groom feel the bride now has complete control of the house and this feeling creates incurable jealousy which repeatedly manifests into abusing, shouting, quarreling and brawling. Usually, it is the female folk which instigates the husband against his wife and the other way round. Materialism has added a new spice to the whole thing. If both the husband and wife are earning independently with a steady pay there is least likelihood that there would be subordination or obedience of any type. That is one reason why the divorce cases of female doctors, teachers, professors, advocates is on the higher side. When either partner feels that they are financially independent they do not feel the need to be subordinate to the other partner. This affects the delicate balance that entails the husband-wife relationship. The disputes which were resolved by the elders of both families amicably are now resolved in courts. Heavy fee paid to lawyers and almost every case ends in divorce. Divorces are so common nowadays and it was not the case a few decades ago. Both men and women, it seems, now like their jobs more than their life partners. Values have undergone a massive change. Before setting out to marry both husband and wife must undergo proper counseling about their respective rights and responsibilities. Let us hope for fewer divorces.

Carbon Capture, Too Little Too Late?

ROBERT HUNZIKER

Will carbon capture technology bail society out of the latest version of greenhouse gas emissions, CO₂ suddenly doubling its rate of increase when compared to the past decade, in breathtaking fashion, thus overheating the ocean and the Arctic and Antarctica and hammering Greenland?

The relationship between greenhouse gas emissions and carbon capture technology is best seen as a metaphor of athletes in the Olympic games: Team Emissions is setting world records in the 100-meter dash; Team Carbon Capture is still training for the 10,000-meter marathon.

Direct Air Capture (DAC) and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) fall far short of meeting timelines as global emissions are outrunning all timelines, increasing two-fold within only one year, see: CO₂ Bursting into the Atmosphere (3-22-2024). CO₂ is on a rampage like never before and heating things up. Brazil's heat index hit 144°F recently.

According to MIT, to stay "even-with-the-board on CO₂ annually," nearly 20 billion tons needs to be captured each year. It's overwhelming. Meanwhile, Earth soaks up half of the 37 billion metric tons of CO₂ emissions per annum. With all of that, it still leaves too much CO₂ already in the atmosphere to take the heat off global warming.

Since 1850, approximately 1,000 gigatons of human-generated CO₂ is hanging out in the atmosphere, which is 1,000 billion metric tons out of a total of 2,400 billion metric tons emitted (the planet absorbing more than one-half). A large amount needs to be removed to lower atmospheric CO₂ ideally to at least 350 ppm from 426 ppm. All-in, CO₂ removal is a multi-billion-ton job. It's generational work kinda like building Notre Dame Cathedral, started in 1163, finished in 1345.

Total CO₂ captured by current Direct Air Capture (DAC): "To date, 130 DAC plants are under development worldwide, with 27 commissioned and 18 completed (according to the International Energy Agency.) All of these are small-scale facilities with a current collective CO₂ removal capacity of about 11,000 metric tons annually" (Source: U.S. Unveils Plans for Large Facilities to Capture Carbon Directly from Air, Science, August 11, 2023).

"Every second about 1,079 metric tons of CO₂ are released worldwide due to burning fossil fuels." (NASA) Meaning, current capacity removes 11 seconds worth per year.

The IRA Biden plan aims to create four DAC hubs over the next 10 years, each capable of removing and storing at least 1 million tons of CO₂ each year. As part of the program's rollout, DOE officials also announced funding for an additional 19 conceptual and engineering studies of potential future DAC plants. (Source: U.S. Unveils Plans for Large Facilities to Capture Carbon Directly from Air, Science,



August 11, 2023.)

In strong opposition to DAC, Mark Jacobson, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University says DAC is a waste of funds. His book "100% Clean, Renewable Energy and Storage for Everything" describes a 100% renewable energy economy. Nevertheless, there's still a problem of too much CO₂ already in the atmosphere, which is already upending the climate system; 100% renewables will not remove it. There are no easy answers.

Meanwhile, the oil and gas industry claims it can continue to produce as much oil and gas as it wants to because Carbon Capture and Sequestration-CCS will effectively neutralize CO₂ emissions. No, it will not. According to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis: "Even if realized at its full potential, CCS will only account for about 2.4% of the world's carbon mitigation by 2030, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)."

The real issue is not whether carbon can be captured; it can be captured; however, in the big picture, the real world, carbon emissions are hardened over centuries; carbon capture is a fledgling, mostly in a testing phase.

According to the International Energy Agency, 40 commercial facilities are already in operation applying Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS). Since January 2022 developers have announced plans for 50 more operations capturing around 125 Mt CO₂ per year. "Nevertheless, even at such a level, CCUS deployment would remain substantially below (about 1/3rd) the 1.2 Gt CO₂ per year that is required in the Net Zero Emissions by 2050 (NZE) scenario." (Source: Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage, IEA50)

To seriously make a big dent in atmospheric carbon dioxide or CO₂, which is 76% of all greenhouse gas emissions, technology is going to have to accelerate considerably, in fact, beyond considerably.

On a hopeful note, some R&D looks promising, even though still likely falling into the too little, too late category.

For example, Klaus Lackner, founding director, Center for Negative Emissions has designed a prototype Mechanical Tree, on display at the Our Future Planet exhibition at the Science Museum, London from May 2021 until September 2022. The tree is constructed of sorbent tiles which cyclically extend into the air and then retract for regeneration, passively soaking up CO₂ from the air using Passive Direct Air Capture (PDAC), supposedly 1,000 times more efficient than natural trees that use photosynthesis. The captured CO₂ can be sequestered in underground geological formations or sold for industrial use.

MIT on carbon removal: "... a nearly impossible task, says Charles Harvey, an MIT professor of civil and environmental engineering who has studied both natural and technological ways to take CO₂ out of the atmosphere. Removing CO₂ is one of the hardest and most expensive ways we could address climate change—far more difficult than simply emitting less carbon in the first place." (Source: How Much Carbon Dioxide Would We Have to Remove from The Air to Counteract Climate Change? Climate Portal, MIT October 26, 2023)

"In fact, says Harvey, the energy demands of direct air capture are so great that 'canceling out' humanity's emissions this way would take more energy than we're getting from burning fossil fuels in the first place," Ibid.

"Today's approaches can capture only a tiny fraction of what's needed: around 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide annually, according to one recent study." (Smith, S.M. et al, The State of Carbon Dioxide Removal, 1st Edition, 2023)

"To 'turn back the clock' on climate change, we would need to capture today's emissions plus this enormous backlog. To reach 350 parts per million, the level of atmospheric carbon dioxide in 1988, humans would need to remove more than 500 billion tons. To get the atmosphere back to where it was before humans began to burn fossil fuels en masse would mean catching and storing more than 900 billion tons." (MIT Climate Portal)

Based upon a reasonably comprehensive study, it appears that carbon capture technology is/will be too little too late. Global warming is not waiting around.

Nevertheless, R&D is in a fluid state, hopefully (fingers crossed) it meets the challenge (big question mark) because global warming has morphed into global heat way ahead of schedule, and climate change has become a regular on nightly national news programs, featuring (1) entire boreal forests burning like a furnace (2) floods demolishing thousands of homes in China and Pakistan, killing thousands (3) droughts impeding commercial barge traffic on Europe's famous rivers (4) as nuclear power plants (France) power-down because of low river water flow (5) and thirsty Europeans standing in line for bottled water in France and Italy in the summer of '22.

Meanwhile, March 2024 news items of interest: 7,200 miles away from Europe, similar issues: Persistent Drought is Drying Out Chile's Drinking Water, Reuters News, March 20, 2024. And on another continent, Johannesburg (pop. 5.6M) CBS News headlines March 21, 2024: South Africa Water Crisis Sees Taps Run Dry across Johannesburg.

And that's not even mentioning one of the biggest concerns of the Northern Hemisphere. Greenland's northernmost glaciers are very tipsy way too early. The icy island is on the ropes; surprisingly, it rained at Greenland's summit (10,500 feet) for the first time ever as the entire ice infrastructure goes off the charts with a summertime melt rate of 30,000,000 tons per hour or 720,000,000 tons per day, 20-25% more than previously thought, according to recent studies.

And don't even think about West Antarctica or Brazil's Amazon rainforest. According to NASA: "The rainforest doesn't react like it used to. It does not have enough time between droughts to heal itself and regrow. Throughout all recorded history, this has never been witnessed." (C-Counter Currents)

Robert Hunziker is a journalist from Los Angeles

Our Silence Has Snatched Everything From Them



EIJAZ MIR

The people are busy making money and other comforts, and luxuries of life. The business of crook and cunning fellows watching their miseries and haplessness snatched my sleep and disturbed my peace of mind. Amid psycho disturbance, I decided to leave my premises and started my journey towards the factories that spread the smoke in the atmosphere from their big and giant chimneys. I wanted to feel the conditions of helplessness of people who felt it in the form of heavy smoke of artillery. While observing this horrible scene, my eyes caught the attention of a little girl who was sitting at the doorsteps of a shopkeeper. I was watching her actions and suddenly I noticed that she was whispering some unusual words and sounds from her mouth. So out of curiosity, I approached her and asked her to utter a bit louder what she was. To my astonishment, "She could not speak clearly as she was stammering and I could not understand her. I inquired, "Is she alone in this heavy smoke or is anybody else accompanying her? She tried to talk in a stammering voice, nay nay, nay... So I half-heartedly understood that the little girl was all alone.

The sellers in the market were catching the attention of the customers themselves



by raising their louder voices and inviting people to buy from them. Some people were busy buying groceries and some other stuff for their families. While watching this, the little girl murmured something unusual. So it puzzled me not to get her ascent properly. I was feeling depressed and emotionally broken because the little girl who looked so beautiful was shivering with fear & aghast. I sat down on the dust and gazed at the other children who seemed marrying in the world of their imagination. They were busy playing traditional games and some of them were singing melodious songs. The little children seemed colorful & full of joy except the poor little girl. It broke my heart into pieces and I felt myself in the bottomless hell. The scene was so disturbing that I could hardly forget it.

I left the place and went back to my home.

The miseries of the little girl didn't allow me to sleep the whole night. I was still thinking about the haplessness and poor creature. Finally, I slept at 4:00 am. She came into my dream and asked me in a feeble voice, "I am a little poor girl from rubble. My parents died of heavy artillery & bombs and I am the one who survived and was taken out alive from the rubble. The little girl was the only survivor in the whole family. She was the same girl who met me all alone shivering with fear, aghast, terrified, and half insane. The tears started rolling from my eyes and I gave her a tight hug. In the despair and traumatized moment, I could listen to the sound of her innocent heart saying, Is the whole world sleeping? The poor girl disappeared with the

words, you all humans will be questioned for your silence very soon? I woke up in temptation and my whole body was in sweat. I felt caged by some horrible power and my hands and feet started trembling with fear.

The next day was Eid-ul-Fitr, the festival of Muslims celebrated after the completion of 30 days of holy Month, Ramadan. The whole world was enjoying the festival of happiness and peace, but I was still thinking about the same poor girl in the rubble, the scene of the firing of the heavy machine guns and the horrible cries of the hapless people.

Wars have a deep effect on the lives of people. It snatched our peace of mind and left us in a hapless situation. It took precious human lives and made us helpless, tattered, and broken forever. It is not easy to

overcome the traumas caused by these dreadful wars. The unending destruction arising out of these wars left us awed, shocked, and traumatized. The heavy artillery and race of power break us physically, mentally, emotionally and psychologically. As a result, thousands of children become orphans. We can not live within the pangs of such a huge catastrophe caused by illegitimate greediness of power and authority. The power and authority do not mean to denounce the security and freedom of others. I could hear the cries and sighs of little children everywhere. We have not left any stone unturned in mutilating the peace, relief, freedom and security of others. This is all that we have achieved so far in the race for artillery and guns. The smoke coming out from these machine guns and the horrible sounds produced by these dreadful bullets have turned us mentally sick and physically lean and unhealthy. We are not able to survive because the sense of insecurity and lack of peace has mentally retarded us. We have become mentally sick and tired.

As a columnist, I would like to say that if such power continues like this, shortly we are going to witness a huge human catastrophe. In the end, my opinion on this take is to eliminate majestic cruelty. Human lives matter the most and we should take utmost care of this precious resource for the sake of humanity. All humans irrespective of religion, race, and identity on the planet are alike. We breathe the same, we wear the same, and we eat the same. We are one body wearing one uniform. Then why this bloodshed?

The author can be mailed at ejazmir2192@gmail.com

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The Chasm Between TB And HIV Continues



SHOBHA SHUKLA
BOBBY RAMAKANT

“The two worst global health problems have combined forces well. But the institutions addressing them have miserably failed to put their act together,” wrote Dr Tim France, a noted global health thought leader, in an op-ed article titled “The chasm between TB and HIV” which was widely published in several newspapers of high TB burden countries in Asia Pacific and Africa in 2006. Even after 18 years since then, his words remain deeply relevant. Eamonn Murphy, Director, UNAIDS Asia Pacific and UNAIDS Eastern Europe and Central Asia, opened his keynote address in the End TB Dialogues Summit held recently, underlining the importance of bringing TB and HIV services together and strikingly called upon the dire need to ‘break the silos’ – a clarion call which Dr France had also unequivocally given through his op-ed of almost two decades back!

“Many of the [TB and HIV] programmes are operating in isolation and almost in conflict with each other and it is not helping the patients [co-infected with TB and HIV] we all serve. There are many missed opportunities for HIV and TB service access in Asia Pacific” said Eamonn.

Asia Pacific is home to 21% of those who are co-infected with TB and HIV. “One-third of HIV treatment service providers do not provide TB treatment and three-fourth of TB service providers do not provide HIV treatment. This gap has got bigger overtime, and we need to work collectively to bring this down and make the programmes connect and work together” said Eamonn.

“I have been to hospitals where in the compound you have a TB clinic in one part, and an HIV clinic in the other part - and the staff never talk. Only a quarter of countries in the Asia Pacific region include TB preventative treatment in their national HIV policies and guidelines,” added Eamonn. Over 1.9 million people living with HIV had received TB preventative treatment in 2022 globally.

“The ‘one patient two clinics’ bottlenecks of TB HIV care - must become obsolete. There should be a commitment to joint programming that is a fully integrated model of care where all services for both TB and HIV are provided in a single facility and by the same service providers. We need to bring the ‘silos’ together,” said Eamonn.

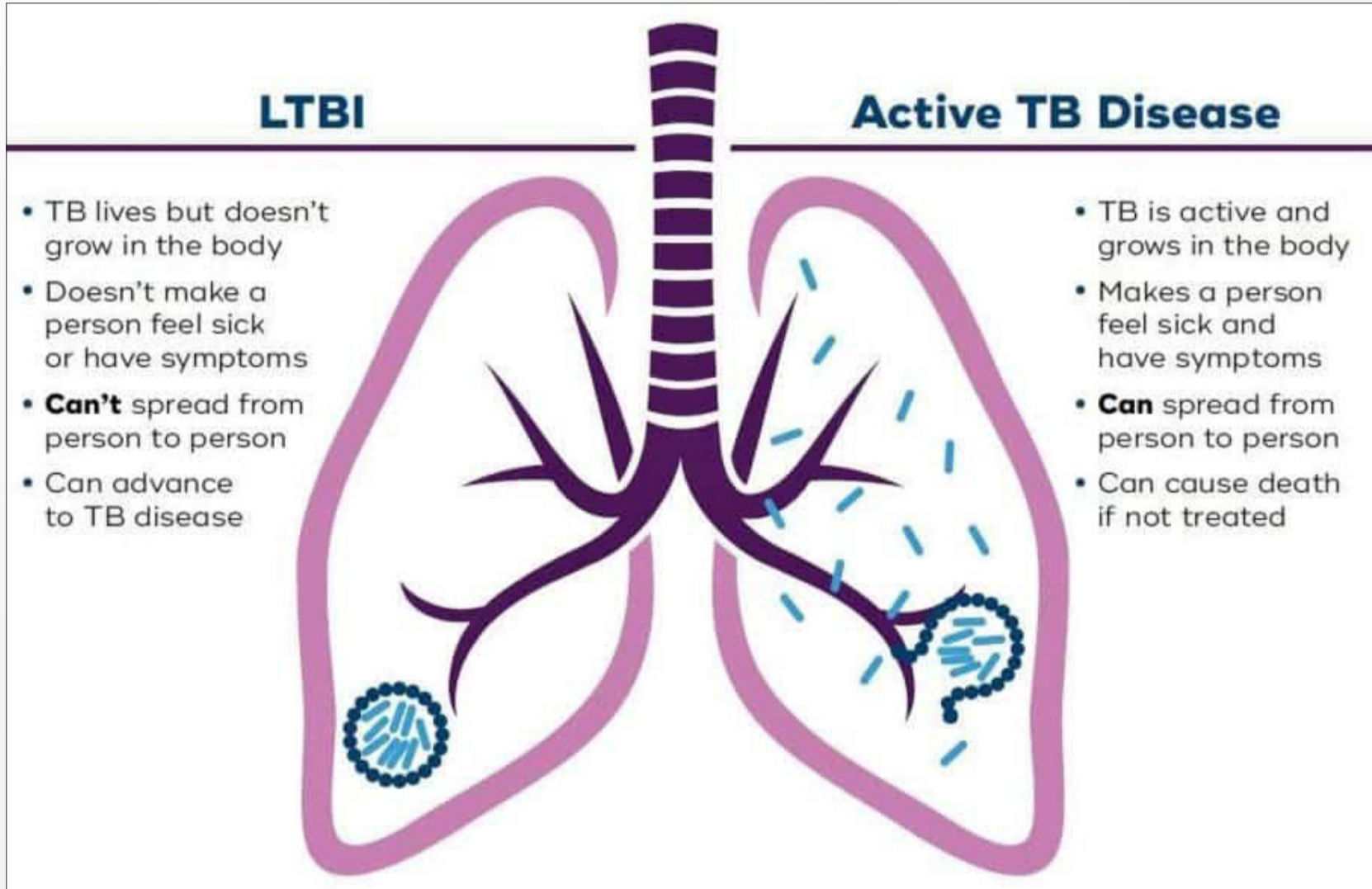
Even one TB or HIV death is a death too many

“As per the latest WHO Global TB Report 2023, around 48,000 people were co-infected with HIV and TB, and 11,000 of them died of TB in India. When TB is preventable and curable then even one TB death is a death too many. No one needs to die of HIV or TB,” said Professor (Dr) Dilip Mathai, President of AIDS Society of India (ASI), and former Head of Medicine Department, Christian Medical College Vellore. He gave an unequivocal call to find all TB, treat all TB, and prevent all TB among people living with HIV.

Bridge the gap between ‘what we know’ and ‘what we do’

Science has gifted us tools and evidence-based approaches to ensure that no one dies either of HIV or TB, and no one gets infected with either of them - provided - we bridge the gap between ‘what we do’ and ‘what we know works.’

We have highly accurate diagnostic tests (molecular tests) to diagnose TB, latest treatments which are less toxic, shorter, and more effective, and evidence-based ways to prevent TB and stop the spread. We have proven ways to ‘reach the unreachable’ with people-centred



and community-driven “lab on the wheels” and provide a range of TB and HIV healthcare services on people’s doorsteps (or as close to the communities as possible).

Despite knowing how to break the chain of TB transmission and reduce human suffering, over 10.6 million people suffered through the disease and 1.3 million died in 2022 globally (as per the WHO Global TB Report 2023). More than half of those diagnosed with TB in 2022, got a TB test that underperforms (microscopy) and not a molecular test upfront.

Similar paradox for HIV: we have accessible and good HIV tests, lifesaving antiretroviral therapy and science to show that if a person is virally suppressed then undetectable equals untransmittable (U equals U which means there is zero risk of transmission of HIV virus from the person to anyone else). “We can end AIDS now as

Michel Sidibe was UNAIDS Executive Director back then and speaking to CNS (Citizen News Service) at the Stop TB Partnership’s Partners Forum in March 2009 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Despite knowing how to protect people with HIV from TB, 167,000 people who were living with HIV died of TB in 2022 globally, HIV continues to be the 2nd biggest risk factor for TB worldwide (undernutrition is the largest risk factor globally). Almost a million new TB cases were attributed to HIV as a risk factor (out of 10.6 million people) in 2022 worldwide.

“TB remains the leading cause of death for people living with HIV globally. In 2021, almost one-third of AIDS-related deaths were due to TB. Yet we dare to imagine a world where we find all TB, treat all TB, and prevent all TB among people living with HIV and others in the community,” said Eamonn

TB-related deaths among people living with HIV since 2010 globally. We are within reach of the 80% decline target for TB-related deaths among people living with HIV by 2025,” he said.

“Perhaps our target was not as ambitious as it could have been, but we still have a long way to go to make sure we can achieve that and there are many other targets and competing demands in the current environment that are challenging us” he shared.

Progress against TB and HIV has plateaued

Progress has plateaued particularly since COVID-19 service interruptions. “Only 46% of the estimated 73,000 people living with HIV who developed TB in 2021 were able to access antiretroviral therapy. This is the same level as of 2020,” shared Eamonn. Overall, TB cases in Asia and the Pacific region have not declined much between 2015 and 2022 among people with HIV. More importantly, Eamonn

applies. “The data tells us perennial story that people continue to be left behind.”

“We need a well-coordinated and persistent approach to both TB and HIV, for the delivery of comprehensive quality services,” said Eamonn. “We need a response that is strongly connected to the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda and the 2030 sustainable development agenda. We cannot talk about achieving these or any other SDG targets if we continue the

Science has gifted us tools and evidence-based approaches to ensure that no one dies either of HIV or TB, and no one gets infected with either of them - provided - we bridge the gap between ‘what we do’ and ‘what we know works.’



science has shown us the evidence on how to stop the spread of HIV infection and keep people living with HIV healthy. To end AIDS, we need to ensure that no one is excluded,” said Dr Ishwar Gilada, President Emeritus at the 15th National Conference of the AIDS Society of India (ASICON 2024) and Governing Council member of International AIDS Society (IAS).

Deadly nexus | When a virus and a bacteria work together

“When a virus (HIV) and a bacteria (TB) can work so well together - why cannot we?” had said Michel Sidibe in 2009.

Murphy of UNAIDS. Eamonn Murphy calls for integration and inclusion

UNAIDS regional leader Eamonn Murphy said that TB and HIV collaborative activities have shone a spotlight on the value of ‘breaking out of the silos’ to tackle both diseases in a coordinated manner. Globally steepest reduction in TB deaths has been among people living with HIV.

“Our best successes have been in countries and communities where they have brought these silos together. 13 million TB deaths were averted among HIV positive people between 2000 and 2021. We have seen a 67% drop in

pointed towards the difference between countries in responding to TB and HIV dual epidemics. “Over 75% of people diagnosed with TB accessed HIV testing and knew their status in 2022 but there is dramatically unequal progress between countries in Asia Pacific region.” Only 58% of people with TB-HIV co-infection knew their status in 2022 and less than half of them (42%) were on antiretroviral therapy. In India, over three-fourth of people with TB and HIV co-infection were on antiretroviral therapy whereas in the Philippines only one in five of them were receiving the ther-

standalone programmes and approaches.”

Engage the people we serve

“Biomedical HIV and TB prevention and treatment strategies have saved millions of lives, but they are insufficient to meet our goals to end TB or AIDS. We know from more than four decades of building and refining the AIDS response that we have to involve the users of the health services in their design, planning and implementation - at every level and stage. That is why communities at risk must be at the centre of everything we do,” said Eamonn Murphy of UNAIDS.

We only have 80 months left to deliver on all SDGs which includes the targets of ending AIDS and TB worldwide (by 2030). There is no excuse for inaction - as we can do better.

Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant co-lead the editorial of Citizen News Service and on the governing board of Global Antimicrobial Resistance Media Alliance (GAMA) and Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media). Follow them on Twitter @shobhaishukla and @bobbyramakant

5 'Healthy' Foods That Aren't As Nutritious As You Thought

The market is loaded with food products with big labels saying 'healthy.' If you easily get attracted to those appealing labels, you might be ruining your health unknowingly. You eat food to generate energy and to provide your body with all the essential nutrients. A healthy, nutritious diet helps the body function properly and prevents nutritional deficiencies. However, such foods are usually deprived of essential nutrients or contain one or more unwanted ingredients. If you are not able to spot the difference, we are here to help you out. Here, we have a list of foods that are labelled healthy but are usually nutritionally deprived.

'Health foods' that are not nutritious

1. Flavoured yogurt



contains protein, calcium and other essential nutrients. Now, the market is flooded with flavoured yogurts that are high in sugar, unwanted calories and preservatives. Therefore, it is wise to stick to plain or

fresh yogurt. You can add chopped fresh fruits to plain yogurt for the sweetness.

2. Gluten-free snacks

Gluten is not bad for you unless you are allergic to it. So, foods labelled as gluten-free

are not necessarily healthy. Those with gluten intolerance should also avoid highly processed gluten-free products.

3. Diet soda

Weight watchers often stick to diet soda with no sugar

and fewer calories. However, drinking diet soda is also linked with many health issues. Those who drink diet soda are at a higher risk of metabolic syndrome than those who don't. Studies have

also shown that consumption of artificial sweeteners present in most diet sodas is linked to a higher risk of developing cancer.

4. Veggie chips

Do you choose vegetable



chips over traditional potato chips and believe that you are making a healthier choice? The truth is that vegetable chips are also deep-fried or baked. They are also loaded with food colours, artificial flavours and added sugar.

5. Low-fat/fat-free
Foods with low-fat labels aren't healthier. Many unwanted ingredients are added to make up for the flavour loss. Also, fats are essential for your health like other nutrients. Eating nutritious fatty food is good for your overall health.

This list is long and every month you'll notice a new trend in the food industry. For optimal health and overall well-being, it is wise to load the diet with whole foods. Processed foods are deprived of nutrients and contain many unhealthy elements.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

LG Sinha Chairs

The Lt Governor, who is also the Chairman of SMVDSB, reviewed the progress of ongoing works and emphasized on timely completion of all projects for the ease of pilgrimage. The important projects in this regard were 'New Vaishnavi Bhawan at the shrine', 'Cottages (near Sports Stadium), Katra', 'Staff Quarters (G+2) at Banganga', 'Covered Holding Area at Adhkuwari', 'Yatri Facilitation Centre at Railway Station, Katra', 'New Yagyashala at Bhawan' etc.

The Board appreciated the facade lighting project initiated for enhancing the aesthetics/ambience at Bhawan, Adhkuwari and Darshani Deodi through a captivating visual spectacle and spiritual enlightenment.

Various new projects were also approved by the Board, which include 'Construction of Exit Track at Bhawan', 'Remodelling of Manokamna Area at Bhawan' and 'Covered Waiting Area at Darshani Deodi, Banganga'.

The Board appreciated the recent steps taken by the CEO towards development of different temples in and around Katra under its social support initiatives. The Lt Governor asked the CEO to broaden the ambit of this activity by including construction of new temples in district Reasi. He asked the CEO to come up with a comprehensive plan for consideration.

The Board appreciated the Greening initiatives reported by CEO towards improving bio-diversity and ecological balance of the area. An elaborate 'Annual Green Plan' for the year 2024-25 was also approved by the Board. The Board desired that for environmental vibrancy of Trikuta Hills, the option of aerial survey and seed dispersal through helicopters must also be initiated.

The Lt Governor emphasized on evolving a robust pilgrim-feedback mechanism, conventional and innovative means, for fostering continuous improvement in the services being provided by the Board.

Earlier, Sh Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB gave a detailed presentation on the present status of varied activities of the Shrine Board and the action taken for implementation of various decisions of the previous meetings of the Board.

NSA Doval Highlights

with the government and the people of Russia to address the threat from terrorism in all its forms and manifestations conveyed India's solidarity with the government and the people of Russia to Russian NSA Nikolai Patrushev and addressing the threat from terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

NSA Ajit Doval expressed deep concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, including the continued presence of terrorist networks. He stated that India, as a contiguous neighbour of Afghanistan, has legitimate security and economic interests in Afghanistan.

He stated that SCO's immediate priorities in Afghanistan include providing humanitarian assistance, ensuring the formation of a truly inclusive and representative government, combating terrorism and drug trafficking, and preserving the rights of women, children and minorities.

NSA Doval stated that India has invested USD 3 billion in Afghanistan and supplied 50000 metric tonnes of wheat, 250 tonnes of medical aid, and 40000 litres of Malathion pesticide to fight the locust menace in Afghanistan. Notably, Afghanistan has been in an economic and financial crisis ever since the Taliban seized control of the country.

During his visit, NSA Doval and representatives of other member states called on Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. During the meeting, Doval conveyed India's support for Kazakh initiatives in SCO and a successful presidency.

He expressed India's commitment to further deepen its ties with the SCO and its member states in a proactive and constructive manner. He stressed that security is India's priority in the SCO, as promulgated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in line with his vision for a SECURE SCO.

The acronym SECURE stands for Secu-

ity, Economic Cooperation, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity, and Environment Protection.

Night Temp Rises

above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 2.5°C against 0.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.8°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 6.8°C against 5.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C above normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of 6.8°C against 3.6°C on the previous night and it was 2.3°C above normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 2.0°C against 1.1°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.8°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 17.8°C and it was above normal by 0.7°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 8.2°C, Batote 9.7°C and Bhaderwah 7.6°C, he said.

With regard to the forecast, he said, fairly widespread rain is expected during the next 24 hours and mainly dry weather thereafter.

On Thursday, he said, generally dry weather is expected and on Friday, weather is likely to be partly cloudy with "light rain/snow at isolated places". From April 6-10, he said, generally dry weather is expected. (GNS)

Gurez Receives

and its adjacent places received fresh snowfall today.

The rains however, lashed plains of Kashmir including the summer capital of J&K, Srinagar in the later afternoon hours, bringing down the mercury here.

Against yesterday's 214 degree Celsius, the maximum temperature in Srinagar settled at 17.1 degree Celsius today, the officials in the Meteorological department (MeT) said.

The maximum temperature also plummeted in other places including Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Qazigund, Kokernag, Kupwara and other areas compared to yesterday.

Meanwhile, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad however, stated that the weather conditions will improve by tomorrow and there is a forecast of generally dry weather on April 04.

Furthermore, he stated that the partly cloudy with light rain and snow is expected at isolated places on April 05th.

He added that according to the forecast, the weather would remain generally dry from April 06-April 10.

The Meteorological department has also issued an advisory for the farmers, asking them to resume farm operation except on April 03 and April 05—(KNO)

Power Woes New

Scheme have injected substantial funds into power infrastructure enhancements. Despite these investments totaling billions of rupees, a permanent solution to the persistent power cuts has remained elusive, leaving citizens disillusioned and agitated.

The recent rollout of the Revised Distribution Area Scheme (RDSS) aims to redress the existing infrastructural deficits, with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 1600 crore earmarked to complete pending works in both urban and rural areas. While progress in urban centers nears completion, rural regions lag behind, with only 60 percent of the slated works accomplished thus far.

The power generation scenario in Jammu and Kashmir presents a paradoxical juxtaposition, with a total of 29 power plants generating 3550 MW of electricity. However, despite ample production capacity, inadequate infrastructure and transmission inefficiencies result in millions of units of electricity being squandered annually, exacerbating the prevailing crisis.

In rural areas, where power cuts are a recurrent phenomenon, the situation is dire, with loose wires and outdated infrastructure exacerbating the issue. Villagers endure prolonged outages, disrupting essential services like water supply and impeding daily activities. The installation of smart meters, while a step towards modernization, has failed to alleviate the persistent woes faced by rural residents.

As the political landscape heats up in anticipation of the forthcoming elections, political parties are poised to capitalize on the electorate's disillusionment with successive governments' failure to address the longstanding power crisis. From the AAP to the BSP, voices of dissent resonate, with promises of advocacy for a permanent solution to the power woes that have plagued the region for over two decades.

With promises of imminent completion of infrastructure upgrades under the RDSS, political leaders seek to assuage public ire and garner electoral support. However, amidst the cacophony of campaign rhetoric, the electorate remains wary, skeptical of mere promises without tangible results—(KNO)

Gangster, Police

police from Ramgarh area of Samba District following a tip-off about the movement of the gang.

Director General of Police R R Swain has said that Jammu and Kashmir police has launched a next level war against gangster-ism and narcotics which resulted in killing of gangsters outside Government Medical College (GMC) in Kathua last night.

He termed the death of a sub-inspector Deepak Sharma as an unfortunate loss in the incident.

DGP visited Kathua and took stock of the situation after this incident in which one gangster was killed and police lost a young officer who was famous for his act of bravery in the past.

Talking to the media, DGP said that police had all the information about the gangster visiting the GMC Kathua along with his associates and had laid a trap to nab him. "We wanted him to nab him alive but there was a shootout in which the gangster was killed and we lost a Police Sub Inspector Deepak Sharma," he said.

DGP said that gangsters, narcotics smugglers and others are trying to build a strong nexus on the pattern of Punjab. "There is a new level of development in Jammu and Kashmir and these people are trying to build a new nexus. They keep weapons with them and also use them. Police were aware of it and the trap was laid accordingly," he said.

According to police, the gangster was identified as Vasudev Sharma alias Chunnu, who was wanted in many cases and police were after him for some time.

The DGP said that Deepak was a brave officer and wanted to crush the gangster-ism in the area. "We had gone prepared there but unfortunately we lost the sub inspector. But this martyrdom will boost our morale multifold to crush this menace once for all," the DGP added—(KNO Inputs)

LG Pays Tribute

Pathankote today morning. The Lieutenant Governor tweeted: "I salute the valour & indomitable courage of PSI Deepak Sharma, who made supreme sacrifice while valiantly fighting & neutralising a most wanted gangster in Kathua. His supreme sacrifice will remain etched in our hearts. Deepest condolences to the family of martyr Deepak Sharma".

Lieutenant Governor added, "The nation stands in solidarity with martyr's family & @JmuKmrPolice, whose dedication, resilience & courage in battling variety of challenges & adversaries continue to inspire us. Every drop of blood of our martyr will be avenged and we are committed to create a fear-free J&K".

Kashmiri Pandit Leads

gesture that brings our community

closer together. It shows that regardless of our backgrounds, we can come together in the spirit of compassion and brotherhood."—(KNO)

Div Com Reviews

He also directed for making adequate arrangements of traffic management for smooth movement of vehicles, availability of SRTC vehicles and parking space.

Further, he directed DCs to visit the prominent religious places of all the communities in their respective districts and ensure all the facilities to the devotees.

Earlier, Div Com Kashmir conducted an extensive visit of Dargah Hazratbal Shrine, Imambara Zadibal and Jamia Masjid Nowhatta to take the stock of arrangements for the celebration of Eid ul Fitr and observance of Shab-I-Qadir and Friday following for the convenience of devotees.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi ud din; Director Health services Kashmir; SSP Traffic, Srinagar; Joint Commissioner SMC; CE, KPDCCL; CE Srinagar Smart City Limited and other senior officers of line departments of Waqf Board, PHE and other concerned departments.

During his visit to Dargah, Div Com directed concerned officers to make comprehensive arrangements for uninterrupted electricity and water supply besides opening of newly constructed washrooms for public utility in view of religious festivals.

He also directed the operation of water fountain in the premises of Shrine and grass cutting for the enhancing the landscape of parks.

He instructed the Health Department for establishment of a health camp at the shrine with a dedicated medical team besides exhorted on SMC for conducting sanitation drives in the vicinity as well as in the premises of Harzabal Shrine.

While visiting Imambara Zadibal, Div Com took the stock of arrangements and listened to the demands of locals there. On the occasion, Div Com directed shifting of street light poles to the periphery of premises for increasing the space, besides he also directed the concerned departments for addressing the issue of water supply.

He gave directions to the concerned officers for making elaborate arrangements regarding observance of religious occasions.

At Jamia Masjid, he interacted with the members of the community and listened to their issues. On the occasion he instructed all line departments to ensure all the services to the devotees and maintain liaison with the members of the local community.

Arabic Traditional

I wear it during Eid prayers. Seeing my designer Jubbas, many local youth have now also started wearing it during Ramadan and both the Eids," said Shaheen Ahmad Bhat, a local.

According to retailers, Jubbas have become an essential dress code for men on Eid and other festivals in Kashmir. They claimed that because it's Eid-ul-Fitr, there is a greater demand for this traditional clothing from the Gulf.

"The trend towards embracing Arabic attire is not merely a matter of fashion; it also signifies a broader cultural exchange taking place in the region. Kashmiri youth are actively seeking inspiration from different cultures, fostering a sense of inclusivity and diversity," said Sheikh Irfan, a retailer.

He said a variety of Jubbas have hit the market, which are fast attracting the eye of youth.

"We have Indian, Omani, UAE, and Saudi Jubbas. Omani is people's favourite because of its design and elegance," Irfan said.

He said many youth prefer to buy it on e-commerce website. "Many prefer to buy it directly from e-commerce where there is also a good variety available," Irfan said—(KNO)

80-yr-old award-winning Aari staple artist seeks govt attention to preserve art

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: An elderly and Kashmir's famous Aari staple master artist has been working hard for the past six years to preserve the art and is seeking the government attention to take the art to the next level.

An 80-year-old, Mir Abdul Majeed, who has won the state award in the year 2017, said that there is a need that the government must work to provide the market to the artist instead of providing loans.

Hailing from Kalai Andar area of Old City, Majeed has been associated with this art for the last six decades and has trained dozens of people, who have been earning their livelihood by taking forward this art.

Majeed said that it was around 1960 when he started learning this art at Khanyar.

He said, "after a few years, a Japanese lady Mis Halen, brought a staple here and we made



caps, skirts, bed covers and other items. Later, I worked at many places and a few years later I started working on my own unit and reached different markets across India through this art."

He said that one of his landscape works of the Srinagar City's Hari

Parbat fort was even kept as a souvenir by former Prime Minister Late Indira Gandhi.

He said that this work was in good demand especially in foreign countries but its demand declined after Covid-19 pandemic.

Majeed said that the art work is being praised

outside Kashmir very well and the handmade Aari staple is in demand in foreign countries especially Europe.

"Government has been trying its best to promote handicrafts but much more needs to be done as instead of providing loans to artists, there is a need to take this art to University and Colleges to impart training to the students so that they too can earn their livelihood," Majeed said.

"Though machines have come and most of the works are being done through machines now but handmade items are still in demand," he said, adding that he has written verses of Holy Quran, Urdu and Persian poetry on his art pieces.

He said that every person retires but an art knowing person never retires and earns his livelihood even in old age.

Majeed added that he has given training to dozens of boys and girls, who too are masters in this art now—(KNO)

Div Com reviews arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Wednesday convened a meeting of Officers to make comprehensive arrangements for annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2024 to facilitate yatries.

The meeting was attended by DCs and SSPs of Srinagar, Ganderbal, Anantnag and Bandipora besides Directors of Tourism, Health and FCS&CA, SSP Traffic Srinagar, SSP Traffic Rural and Officers of different departments including R&B, PHE, PDD, Sonmarg Development Authority, Pahalgam Development Authority, Information, RDD and ULB.

The meeting deliberated over widening of tracks, snow clearance, underground cabling, power supply to all camps and enroute, establishment of pony sheds, disaster mitigation, pitching of tents and langars.

Besides, the meeting discussed fire safety measures, access control gates, establishment of transit camps, yatra registration, sanitation, disposal of



solid waste, mobile toilets, drinking water facilities, registration of service providers, medical facility, supply of firewood, live telecast of Arti Darshan, communication services, supply of fuel, ration and issuance of RFID cards.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed the concerned to initiate the process of registration of service providers besides directing all departments for augmentation of their services for SANJY.

Further, he also directed concerned for making

adequate arrangements for accommodation, health facility, firewood, ration and kerosene.

He laid stress on the installation of signages on both axis of SANJY and at camps to provide information to the pilgrims regarding nearby facilities, control room contact numbers etc

To ensure cleanliness and sanitation, he exhorted concerned officers to carry continuous sanitation drives and install dustbins for proper disposal of solid waste.

He issued directions to concerned officers to ensure availability of water and electricity, besides he also asked IMD to share accurate information regarding weather activity on a real time basis.

Moreover, Div Com directed BSNL and other communication service providers to augment networking to cover all the shadow areas.

He cautioned officers that activities entrusted to their departments are non-negotiable and shall be executed smoothly.

CS reviews performance of Cooperatives in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday had a detailed review of performance of several Cooperatives including Banks, societies, Super Bazaars and other institutions working under the Department here in the UT.

Secretary Cooperatives, Registrar, Cooperatives, Additional Registrar, Cooperatives Kashmir/Jammu, Deputy Registrars and other officers of the department participated in the meeting while Srinagar based officers participated in person and virtually.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary enquired about the performance of Cooperative Banks, Cooperative Super Bazaars,



Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) and other educational and training institutions working under the department.

The Chief Secretary asked about the improvement made in the working of the banks after previous capital infusion. He called for having a detailed examination of the exercise and coming up with concrete measures as envisaged under the plan. He also took note of the absence of CBS in certain bank branches of the department.

Regarding working of

the PACS, the Chief Secretary suggested to explore the possibility of securing credit under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) of the Agriculture Production Department for long term sustainability of these societies. He called for carrying out a study to make these societies sustainable in long run as the PACS are the real strength of the Cooperative movement.

Dulloo also asked for running business of the Super Bazaars on modern lines as there is high potential of making them profitable assets. He made out that in association with SHGs of JKRLM the diversity of products and GI tagged items can increase the sales of such Bazaars.

IGP stresses upon preparedness for upcoming auspicious occasions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi, stressed upon all the Range DisG and District SsP to access & enhance preparedness for upcoming auspicious occasions and festivals pertaining to different communities.

On the sidelines of a high-level meeting, IGP highlighted the significance of collective efforts in ensuring the safety and security of the populace during these festivities, a police spokesman said in a statement issued reads.

The auspicious occasions slated for the coming days include Jumut-ul-Vida, Shab-l-Qadr, Navratra, Arfa day, Eid-ul-Fitr, Baisakhi & Ramanavami, each holding profound cultural and religious importance in the region.

During a briefing session, IGP Kashmir stressed the participating officers about the overall preparation for peaceful conduct of upcoming events.

V K Birdi stressed on strengthening surveillance efforts to monitor



and thwart activities of elements detrimental to the peace and stability of the region. He directed officers to implement the robust security measures to counter any potential terror threats and ensure the safety of citizens participating in the festivities.

IGP Kashmir reiterated for intensifying market inspections in coordination with concerned magistrates, particularly in anticipation of Eid-ul-Fitr, to prevent malpractices and ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates with standard quality and sufficient availability.

He directed senior officers to facilitate general public and to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place. Besides market checking, formulate comprehensive traffic

management as well as crowd management plans, with special emphasis on Jumut-ul-Vida, Shab-l-Qadr & Arfa day to facilitate smooth flow and minimize congestion on roads, IGP said.

Moreover, the officers were also directed to identify temporary suitable parking spots to accommodate the influx of vehicles and ensure orderly parking arrangements. The meeting also focused on establishing dialogue and coordination with respective Auaq committees to facilitate the peaceful conduct of Shab-l-Qadr night congregations and Eid-ul-Fitr prayers.

IGP Kashmir underscored the importance of proactive measures and collaborative efforts from all stakeholders to ensure the overall peace and harmony during these auspicious occasions. He reiterated the commitment to maintain law and order and provide a safe and secure environment for general citizens to celebrate the upcoming auspicious occasions without any fear and disruptions.

Over 1000 Muslims perform Itikaaf at Darul Uloom Raheemiya



WARIS FAYAZ

BANDIPORA: Amidst the holy month of Ramadan, approximately 1000 devout Muslims are participating in Itikaaf at the renowned seminary, Darul Uloom Raheemiya, Bandipora, dedicating themselves to spiritual reflection and worship.

Itikaaf is a spiritual practice observed by Muslims during the last ten days of Ramadan. Participants withdraw from worldly activities and distractions, focusing on worship, recitation of the Quran, and acts of remembrance and supplication to seek closeness to Allah.

The management at the seminary informed that

around 1000 individuals, including both youth and elderly from various parts of the valley, are observing Itikaaf this Ramadan. Approximately 250 food plates (Traamis) are being served daily, covering both Sehri (pre-dawn meals) and Iftaar (breaking of fast).

In addition to those performing Itikaaf, a large number of locals join for prayers and a grand Iftaar on a daily basis.

It is worth mentioning that during last Ramadan, over 600 men observed Itikaaf at this Islamic seminary. Over the years, the seminary has become a popular destination for people from both the valley and outsiders—(KNO)

DSEK constitutes committee to authenticate complaints against Pvt schools

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Two days after the commencement of a new academic session, Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Wednesday constituted a committee to verify the complaints against private schools here.

DSEK in an order said that it has been sanctioned to constitute a committee to verify different complaints against private schools in Kashmir division being frequently received at different quarters and appearing on the social media platforms.

DSEK said that the concerned chief education officer, cluster heads and zonal education officers shall verify

the complaint against the schools recognised by School Education Department and affiliated with JKBOSE.

It also said that the concerned Chief Education Officer, deputy CEO, and one senior most principal to be nominated by CEO concerned shall verify the complaints against the schools affiliated with CBSE.

"The committees constituted shall monitor the private educational institutions and submit reports and recommendations thereof as per J&K School Education Act-2002 to DSEK on fortnightly basis," it reads.

Earlier this week, the Committee for Fixation and Regulation of Fee of Private Schools (FFRC)

has said that the private schools were charging fees retrospectively for the months in which students have not availed any services from the institute.

The committee accordingly warned the private schools not to charge fee retrospectively for the period a student has not been on the rolls of school.

On March-21, Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) warned private schools of strict actions for charging prohibited capitation charges from students.

Tassaduq Hussain Mir, the director of school education had said this during the sidelines of an event "Schools will face action who will charge admission or miscellaneous charges."

Traders from Downtown concerned as poor roads deter customers

MUBASHIR ALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: The trade community of Sheri-e-Khaas in downtown Srinagar has voiced their concern over the dilapidated road infrastructure, citing a significant decline of their businesses.

The aggrieved traders from Sheri-e-Khaas lamented the dismal road conditions, stating that poor roads are deterring customers from frequenting the area.

"Look at the pace of work, we are suffering. Just few days are left to Eid, and we are witnessing very low magnitude of customer footfall in this market," said a copper trader.

The President of the Sheri-e-Khaas Traders Federation, Nazir Ahmad Shah highlighted that most of the roads in downtown Srinagar are either under construction or covered in layers of dust, dissuading shoppers from visiting.

"Just take a glance at the streets of downtown, they resemble a construction site with roads resembling surgical procedures, left gaping open and impass-

able," he said.

Shah further highlighted that due to the ongoing works many shopkeepers have to down their shutters, citing that there is no way to walk due to the drainage and other works.

Expressing frustration, another shopkeeper pointed out that ongoing smart city projects have taken a toll on their livelihoods, resulting in a substantial decline in business. "We were better off without this. With Eid approaching, who would venture to shop amidst these crater-like roads? We've been enduring these dug-up streets for months now," the shopkeeper lamented.

The Sheri-Khaas trade body called upon authorities to expedite efforts to restore the roads of downtown Srinagar, urging that all pending roadworks be prioritized. They stressed the need for swift action to ensure the smooth operation of businesses in the area.

Meanwhile, a top official from Srinagar Smart City told KNO that the work is in full swing and is likely to be completed within soon within next two months—(KNO)

DC Srinagar finalizes arrangements for Jumut-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr & Eid-ul-Fitr

Stresses on intensifying market checking & ensuring sale of safe quality food items, essential commodities at Government approved rates

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In order to review the arrangements for auspicious holy occasions of Jumut-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr, a meeting of senior officers of District Administration was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed appraisal of the arrangements being made by all the line departments required on the auspicious occasions of upcoming Jumut-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr.

The DC directed the Officers of all the line departments to ensure all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance so that devotees/people do not face any difficulty during the observance/celebrations of the holy occasions.

The DC directed the PDD authorities to ensure



uninterrupted supply of power during Jumut-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr, while the PHE department was asked to ensure adequate water supply to the people. They were also directed to deploy water tankers at prominent Shrines of the City so that people do not face any difficulty to perform ablution.

Similarly, the SMC authorities were asked to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness arrangements at all prominent places of the City particularly at Hazratbal and other main Shrines, besides installation and repairs of the Street lights at important religious places where large congregations are expected to be held.

SMC was further asked to take required measures

to contain dog menace in the City particularly at prominent Shrines.

Dr Bilal stressed for ensuring adequate Transport and Parking facilities at Hazratbal and other prominent Masjids and Shrines for the devotees visiting Religious places during auspicious days. He asked the concerned authorities to prepare an adequate route plan with the Traffic Department, besides creating temporary additional parking slots so that better transport facilities will be provided to the people during these auspicious days.

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