


# Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

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*Life of Prabhushri Ram inspires us to follow the path of righteousness & selfless service. Let's renew our resolve to serve humanity with dedication. May the festivity of Ram Navami bring joy & happiness to all.*

### Smoke-Free Booths J&K Among First States, UTs With Such Order

JAHANGEER GANAIE

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move aimed at safeguarding public health and enhancing the voter experience, the Chief Election Officer of Jammu and Kashmir has declared all polling stations across the union territory as tobacco-free zones.

This decision follows a directive from the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, urging the Chief Election Officer to ensure smoke-free environments in polling stations. ●P-06



### World Hemophilia Day Medical Experts Call For Awareness On Bleeding Disorders

JAHANGEER GANAIE

**SRINAGAR:** On World Hemophilia Day, medical experts called for the need to raise awareness about bleeding disorders and diagnosing patients early to prevent complications.

Dr Iqbal Saleem highlighted the advancements in medical research and treatment options that enable people with haemophilia to lead fulfilling lives.

He said this year's theme for World Hemophilia ●P-06



## Bihar Resident Shot Dead By Terrorists In Bijbehara



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** A civilian was shot dead by the terrorists in Bijbehara area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday evening, officials said.

An official said a civilian, hailing from Bihar, identified as Raja Shah, son of Shankar Shah, presently living at Jablipora, Bilal Colony was fired upon by the terrorists in Bijbehara.

The official said that the civilian received bullet injuries in neck and abdomen, leaving him in a pool of blood. He was immediately taken to the hospital where he was declared dead.

Meanwhile, the areas has been cordoned off to nab the attackers. The motives behind the attack are yet to be determined, but initial reports suggest the involvement of terrorist elements targeting non-local residents in the area.

In a post on X, Kashmir Zone Police said, "The injured person, who was shot at by #terrorists, succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. Search #operation underway in the area. Further details to follow."

Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference President Sajad Gani Lone strongly denounced the tragic killing of a Bihar resident in Bijbehara, South Kashmir. Expressing ●P-06

### LG Condemns Bijbehara Terror Attack

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Wednesday condemned the terror attack in Bijbehara, Anantnag. He has conveyed his condolences to the family of the martyred civilian ●P-06

## BJP Never Discriminated In Delivery Of Welfare Schemes: PM

**GUWAHATI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that the BJP-led government has never discriminated in the distribution of welfare measures to the beneficiaries.

Addressing a huge public gathering in Assam's Nalbari district, PM Modi said, "Whether it is free ration distribution or the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, benefits have been passed to the people without any discrimination."

He also promised to install solar panels in households to make electricity free in the country.

"We have taken the initiative to install solar power cells on the rooftops of houses. It will not only make your electricity bill zero; in the future, when you buy electric vehicles, the travel cost on the road will also become zero," PM Modi said, adding that in this ambitious scheme, there will be no discrimination at all under the BJP rule.

The Prime Minister also promised that senior citizens, who have attained 70 years of age, can avail of free treatment through the Ayushman Bharat Scheme in the coming days.

"I want to tell everybody that Modi will take responsibility for the treatment ●P-06



## India's Boundaries Are Completely Secure: Rajnath Singh

**KASARGOD:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that India's boundaries with its neighbours, including China and Pakistan, were "completely secure".

The senior BJP leader Singh made the statement in an apparent reference to the Congress allegations that China has occupied around 2,000 square kilometers of Indian territory, taken over 26 out of 65 patrolling points in Ladakh and built complete villages 50-60 km deep inside Arunachal Pradesh.

In a clear denial of these allegations, Singh said, "As Defence Minister, I would like to tell you that all our boundaries, be it with Pakistan, China, Bhutan, Nepal ●P-06



## Boat Capsize Tragedy J&K Govt Provides Ex-Gratia Relief Of 5 Lakh Each To Victims' Families



AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday provided an ex-gratia relief of Rs five lakh each to the next of kin of the victims of the boat capsizing tragedy.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, V K Bhiduri, and Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Bilal Mohiuddin visited Gandbal and met the families of the victims who drowned in the Jhelum river on Tuesday, an official spokesman said.

He said the officials consoled the loss of the life and provided an ex-gratia of Rs five Lakh to the next ●P-06

## LS Polls: High-voltage campaigning ends in Udhampur

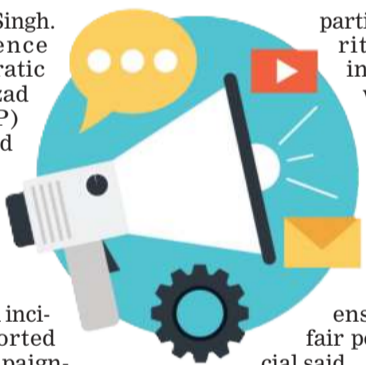
**JAMMU:** The high-voltage electioneering came to an end on Wednesday evening in Udhampur parliamentary constituency in Jammu and Kashmir which is witnessing its first major electoral battle since it was bifurcated and downgraded to the status of a Union Territory in 2019.

The polling is slated in Udhampur Lok Sabha seat in the first phase on April 19 and will decide the fate of 12 contestants, including Union Minister Jitendra Singh who is seeking a third term and is facing a major challenge from Congress candidate Choudhary Lal Singh.

The presence of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) candidate and former Jammu and Kashmir minister G M Saroori makes the contest a triangular one.

"No untoward incident was reported during the campaigning by the candidates of political parties and Independents. The electioneering ended this evening (at 6 pm) and the advance parties of the security and polling staff along with election logistics and materials have been dispatched to the remote pockets including snow-bound areas to ensure free and fair polling," an official said.

Over 16.23 lakh electorate including 7.77 lakh women are going to vote at 2637 polling stations across the ●P-06



## Ram Navami Celebrated With Religious Fervor Across Kashmir



REHAN QAYOUM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** Ram Navami was celebrated with religious fervor across the valley on Wednesday while Kashmiri Pandits performed 'pooja' at the historic Shankaracharya Temple, located on Shankaracharya Hill in Srinagar.

On the occasion, the Kashmiri Pandits took out a procession during the festival celebrations at historic Ghanta Ghar where Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Bilal Mohi-ud-Din along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Ashish Mishra also participated.

The Shankaracharya Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, witnessed ●P-06

## Tourism Revival Sparks Surge In Sales Of Kashmir's Handicrafts



MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

**SRINAGAR:** With the revival of tourism in the valley, the region's handicrafts industry is experiencing a notable surge, signaling promising economic recovery and cultural resurgence.

In recent years, Kashmir has witnessed a resurgence in tourism, with travellers from across the world visiting Kashmir during different seasons to witness the breathtaking landscapes. This revival in tourism has not only brought a sense of hope to local businesses but has also provided a significant impetus to the handicrafts sector, which has long been a cornerstone of Kashmir's economy.

Artisans and craftsmen in Kashmir have been renowned for their exquisite craftsmanship for centuries, producing a wide array of traditional handicrafts such as intricately woven carpets, fine pashmina shawls, intricate wood carvings, and colorful papier-mâché artifacts.

The sector during the recent past suffered immensely with artisans switching to other trades to earn livelihood following reduced demand.

With government's initiatives and revival of tourism, the handicrafts sector has again thrived in Kashmir.

Mohammed Ali Bhat, a third-generation wood carving artisan in Srinagar, expressed his delight at the recent upswing in business. "For years, our livelihoods were affected by the decline in tourism. But now, with more visitors coming to Kashmir, we are seeing a steady increase ●P-06

## 'Major Breakthrough' Three IEDs Seized In Poonch



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Three ready-to-use improvised explosive devices (IED), each weighing between three to 20 kgs, were recovered from a terrorist hideout in the border district of Poonch on Wednesday, officials said.

They termed it a "major breakthrough" ahead of Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The IEDs, planted inside steel containers of five-kg, 10-kg and 20-kg capacity, were found hidden inside a cave hideout during a joint search operation by the police, CRPF and Rashtriya Rifles in the forest area of Sanai-Gursai in the Mendhar subdivision, the officials said.

They said the bomb disposal squad later destroyed all the three IEDs in a controlled explosion, scuttling terrorists' plan to carry out blasts in the Union Territory.

"We received an input about the likely hideout and suspicious ●P-06


### MOVIES Schedule

Thursday 18 April

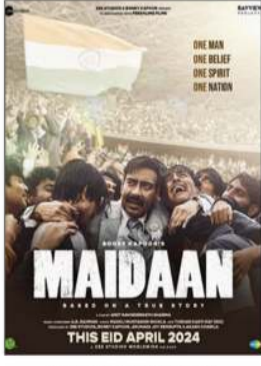
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**INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR**




**BADE MIYAN CHOTE MIYAN (HINDI)**  
11:45AM, 02:30PM, 03:40PM  
07:00PM (U/A)




**MAIDAAN (HINDI)**  
11:15AM, 03:00PM  
(U/A)



**SHAITAAN (HINDI)**  
06:30PM (U/A)



**CREW (HINDI)**  
06:00PM (U/A)



**GODZILLA X KONG (U/A)**  
12:10PM (ENG)

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

# DEO Kathua unveils Model Polling Station near Indo-Pak Int'l Border

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KATHUA:** In a pioneering effort to enhance public awareness and understanding of voting process, District Election Officer Kathua, under the leadership of District Election Officer (DEO), Dr. Rakesh Minhas, has unveiled a Model Polling Station near the zero line of Indo-Pak International Border in Hiranagar here.

Located just over 500 meters from the fence, the Government High School Kadyala has been transformed into a vibrant hub adorned with Tricolor Balloons, welcoming voters to experience a festival-like atmosphere. Ensuring accessibility and comfort, the station boasts Pink toilets for women voters, dedicated facilities for male voters, clean drinking water, and ramps for persons with disabilities, all meticulously arranged to enhance the voting experience.

The Model Polling Station also possesses huge concentration of flower plants adding greenery to entire landscape of Polling



station.

Electricity provision ensures proper lighting and fans, while the presence of police and CAPF personnel ensures the safety and security of all voters.

The Model Polling Station witnessed a series of mock polls, including scenarios for normal voting, all-female staff booths (Pink Booth scenario), and voters with

disabilities. Local male, female, and PwD voters participated in the mock polls, providing a realistic depiction of the entire voting process.

The exercise aims to educate local community about step-by-step procedures involved in casting their vote on the polling day. The video is being circulated throughout Kathua, empowering voters with knowledge to navigate polling station

with confidence and clarity.

Commenting on the initiative, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, DEO Kathua emphasized on the importance of voter education and engagement in fostering a robust democratic culture. He expressed confidence that Model Polling Station and educational video would contribute significantly to voter turnout and participation in upcoming elections.

# Stage set for Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KATHUA:** With the stage set for Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency (PC), going to polls in the first phase of General Elections to be held on April 19, the fate of 12 candidates will be decided by over 16.23 lakh voters.

The Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency consists of 18 Assembly Segments spanning across five districts including Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Udhampur and Kathua. Encompassing an expansive area of 16,707 square kilometres, the constituency boasts of diverse electorate comprising of 16,23,195 eligible voters. Among them are 845,283 male voters, 777,899 female voters and 13 third gender voters, reflecting the inclusivity of democratic process. In Kishtwar district, with three Assembly Segments namely Inderwal, Kishtwar and Padder Nagseni, a total of 175,897 electors, including 90256 male and 85641 female, are poised to exercise their right to franchise. Doda district, also with three



Assembly Segments namely Bhandarwah, Doda and Doda West, contributes 305,093 voters to the electoral roll comprising 157375 male, 147711 female and 7 third gender electors Ramban district, encompassing two Assembly Segments namely Ramban and Banihal, has 219,124 registered electors, including 113814 male and 105310 female electors. Udhampur District, comprising four Assembly Segments namely Udhampur West, Udhampur East, Chenani and Ramnagar, boasts 419,854 electors which included 219890 male and 199964 female electors. Kathua district, with six Assembly Segments of Bani, Billawar, Basohli, Jastrota, Kathua and Hiranagar will see a robust participation of 503,227 registered voters comprising 263948 male, 239273 female and 6 third gender electors. To facilitate seamless voting, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has set up 2,637 polling stations across the constituency, including 405

in Kishtwar, 529 in Doda, 348 in Ramban, 654 in Udhampur and 701 in Kathua District. In line with the commitment towards fair and transparent elections, the ECI has deployed 3,658 Ballot Units, 3,570 Control Units, and 3,636 VVPATs (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) to ensure the accuracy and integrity of electoral process. Moreover, 1,472 polling stations will be equipped with webcasting facilities to further enhance transparency in the democratic process.

# DEO Ramban reviews preparations for elections



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**RAMBAN:** With the Lok Sabha Elections-2024 round the corner, District Election Officer (DEO) Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary Wednesday chaired a meeting to review preparedness and galvanize polling staff for conduct of polling in the district scheduled on April 19, 2024.

In presence of Senior Superintendent of Police, Anuj Kumar; ADC, Varunjeet Singh Charak; Deputy DEO and other key officials, the DEO briefed Zonal Magistrates, Zonal officers, Sector Magistrates, Sector officers, polling parties, security

personnel, and other concerned officers about their role and responsibilities for the upcoming Election Day.

Addressing the gathering, the DEO emphasized on importance of adhering to Election Commission of India's guidelines to ensure fair and transparent polling. Precautions, do's, and don'ts were highlighted to facilitate a hassle-free voting process.

Interacting with media persons, the DEO said that Ramban Civil and Police Administration are fully prepared for democratic exercise characterized by efficiency, transparency, and adherence to electoral protocols.

# DEMC Ramban organises training session for media persons



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**RAMBAN:** District Election Media Cell (DEMC) Ramban, under the leadership of District Election Officer (DEO), Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, organized one-day training session for media persons to acquaint them about ECI guidelines on media reporting on Poll day.

The DEO alongside Senior Superintendent of Police, Anuj Kumar, engaged with the media persons to elucidate their role and constraints according to Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines, underscoring the significance of responsible coverage during the 1st phase of polling of General Election, 2024 scheduled on April 19, 2024 in the district.

Emphasizing the pivotal

role of media in ensuring the successful conduct of elections, the DEO urged compliance with ECI guidelines.

SSP Anuj Kumar also briefed participants on various security aspects pertaining to media coverage.

Earlier, Nodal Officer MCMC and Media Centre (District Information Officer) Ramban, Mohammad Ashraf Wani and Nodal Officer for Women Awareness and Welfare, Shailni Chandel, acquainted participants with ECI directives concerning media coverage, especially on polling day.

The training session aimed to foster a conducive environment for informed and responsible media coverage, contributing to the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.

# Temporary restoration work on damaged bridges begins at Kalaroos



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** Following the directions of the District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, Rural Development Department, Kupwara has started the temporary restoration of vital assets and infrastructure damaged by recent flash floods at Kalaroos and Magam blocks of Kupwara district.

Temporary Restoration work on Badi Haji -Sarkuli bridge, Badi Behack -Nagsari Bridge, Magam- Putwari bridge, restoration of fencing of Government Middle School Nagsari and other infrastructure has been started by the Rural development department.

ACD Kupwara, Muzaffar Ahmad Sheikh said that makeshift arrangement/ temporary restoration of these

bridges will be completed within a week's time.

Pertinently, recent flash floods triggered by heavy rains had damaged these vital bridges and District Development Commissioner, Kupwara had on Tuesday visited these far-flung areas, took a first-hand appraisal of the situation and assessed the measures being taken by the administration.

# 94 Polling parties dispatched for Bani Assembly segment



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KATHUA:** District Election Officer, Kathua Dr Rakesh Minhas Wednesday flagged off polling parties to Bani sub division, farthest Assembly segment from the district headquarters.

As many as 94 polling parties, including reserve staff, were dispatched to Bani Sub-division along with EVMs. The District Election Cell had made adequate logistic and security arrangements for polling parties.

The DEO informed that among the 94 polling stations in Bani AC, 21 Polling Stations have been identified as Critical Polling Stations. He said these polling teams will reach Bani by evening and after halting at the Bani Assembly segment headquarters, they will move to respective polling stations on 18th April.

He further disclosed that umbrella, sanitizer and masks were also provided to Polling parties to maintain proper safety protocol while discharging their polling duties.

# Second group of 31 polling parties dispatched to polling stations in Kishtwar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KISHTWAR:** As many as 31 polling parties were Wednesday dispatched to ensure successful conduct of Phase-I of Lok Sabha Elections in 48-Inderwal, 49-Kishtwar, and 50-Padder Nagseni constituencies of District Kishtwar.

The polling teams left amid tight security and other logistical arrangements under the close

supervision of District Election Officer, Dr. Devansh Yadav.

The polling teams dispatched today included 2 for 48-Inderwal, 21 for 49-Kishtwar, and 8 for 50-Padder Nagseni Constituencies.

Moreover 3 out of 8 teams (consisting of 17 polling staff members and 23 police personnel) for 50-Padder, Nagseni Constituency were airlifted by

IAF and Indian Army to far flung areas of Machail.

Earlier, 43 polling parties were dispatched to the far-flung areas to facilitate PwD and Home Voting.

DEO Kishtwar, while interacting with the polling staff, advised them to perform their assigned duties diligently and refrain from violating MCC norms. He further laid stress on the conduct of free, fair, and transparent Elections.

# Nukkad Natak, other awareness events under SVEEP held in Ramban



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**RAMBAN:** In a spirited effort to boost voter participation, a lively Nukkad Natak was presented in Ramsoo and main market Banihal here Wednesday. Under the supervision of District Election Officer (DEO), Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, the District Administration organized a series of SVEEP programs at prominent locations in Ramban to spread public awareness about voting right.

Sangam Theatre presented a theme-based Nukkad Natak on SVEEP,

engaging a large number of youth and citizens in the Electoral Awareness program. Supervised by District Nodal Officer, SVEEP (ACP), Ashfaq Khanji, the initiative aimed to enhance understanding of voting-related process and promote electoral literacy, particularly among first-time voters, preparing them for upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

Artists and speakers appealed people, especially youth, to propagate the message of electoral participation among their families, relatives, and communities.

# DC Kupwara greets people on Ram Navami

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Wednesday greeted the people on the occasion of Ram Navami.

In her message, the Deputy Commissioner said, "On the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, I extend my greetings and best wishes to all the citizens. I pray the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami augurs well for the increased prospects of peace and prosperity."

She added, "Lord Ram's life inspires us to follow the path of righteousness, patience and a sense of kindness for all. The festival of Ram Navami is an occasion for us to renew our resolve to serve humanity with dedication and commitment."

'SCREAMS FROM GANDBAL.....'

Father jumps back into river to save his son after boat capsizes

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: "It was a father's love for his son that made him jump back into the Jhelum, after battling with the high tides of the river, to save his life. As he jumped back to save his son, he started to swim towards the rope of one shore, while he slowly started losing energy and eventually drowned along with his son," recounted an eyewitness about Showkat Ahmad, a devoted father, who made the ultimate sacrifice to save his son, Haziq, from the treacherous currents of the Jhelum River on Tuesday morning.



when a boat ferrying locals and non-local J&K residents to the other side of the Jhelum capsized.

"Among the missing, Showkat Ahmad was the lone brother among six sisters and a helping hand to the family. He was a mason, but a man of his word and a hardworking person," his neighbour said while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

"Vanni Kyaa Karre Hoo, Me Kath Laggi Yi Kadel Vanni (now what will I do, what use is this bridge to me)," screamed the old

mother of Showkat, as the bodies of her son and grandson are yet to be retrieved from the river.

"He was the lone brother of his five sisters. It is a shock for us and the entire locality," said a woman, wailing over the loss and missing bodies.

An eyewitness, Tahir (name changed), recalled the incident. "Showkat saved himself and reached towards the rope but jumped back into the Jhelum upon seeing his son Haziq drowning. He started to swim towards the rope of one shore, while he slowly

started losing energy and eventually drowned along with his son."

"The cries from Gandabal are haunting me, as this is such a devastating incident and the first in my lifetime. Even if the authorities would give us a bridge made of gold, it would not be enough for us as we lost innocent souls to the waters of Jhelum," he added.

Meanwhile, the rescue operation to retrieve the bodies continued all day on Wednesday, with no traces of the missing persons found—(KNO)

'DESPITE OPPOSITION PROPAGANDA'

Udhampur, Kathua, Doda Development Journey To Continue: Dr Jitendra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: Union Minister and BJP Candidate for Udhampur-Doda-Kathua Lok Sabha constituency Dr Jitendra Singh said here Wednesday that the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency is on a fast track development journey and this development journey will continue despite Opposition propaganda.

Making a scathing attack on Congress and its allied opposition parties on the sidelines of a grand massive roadshow here today on the last day of the campaigning for first phase of the Parliamentary election, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Congress Party had deprived this entire region of any development for the last over 60 years and in fact deliberately also halted the ongoing project only to appease their masters and to keep particular sections of vote bank in good humour by doing discrimination with this region.

The irony is, he said, the Congress leaders who say that there is no development happening in this region are the ones who are using these facilities created by us in the last 10 years, whether it is the network of roads, or bridges or flyovers or tunnels or the Medical Colleges, etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the last 10 years under Prime Minister Modi, Udhampur-Doda-Kathua Lok Sabha constituency is among the most developed constituencies in the country. He

said, it is perhaps the only constituency in the country which got three centrally funded Medical Colleges and a host of national projects

including the highest railway bridge of world, longest road tunnel of Asia at Chenani, North India's first Industrial Biotech Park at Kathua, North India's first River Rejuvenation Project at River Devika, North India's first Cable Bridge Atal Setu in Basohli, two Passport offices, Radio Station at Udhampur, etc. Not only this, as Prime Minister Modi mentioned during his address at the Udhampur rally on 12th of this month, the Congress led UPA government halted the Shahpur-Kandi Project, which would benefit the twin districts of Kathua and Samba and the project was revived only after Prime Minister Modi came to power.



Taking a dig at the opposition leaders, Dr Jitendra Singh said, on the one hand, the Congress leaders and their allies say that there are no roads constructed, on the other hand, while driving through this constituency they are invariably using the 9½ Kms Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel from Chenani to Nashri in order to cut down their travel time by 1½ hours. If these leaders have any conscience, let them at least not use these facilities provided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Similarly, he said, even during the election campaign, these leaders travelled up to zero line on the International border on the roads constructed in the last ten years. He added, if they have any conscience, they could have avoided travelling by road and walked on foot as was being done before 2014. Dr Jitendra Singh added that in the last ten years, while three Medical Colleges came up in the constituency there were at least 20 Degree Colleges and nearly a dozen Kendriya Vidyalayas opened in this constituency. He said, these opposition leaders and

critics who say that this has not happened and there are no such institutions should at least have the conscience not to get their children admitted in these colleges and schools.

The double speak of opposition leaders has become so evident, said Dr Jitendra Singh that even family members of these Congress leaders now have decided to vote for Modi because the benefits of toilets and Gas Cylinders have reached even their households and changed the destiny of their women folk. Similarly, he said, the children of the Congress leaders are using all the benefits of the StartUp and Digital India initiatives introduced by Prime Minister Modi and therefore, they will also cast their secret vote for Modi.

Appealing to voters to cast their vote in 100%, Dr Jitendra Singh said, we have no opponent and our competition is with ourselves. We have to prove before ourselves that we have put up a better performance than in 2019 when we registered a record margin in J&K by more than 3 Lakh 58 thousand votes. He said, it is a foregone conclusion that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be sworn in as Prime Minister for the third term in June 2024 with 400 plus mandate, but we have to prove to ourselves and to others that this Udhampur-Kathua-Doda constituency also made a substantial contribution in making up the figure of 400 plus.

Omar Abdullah has 'habit of humiliating people': Sajad Lone

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: People's Conference (PC) chief Sajad Gani Lone on Wednesday said National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah has a "habit of humiliating people and he needs to get out of the habit of labelling his opponents adversely".



The PC president slammed Abdullah's assertion that his fight in north Kashmir's Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency -- "where Abdullah and Lone are pitted against each other -- is against Delhi and not against any specific candidate.

Lone questioned the implications of labelling his supporters as "agents of Delhi or manipulated by agencies".

"Omar has a habit of humiliating everyone. I want to ask him that are the people supporting us mere agents of Delhi? Are they manipulated by agencies? Why do you habitually demean and insult the people of Kashmir? Do you hold a license to label and question people's choices, humiliating them in the process?" Lone said.

He also addressed a block meeting with workers from Qaziabad in Langate assembly segment.

"These are the Kashmiri people, standing with us out of genuine love and affection. Our party has been repeatedly victimised by your alliances with Delhi, whether in 1983, 1987, or thereafter. We are the party that genuinely represents the aspirations of victimised Kashmiris," he said.

Lone said the Abdullahs (Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah) and the NC have been "pleading" the BJP for their support.

"You, yourself, have been pleading and begging the BJP for recognition. Farooq Abdullah resorted to public begging in a TV interview for BJP's audience. Show some shame

before questioning the loyalty of the Kashmiri people," he further said.

On the issue of abrogation of Article 370, the PC chief further said the NC's attempt to "deceive" the public again on the issue is "disgraceful".

"What moral grounds do they hold to claim the restoration of special status to J-K, a cause they willingly relinquished and now seek to exploit emotionally? They had three sitting MPs when Article 370 was abrogated. What have they achieved in the last five years?" he asked.

However, he said, if the party is serious, they should prepare a roadmap for achieving their objectives and secure assurances from its alliance partners.

Prof. Quint delivers expert talk on 'Ion Trap' at NIT Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, in collaboration with the Indian National Young Academy of Science (INYAS), Tuesday organized an expert talk featuring Prof. Wolfgang Quint, a senior professor, from GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung, Darmstadt, Germany.



Prof. Quint, an esteemed academic researcher from Heidelberg University and his expertise spans various topics, including Penning trap and Antiproton research.

HOD Department of Physics, Prof. Mohd. Ikram expressed his gratitude to Prof. Quint for accepting the invitation and delivering the expert talk on the Ion Trap'. He said Ion traps are important today because they help scientists do precise work in fields like physics and chemistry.

Prof. Ikram praised Dr. Vijay Kumar for setting up talks by experts on campus. He said these talks are really important and students should take the chance to learn and get inspired from them.

During his speech, Prof.

Wolfgang Quint talked about how he studies really tiny particles using special techniques. He showed traps and controls these tiny particles, and also demonstrated methods he has developed.

Dr. Quint explained how his research helps us understand the basic rules of the universe better. He talked about how his work can reveal secrets about the smallest level.

The session concluded with a vibrant Q&A segment, during which attendees engaged Dr. Quint in stimulating discussions on various topics, from quantum entanglement to the search for new physics beyond the Standard Model.

Earlier Dr. Vijay Kumar, a Member of INYAS and Assistant Professor at Department of Physics welcomed the guest speaker. He commended Dr.

Wolfgang Quint for his enlightening presentation and emphasized how these experiences inspire students to pursue research in various cutting-edge fields.

Earlier Dr. Vijay Kumar extended a warm welcome to Prof. Quint and other dignitaries. The purpose of such sessions is to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

Dr. Vijay said such initiatives are instrumental in advancing research and education, promoting a culture of continuous learning and innovation within academic institutions.

He expressed deep gratitude to all the participants, and other dignitaries who made the session a resounding success.

The session was attended by students, researchers, and faculty members from NIT Srinagar, University of Kashmir and other institutions.

LS Polls Azad will not contest from Anantnag-Rajouri seat: DPAP

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad will not contest the Lok Sabha elections from Anantnag-Rajouri seat in Jammu and Kashmir, his party said on Wednesday.

DPAP's provincial president, Kashmir, Mohammad Amin Bhat said the party has now decided to field its leader Mohammad Saleem Parry from the seat.

"Azad will not contest the elections (from Anantnag-Rajouri seat)," Bhat told reporters in

Anantnag. "A meeting took place with Azad and it was decided that advocate Saleem Parry will be the DPAP candidate for the Anantnag-Rajouri seat," he added.

"He gave some reasons (in the meeting) and then we took a decision on fielding Parry from the seat," Bhat said.

On April 2, the DPAP announced that Azad will contest from the Anantnag-Rajouri seat. "Today the core committee of DPAP met and we have decided that (party president) Ghulam Nabi Azad will contest the Anantnag-Rajouri seat," DPAP leader Taj Mohiuddin had said.

No female candidate from NC, Congress, BJP in LS Polls

ALI ASAD

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir, a region known for its political dynamism, has a glaring gap in female representation in its political landscape.

Despite rhetoric advocating for equal rights and representation, the reality tells a different story. Since 1967, only three women have made it to Parliament, a mere five times collectively, from the region.

As per the info received, there is a stark gender disparity in political representation. Of the three women who made it to Parliament, four times were from the Kashmir division, while once was from Ladakh. Surprisingly, no woman has ever been elected from the Jammu division.

The first woman MP from Jammu and Kashmir was Akbar Jahan Begum, the wife of Sheikh Abdullah. She represented the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat in 1977 under the National Conference banner. Later, she won from the Anantnag seat in 1984. Following her, Parvati Devi secured a seat from Ladakh on a

Congress ticket in 1977.

The most recent addition to this list is Mehbooba Mufti from the PDP, who became an MP from the Anantnag seat in 2004 and again in 2014. Despite her success, the BJP, which holds significant political sway in the region, has never fielded a woman candidate for Parliament.

In the ongoing election season, political parties are vying for women's votes, yet, apart from Mehbooba Mufti, no major party has nominated a woman candidate. While independent women have contested, victory has remained elusive due to various factors.

With over 42 lakh women voters in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the numbers reflect a growing female electorate. However, the disparity between the number of women voters and their representation in Parliament remains a significant concern, highlighting the urgent need for genuine efforts to bridge this gap and ensure equitable political representation for women in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

SRINAGAR BOAT TRAGEDY

Several Pvt schools in Gandbal surroundings to remain shut for two days

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Several private schools in adjacent areas of Gandabal Wednesday decided to close educational institutions for two days in solidarity with the grieving families.



On Tuesday, at least six people were killed when a boat capsized in Gandabal area of Srinagar which was ferrying several minor students, their parents and some labourers.

Several private schools in this regard have issued notifications to its students and staff—asking them to stand in solidarity with the grieving families.

Principal of the one of the private schools in Padshahibagh Srinagar

in a condolence message said, "On behalf of the whole school community, I extend my sincerest sympathies for the loss of life that occurred on 16-04-2024 at Gandabal Soiteng."

"We are all shocked and saddened that so many precious lives were lost, and we extend our sincerest condolences to the bereaved families. There is no way to prepare for the loss of a loved one.

is Thursday and Friday," it reads.

Similarly, management of another private school in a condolence message said, "We are deeply saddened about the recent tragic incident that happened in the nearby area Gandabal Soitang on 16/04/24. We have lost many precious lives, our hearts ache for the immeasurable loss their families are enduring, and we extend our most sincere condolences to their families during this difficult time."

"The loss of their lives has left an indelible mark on all of us. Regarding this matter, the school will remain closed for two days i.e. Thursday and Friday," it reads—(KNO)

Ex MLA Ganderbal to field candidate from Srinagar LS constituency

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: Former MLA of Ganderbal and President Jammu Kashmir United Movement (JKUM), Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar, has confirmed that his party will field a candidate for the Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

He made the announcement at a public rally in Qamriya Stadium at Ganderbal, on the 34th death anniversary of Sheikh Abdul Jabbar.

However, Jabbar clarified that the final candidate would be nominated following discussions among party members.

Highlighting the party's agenda, his party's focus would be on regional development and addressing the day-to-day issues faced by the people.

Additionally, he stressed efforts towards amnesty for imprisoned youth and political leaders across the country. Jabbar criticized regional parties, particularly the National Conference, for exploiting the people of Jammu and Kashmir for decades.

Alleging neglect by the Sheikh Dynasty, he stated that despite being elected from Ganderbal, the district faced hardships under their rule.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

## Weather Anomalies

**A**s you read this Kashmir Valley is bracing for another wet spell from tomorrow as Jhelum continues to flow perilously close to the danger mark. Well, one can hope that by the time this goes to press the water level may have gone down considerably. However, the fact that we are awaiting another spell of showers means danger is never away. From last ten years Kashmir has seen erratic weather with prolonged spell of showers at odd times of the year being a prominent phenomenon. This weather change is a global phenomenon with places like Iraq, Kuwait, Sydney, Canada and many other places recording highest ever temperatures. In India Bengaluru is a case to ponder. It has been five months since a single drop of rain fell from the skies in India's biggest IT city. Called India's Silicon City for the scores of multinational companies that have their South-Asian headquarters here Bengaluru is now struggling with massive water shortage, erratic power supply, and unforeseen hot temperature. Bengaluru was incidentally known for its moderate weather and refrigerators and fans were not popular here three decades ago. The city of Jammu has also been recording unprecedented highest days of above 40 degree Celsius temperature from many years now. The cities like Srinagar and Shimla also have seen unprecedented weather conditions in the last four to five years. It is said of Kuwait City that it will become uninhabitable in another two decades if the temperatures continue to rise at the same speed. The same can be said of Ahvaz in Iran and many Iraqi villages and towns. Unbridled urbanizations, cutting of Amazon forests, unabated pollution, carbon emissions, and rabid communication expansion has wreaked havoc with the balance of nature. Nature now is hitting us back with flash floods, landslides, hailstorms, and typhoons. May we learn our lessons soon.

Good Morning Kashmir

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## From Hidden Gem To Premier Destination

# Developing Shrunz Fall For Sustainable Tourism



IMRAN MAQBOOL WANI

**D**iscover the serene story of Kashmir's untouched beauty at Shrunz Fall, where nature's whispers invite you to explore and immerse yourself in the breathtaking scenery. Nestled amidst the pristine landscapes of Baramulla lies a hidden gem waiting to be explored - the captivating Shrunz Fall. Situated approximately 48 kilometers from the summer capital of Srinagar, this picturesque waterfall is a testament to Kashmir's natural splendor. Fed by the Nalla Ningli stream and nestled beneath the mighty Pir Panjal mountains, Shrunz Fall exudes an aura of tranquility and beauty. Despite its undeniable charm, Shrunz Fall remains relatively unknown, overshadowed by its more famous neighbors, Tangmarg and Gulmarg. The lack of development and basic amenities has hindered its potential to emerge as a premier tourist destination.

However, with strategic planning and investment, Shrunz Fall has the opportunity to shine as a beacon of sustainable tourism. The inhabitants residing in the vicinity of Shrunz Fall have a promising opportunity to enhance their economic status through tourism. The youth residing locally, being well-versed with the area, can work as tour guides, showcasing the natural magnificence of their hometown to travelers. The villagers can also establish stalls to retail locally-made handicrafts and serve traditional Kashmiri cuisine, providing tourists an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the local culture.

To capitalize on Shrunz Fall's potential as a tourist magnet, the government needs to invest in its development. This encompasses the construction of proper



roads, provision of accommodation, and improvement of infrastructure to ensure tourists have an enjoyable experience. Investing in tourism has the potential to generate substantial revenue for the local economy. The path to realizing Shrunz Fall's potential is not without challenges. The lack of basic amenities, including restaurants, lodges, and public toilets, poses a significant hurdle to attracting tourists.

Furthermore, the condition of the roads leading to the waterfall is subpar, exacerbating accessibility issues and deterring visitors. To address the challenges that arise in the context of sustainable infrastructure development, a multi-faceted approach is necessary. One possible solution entails the construction of eco-friendly lodges and restaurants using local materials, which can cater to the needs of tourists while preserving the natural beauty of the area.

Additionally, upgrading the approach road and creating designated parking areas can enhance accessibility and ensure a smooth and hassle-free experience for visitors. To empower the local community, it is recommended to train local youth as guides, who can

provide visitors with valuable insights into the region's culture and heritage. This approach is expected to contribute to the growth of the community while enhancing the overall visitor experience. Moreover, promoting local produce by establishing stalls for local artisans and setting up eateries serving traditional Kashmiri cuisine can provide visitors with a unique and authentic experience.

To attract tourists to Shrunz Fall, promotional efforts in addition to physical infrastructure and human resources are essential. Marketing campaigns should highlight its natural beauty and unique offerings, targeting both domestic and international travelers. Collaborating with local communities and stakeholders is also crucial to ensure sustainable development that preserves the environment and benefits the residents. Apart from Shrunz Fall, the surrounding villages have a lot to offer as untapped tourist destinations. Destinations like Kenchipathar, known for local school picnics, and Doba, a favorite spot for cricket enthusiasts during the summer season, hold immense potential for tourism development. By showcasing these hidden gems and providing

support to local initiatives, we can promote tourism in the area and help these communities grow.

To enhance accessibility and visitor experience, we need to implement sustainable practices such as eco-friendly construction and waste management. It's crucial to prioritize environmental conservation to preserve the natural beauty of the area. By finding a balance between development and conservation, we can ensure that future generations continue to enjoy the splendor of Shrunz Fall.

By promoting waterfall tourism, Shrunz has the potential to become a crown jewel in Kashmir's tourist tapestry. However, this requires a collaborative effort from the government, local communities, and tourism authorities. With strategic planning, investment, and community engagement, we can unlock the hidden treasures of this region while preserving its natural beauty for generations to come. It's time to unveil the beauty of Shrunz Fall and showcase Kashmir's rich cultural heritage to the world.

The author can be mailed at wani-imran169@gmail.com

## Teaching And Learning Mathematics With Understanding



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

**M**athematics is a broad topic that involves more than just applying formulae and solving equations; it also requires a thorough comprehension of concepts and the capacity to use logic to solve issues.

For undergraduates to succeed academically and develop personally in the area, it is essential to distinguish between learning and performing mathematics. To assist undergraduates, in getting the most out of their mathematical education, this article explores the distinctions between these two areas of mathematics and provides examples and insight.

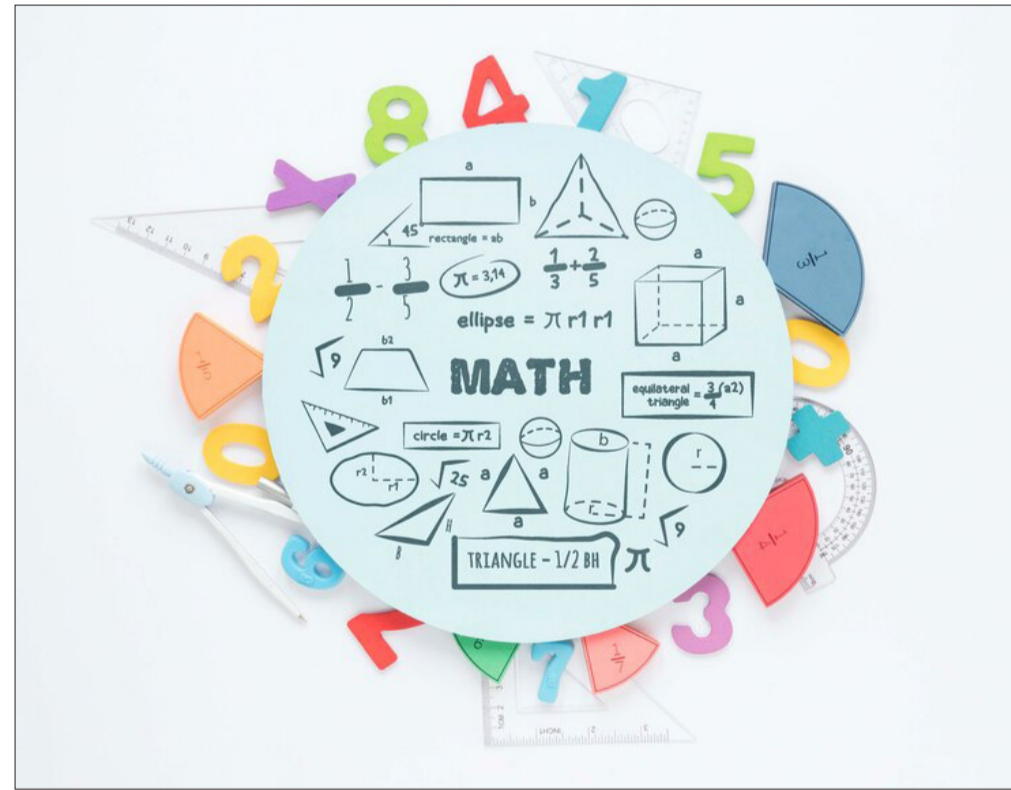
Acquiring Knowledge in Mathematics: The Learning Process

Acquiring knowledge and comprehending the ideas, tenets, and procedures that underpin mathematical science constitute the process of learning mathematics. This is the first stage where pupils interact with new ideas and learn new material.

Examples of Math Learning Attending Lectures: In these sessions, instructors introduce students to new information, such as the calculus concept of a limit.

Textbook Reading: Students read and comprehend theorem proofs, such as the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra.

Viewing Tutorial Videos:



Students who are visual learners can view videos that explain how to use Lagrange multipliers or matrix multiplication.

Strategies for Learning Mathematics

Making notes: Jotting down important details and actions involved in problem-solving.

Memorization: Recalling definitions of terms like Riemann integrals and formulas like the quadratic formula.

Discussion: Having conversations with classmates or teachers to clear up questions and increase comprehension.

Because learning mathematics entails absorbing prior knowledge, it might be somewhat of a passive process. Still, it's a necessary step on the path to being able to 'do' mathemat-

ics well. Applying Knowledge to Mathematical Tasks

On the other hand, doing mathematics involves actively using mathematical knowledge to resolve issues, validate theorems, or develop original mathematical hypotheses. This is the point at which knowledge becomes invention and practice.

Illustrations of Mathematics Work

Solving difficulties: Solving problems like determining a matrix's eigenvalues that call for the application of previously learned principles.

Research: To investigate open-ended mathematical problems or to create novel mathematical models, undertake original research. Mathematical Writing: Cre-

ating precise and understandable proofs or creating algorithms to solve computational issues.

Methods for Solving Algebra Problems

Practice: To enhance problem-solving abilities, and work through challenges regularly.

Collaboration: Getting together with people to solve complicated issues or generate fresh concepts.

Experimentation: Trying out various strategies for solving problems, such as Mathematical computation is by nature an ongoing activity.

Along with a grasp of mathematical ideas, it also calls for perseverance, creativity, and critical thinking.

Connecting Mathematics Learning and Practice

It might be difficult to go from understanding mathematics to using it. It necessitates applying abstract ideas in real-world contexts after they are understood. Here are a few strategies to close the gap:

Active Learning: Interacting with the content through exercises, discussions, and question-asking during lectures.

Application Projects: Working on initiatives that incorporate mathematical ideas into practical scenarios, like network flow optimization or population growth modeling.

Contests and Conferences: Taking part in math contests or going to conferences might help you learn about problem-solving techniques and recent research.

In conclusion: Undergraduates must be able to distinguish between learning and applying mathematics. While doing mathematics requires applying this information creatively and practically, learning mathematics gives the required foundation of understanding. Both are essential to understanding the material and developing into a skilled mathematician. Undergraduate students can enhance their capacity to make contributions to the field of mathematics and gain a thorough understanding of the subject by actively participating in both processes.

Undergraduate students must understand that while mastering mathematical concepts is important, being able to apply and extend this knowledge in new and creative ways is the goal of mathematics. A more effective and satisfying academic career in this demanding but rewarding field of study can result from using this well-rounded approach to mathematics instruction.

From The Fields Of Ballia **To The Halls Of Power**

# Remembering PM Chandrashekhar On His 97Th Birth Anniversary



PROF. JASIM MOHAMMAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on 'X', "These days, even if a small leader does a 10-12 km Padyatra, it is covered on TV. But, why did we not honour the historic Padyatra of Chandrashekhar Ji."

Chandrashekhar was a towering figure in Indian politics, known for his socialist ideals, dedication to social justice, and astute political acumen. Born on 17 April, 1927, in Ibrahimhatti, a small village in Uttar Pradesh, Shekhar emerged as one of the most influential leaders in Indian history. His early years were spent in a Rajput farming family, where he developed a deep connection with the agrarian lifestyle. Despite his rural upbringing, Chandra Shekhar pursued higher education with vigor. He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree at Satish Chandra P.G. College and later attended Allahabad University, where he obtained a master's degree in political science in 1950. His time at university was marked by active involvement in student politics, influenced by socialist leader Dr. Ram Manohar.

His personal life was anchored by his marriage to Duja Devi. The couple had two sons, Pankaj Shekhar Singh and Neeraj Shekhar (Member of Parliament). In honor of his wife, the Duja Devi Degree College was established in 1999 in Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh.

Shekhar's political journey began during his student days when he became involved in the socialist movement, inspired by the teachings of leaders like Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. His early activism laid the foundation for a lifelong commitment to championing the cause of the marginalized and oppressed. In 1962, Chandrashekhar entered mainstream politics by winning a seat in the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament. Over the years, he became known for his principled stands on various issues, often challenged the established political order and advocated for progressive reforms. As an independent voice, he swiftly became a prominent figure in the Indian Parliament, championed socialist values and social justice throughout his tenure from 1962 to 1977. His tenure in the Lok Sabha, which began in 1977, marked a new chapter in his political journey. As a member of the lower house of Parliament, he emerged as a vocal critic of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's authoritarian regime and her declaration of emergency in 1975. Alongside other like-minded leaders, Shekhar formed part of the 'ginger group' within the Congress party, advocated for egalitarian policies and democratic reforms. During the tumultuous period of the emergency, Chandra Shekhar's courage and conviction were put to the test as he, along with other 'young Turks', faced arrest and imprisonment for their opposition to the government's authoritarian measures. His incarceration during the Emergency was a defining moment, after which he ascended to the presidency of the Janata Party.

Initially he was lodged in Rohtak jail and then shifted to Chandigarh jail. He was later shifted to Patiala jail. During his incarceration, he penned his popular Jail Diary. On his arrest and imprisonment, he wrote: "This gave me peace of mind. It was not possible for me to agree with all that was happening around me. How could one claim that the country's future rested on one single individual? So much of sycophancy and such slavishness are beyond me." While incarcerated, Chandra Shekhar engaged in extensive reading across various subjects including literature, politics, religion, and development. Upon his release, he was shifted to New Delhi on December 30, 1976, where he



remained under house arrest. Following this, in 1977, Chandrashekhar joined Janata Party and assumed the role of its President. He concurrently secured a seat in the 6th Lok Sabha. He maintained his position as Party President and was re-elected multiple times. In 1988, he resigned from the presidency of the Janata Party, paved the way for Ajiit Singh, amidst a controversial merger with Lok Dal (A). This period was rife with internal party conflicts, with notable figures like George Fernandes and Biju Patnaik opposing the merger, while others like Subramanian Swamy and Yashwant Sinha supported it.

In 1983, he went on a nationwide Padyatra from Kanyakumari to New Delhi and travelled over 4,260 kilometers over six months. This journey spanned approximately 4260 kilometers and took place from January 6, 1983, to June 25, 1983. The sole purpose of the Padyatra was to know the country better, which he claimed gave jitters to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Chandra Shekhar, often hailed as a "Young Turk" for his dynamism and reformist zeal, established the Bharat Yatra Centres and the Bharat Yatra Trust in Bhondsi village, Gurgaon, with a vision to catalyze rural development.

The "Bharat Yatra Kendra" and "Bhondsi Ashram," set up on a sprawling 600-acre panchayat land, became hubs for social and political discourse, attracted personalities like Chandraswami and the international arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. Additionally, Chandra Shekhar established approximately 15 Bharat Yatra centers across various regions of India, including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana. Explaining the importance of Bharat Yatra Centres, Chandrashekhar said:—"We have just made a beginning and this beginning may not be very romantic. It does not catch the eye of the media. But it surely catches the eye of the people in the villages. This is an endeavour which requires lot of patience and endurance. No immediate result can be seen. But in the long run this is the only way to get the willing co-operation of our people and try to create a powerful movement for a new social order".

On the momentous Bharat Yatra, Chandra Shekhar observed: "For nearly six months till we reached Delhi on 25 June 1983, it was a continuous procession. It was the spontaneous response of the people which made the Yatra a unique success. For the first time, people realized that

there were some who were ready to come to their houses to understand their problems. When we started, it was doubtful whether people would react positively to Bharat Yatra or would take it as a political drama. But all through the Yatra, the villagers who were illiterate, who were ignorant, who were helpless, lined up in large numbers to receive the volunteers who were walking. In almost all the villages, even the poor people managed to offer the best welcome that they could afford. There might have been difficulty of language, but the language of the heart, which was more powerful, helped to communicate the feelings. We ourselves understood that the people are willing to cooperate if we go to them. In this respect, it was Mahatma Gandhi

him, particularly the dire situation faced by rural children. Expressing his concern, Chandra Shekhar said: "Children everywhere in India are suffering due to malnutrition. They do not get education. They do not even get a chance of survival. Every child that is born has the right to survive. We must give him clean drinking water, necessary nutrition to develop a healthy physique. And in today's modern world he should get the elementary education and primary health services. On these scores there cannot be any compromise. Out-moded traditions and outdated ideas in religion and caste have been used to discriminate against the people. For centuries together, the Scheduled Caste, the Scheduled Tribe and Backward Class people have been

system, they are not getting their rightful place in the society. They still feel insecure. Our Constitution promised to eradicate illiteracy within 15 years after it came into force. But even today more than 60 per cent of our people are illiterate".

Chandrashekhar's political journey reached its zenith when he was appointed as the eighth Prime Minister of India on November 10, 1990. Leading a minority government, he faced numerous challenges, including economic instability, political fragmentation, and regional tensions. Despite these challenges, Shekhar demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination to steer the country towards progress and prosperity. During his brief tenure as Prime Minister, Shekhar initiated several bold initiatives, including economic reforms aimed at liberalizing India's economy and attracting foreign investment. He also focused on strengthening India's foreign relations, particularly with neighbouring countries, to promote regional stability and cooperation.

However, Shekhar's government was short-lived, as it faced internal dissent and political maneuvering from rival factions. In March 1991, the Congress party, which had extended support to his government, withdrew its backing, leading to the collapse of his administration. Despite the setback, Chandrashekhar continued to remain active in politics, advocated for social justice and the rights of the marginalized. His contributions to Indian politics are remembered for their integrity, vision, and commitment to democratic values. He was a staunch believer in the power of grassroots movements and the importance of empowering ordinary citizens to shape the destiny of the nation.

The stalwart of Indian politics passed away on July 8, 2007, at the age of 80, leaving behind a nation he had profoundly influenced. This great man will always be remembered as a towering figure whose vision and ideals continue to shape India's destiny.

Though he has passed away, the indelible memories of Chandrashekhar persist. His death marked the loss of a remarkable patriot, socialist, and dynamic leader who prioritized the unity of the nation despite leading a modest life.

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Shri Chandra Shekhar  
(17 April 1927 – 8 July 2007)

who put his finger on the pulse of the people. It was an adventure in self, it was an adventure of self-education".

Throughout his extensive Bharat Yatra, Chandra Shekhar directly confronted the harsh realities of rural India, which deeply affected

feeling neglected. Violence is a strain on the fabric of democratic society. For this discrimination to go, we must change the whole social structure in order to serve their urges and aspirations. In spite of the attempts to bring our women-fold out of the purdah





**'GANDABAL BOAT TRAGEDY DAY 2'**

# Massive search, rescue efforts continue

**REHAN QAYOOM MIR**

**SRINAGAR:** The joint rescue operation for the missing bodies, including those of a father-son duo and another minor boy, entered its second day on Wednesday in the aftermath of the tragic boat capsizing incident at Gandabal area of Batwara on Tuesday. Teams from SDRF, NDRF, Indian Army's MARCOS, Fire and Emergency, along with other officials, are intensifying efforts to locate and retrieve the bodies.

The Lieutenant Governor-led administration provided financial assistance to the families of the deceased and those who sustained injuries in the incident.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, visited the Gandabal area on Wednesday and met with the family members of the deceased. They expressed heartfelt

condolences and solidarity with those affected by the tragic incident. Deeply saddened by the loss of six lives in the boat capsizing, they extended government assistance to the bereaved families.

As a gesture of support, the next of kin of the deceased were provided an ex-gratia relief of Rs 5 lakh each, while Rs 50,000 each was given to the four injured individuals.

Accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, SDM East, Murtaza Ahmad, Tehsildar Panthachowk, Muzamil Ahmad, and other officials from the District Administration Srinagar.

The Div Com, on the occasion, said the search and rescue operation continues in the area as efforts are on to locate three missing persons, comprising two children and an adult.

"Today, 14 teams, including those from NDRF, SDRF, ARMY, River Police, and other agencies, were deployed for



rescue operations. The operation is scheduled to continue throughout the night and will resume in the morning," he said.

Bidhuri said Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

is actively monitoring the situation and has announced financial assistance for the families of the deceased and the injured.

Regarding the bridge construction, the Div Com said,

"We have verified the information, and the work is expected to be completed by June of this year."

Meanwhile, the ongoing rescue operation to trace the bodies of the three missing

individuals has been intensified following the boat capsizing incident.

An official said the rescue operation, to retrieve the three missing persons, including a father-son duo identified as Showkat Ahmad and his son Hazik Showkat, along with minor boy Farhan Parry, resumed in the first light of the morning after being halted last night at around 11 pm. It continued all day, he said.

The operation continued all day, with the rescue teams from SDRF, NDRF, Indian Army's MARCOS, Fire and Emergency, and other officials making all-out efforts to retrieve the bodies.

"We have been here in Jhelum of Batwara since around 6 am, continuing our search. Initially, we started from the Batwara area in the morning where the boat capsized. We first scanned the incident spot and soon moved forward to search other areas in the river for the body," ASI SDRF, Abdul Rashid told KNO.

He said the water flow was very high on Tuesday, however, today it had receded, while no traces of the body were found. "We are hopeful of recovering the bodies," he said.

Inspector General of Police Kashmir VK Birdi told reporters that the search operation to trace the three missing persons from river Jhelum is underway. "We have alerted all the police stations along river Jhelum to keep watch on bodies," Birdi said, adding that specialised divers who are searching for the missing persons are focusing on sites where there is a high probability of finding the missing persons.

The entire Kashmir region plunged into deep shock and grief after a boat ferrying school kids, locals, and a few non-J&K residents capsized at the Gandabal area of Batwara in Srinagar on Tuesday. This resulted in the death of six persons, including a mother, her two children, and the boatman—(KNO)

**GANDBAL BOAT TRAGEDY**

## Div Com Kashmir, DC Srinagar visit bereaved families



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday visited the Gandabal area of Srinagar where a boat carrying several children and adults capsized in the River Jhelum on Tuesday morning.

The Officers met the families who lost their loved ones in the unfortunate incident and offered their condolences and expressed solidarity with the bereaved families.

On the occasion, an ex-

gratia of Rs. 5 lakh each was provided to the Next of Kin (NoK) of the victims.

Besides, an amount of Rs 50000 was also given to each 4 injured persons.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria; SDM East, Murtaza Ahmad; Tehsildar Panthachowk, Muzamil Ahmad and other concerned from District Administration Srinagar accompanied the senior officers.

Meanwhile, an ongoing rescue operation has been intensified to trace the bodies of the 3 more persons who are missing in the incident of boat capsizing.

**SURVIVORS TALE**

## On hospital bed, little Ansa recounts Boat capsizing horror

**ABID BASHIR**

**SRINAGAR:** Lying flat on a hospital bed in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital (SMHS) Srinagar, little Ansa is trying hard to come out of the big shock of boat capsizing that claimed six lives including two minor students. Ansa was with her mother and younger sister on the ill-fated boat the wheel of which cata-pulted leaving behind a tale of death and grief.

Ansa, a class 8 student at Kendri Vidalya, said on the chilly morning of April 16, her mother told her to pack her bag and prepare for the school after almost a gap of 15 days which includes Eid-ul-Fitr holidays. "I told my mother I didn't want to go to school, but she insisted and I along with my younger sister packed our bags," she said. "My mother should start at 8:30 sharp and we were supposed to reach at 8 am. My mother, me and my sister were the first three to board the boat. The boatman had ferried many people till then and crossed the river several times."

Ansa said she saw a few students, a local resident along with a cycle, and a



few non-J&K labourers boarding the boat. "One thing I noticed with my mother initially was that there was a lot of noise in the river Jehlum. That was something which panicked us at the beginning," she said. "My mother held my hands tightly. Someone in the boat told the boatman to hold the rope softly as water level was very high in the river and not to put much pressure on it. All was well till we reached the middle of the river."

As the boat reached the middle of the river, rope got cut and the boat hit one of the iron pillars of the upcoming bridge. "I couldn't even understand whether I was in the river or on a road. I started running to search for my younger sister and mother as if I was on a road. I couldn't find my sister anywhere. I was looking for my sister when water was over my head," Ansa said. "What happened after that, I don't remember at all..."

She, however, urged the J&K administration to complete the footbridge as soon as possible so that such incidents are prevented. "I want the bridge to be completed within a month. If the

Administration wants, it can do that..." she said.

Ansa, her mother and her younger sister were lucky as all of them survived. Just discharged by the doctors at SMHS hospital, Ansa's mother Irshada said she can never forget the day. "I am yet to come to terms. Thanks to Almighty, I feel that I am still in the boat. The horrific incident is still fresh in my mind," she said in the hospital corridor. "The young faces of the students who were in front of my eyes in the boat are so fresh that they may remain for long..." It is hard to forget them."

Irshada's youngest daughter Ayesha was admitted at Children's hospital and has been discharged. "She is also in shock. I sent Ayesha to her maternal home. She has to take medicine for some time," she said.

On Tuesday, a boat crossing the river Jehlum from Gandbal to Batwara in Srinagar capsized resulting in the death of six persons including two minor students. Six people were rescued while three are still missing. The rescue operation to trace the missing ones is still on at various points of river Jehlum—(KNO)

## Admin begins groundwork to prevent Sgr Boat capsizing-like incidents



**MUBASHIR AALAM WANI**

**SRINAGAR:** A day after the tragic boat capsizing incident left six persons dead at Gandabal area of Batwara, the J&K Administration on Wednesday said it has formed a high level committee to suggest measures to be taken to prevent such incidents in the future.

The panel will submit its report within two weeks to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir V K Bhiduri.

An official said said that a committee comprising of transporters, Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) department, Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LC&MA) and others concerned.

The committee will gather the details and submit the report for necessary action to prevent such incidents in the future, he said.

He added that the committee has been asked to submit the report within two weeks.

Pertinently, six people lost their lives; three others were rescued and as many are still missing after a boat capsized at Gandabal area of Batwara yesterday morning—(KNO)

## 4 drug peddlers arrested: Police

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday said to have arrested four drug peddlers in Awantipora & Baramulla and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Awantipora, a police party of Police Station Tral at a checkpoint established at Buchoo Tral arrested a drug peddler identified as Yawar Ahmad Wagay son of Abdul Rashid wagay resident of Saimoh Tral, a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

During the search, 20 grams of Cannabis like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been shifted to PS where he remains in custody, police said.

During the investigation of said case, one more person identified in backward linkage, namely Mohammad Amin Dar son of Ab Gaffar Dar resident of Kewi Pora Marhama Sangam was arrested. During the search, 90 grams of cannabis-like substance was recovered from his possession, police said.

Meanwhile, a police party headed by Incharge



PP Reshipora under the supervision of SDPO Awantipora at a checkpoint established at Duptora Awantipora arrested a drug peddler identified as Ghulam Mohammad Bhat son of Gh Qadir Bhat resident of Dogripora. During the search, 1Kg 140gms of Charas Powder like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been shifted to PS where he remains in custody.

In Baramulla, a police party of Police Station Sherri headed by SHO PS Sheeri at a checkpoint established at Sheeri NHW near Eco Park, intercepted a person identified as Adil Nazir Sofi son of Nazir Ahmad resident of Bagna Salamabad A/P PWD

Colony Kanthbhang Baramulla. During the search, 10 grams of contraband Heroin like substances was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to PS where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, police said that cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective Police Stations and investigations have been initiated.

General public is requested to come forward or Dial 112 with any information regarding drug peddling/anti-social activity in their vicinity and extend their cooperation to Police in eradicating the drug from the society, police said—(KNO)

## Illegal property of notorious peddler attached in Shopian: Police

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** In continuation of its unwavering efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Shopian attached property worth Rs 25 lacs belonging to a notorious drug peddler.

Police in Shopian under the supervision of SSP Shopian Tanushree attached property (Double story residential house worth Rs. 25 lacs) measuring 1769.635 Sqft belonging to notorious drug peddler namely Mahjabeen Banoo wife of Farooq Ahmad Najar resident of Stadium Colony Batapora Shopian constructed over Shamilat Section 5 land measuring 6.5 marlas (1769.63 sqft) falling under Survey No. 952/1 at village Batapora

District Shopian, a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

The action was taken under sections 68-E read with 68-F (1) of NDP Act of 1985 & is linked with case FIR No.21/2024 U/S 8/20 of NDP Act of Police Station Shopian, police said.

The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Shopian Police. The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in Narcotic drug and Psychotropic substances by the drug peddler, police said.

This operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area hailed the initiative of the Police, police added—(KNO)

## Two apprehended along with weapons in Bijbehara: Army AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Army on Wednesday said two suspected persons have been apprehended along with the arms and ammunition in Naina area of Bijbehara in South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Army in a post on X stated that a joint operation was launched by Army and Jammu & Kashmir Police today at Naina, Bijbehara in Anantnag.

The post reads that two suspected individuals have been apprehended along with one weapon, one hand grenade and other war-like stores, adding that further investigation is going on.

"OP NAINA, #Anantnag On specific Intelligence input, a joint operation was launched by #IndianArmy & @JmuKmrPolice on 17 Apr at Naina, Bijbehara in Anantnag. Two suspected individuals have been apprehended along with the recovery of one Weapon, one Hand Grenade and other war-like stores. Further investigation is in progress," Army wrote on X—(KNO)

## Dir Agri conducts extensive visit of Bandipora district



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** The Director Agriculture Kashmir Iqbal Wednesday conducted an extensive visit of Bandipora district. He visited hi-tech polygreen houses, bore wells, and other components established under HADP at Dangerpora, Wangipora, Markundal, Sumbal and other areas of the district. He took stock of the agriculture scenario in these areas.

Speaking to the farmers, the Director Agriculture said that the hi-tech, low cost poly green houses established under HADP are transforming the lives of vegetable farmers across the Kashmir division.

He reiterated the department's commitment to the socio-economic development of the farming community. He underscored the importance of projects under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and asked the farmers to come forward and avail the benefits from these projects. He directed the concerned officers to ensure maximum awareness among the farming community of Kashmir division regarding the projects under HADP.

Later on, director agriculture convened a review meeting of district Bandipora.