

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK
 Addressed a seminar on 'NEP 2020' organized at Dalimss Sunbeam School Gandhi Nagar, Ghazipur. Highlighted fundamental reforms in the education system by NEP 2020 and its role in producing creative, productive and innovative human capital for building Viksit Bharat.

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Traditional 'Zool' Festival Observed With Zeal In Aishmuqam

JAHANGEER GANAIE

AISHMUQAM: Hundreds of devotees thronged the holy shrine of Kashmir's noted saint Sakhi Zainuddin Wali (RA) in Aishmuqam and performed the traditional 'Zool' ritual. Locals from Ashimuqam said that this year Zool was performed with religious zeal as last year this festival was performed for short time due to the holy month of Ramadan. "Zool was performed outside cave and" ●P-06

Tulip Garden To Be Closed For Public From Today



RAJA SYED RATHER
SRINAGAR: Tulip Garden in Srinagar, which is one of the major tourist attractions in Kashmir, will be closed for public from today, officials said on Tuesday. An official said that as the tulip bloom is almost over, the garden will be closed from tomorrow. The garden, which is located at the foothills of the Zabarwan Range, was opened for tourists on March 23 this year. During this period, tourists from different parts of the country thronged to the garden to witness tulip blooms. Tulip Garden witnessed an overwhelming response from the visitors, especially during the tulip festival, the official said. He said with the end of the Tulip Bloom season, the authorities have decided to close the garden for public from tomorrow—(KNO)

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Military Strength, Capabilities Necessary To Prevent Wars: Army Chief

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI: General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), on Tuesday said that the recent geo-political developments have reaffirmed the relevance of a country's hard power, adding that the recent geopolitical powerplays have displayed, that where national interests are concerned, countries will "not hesitate" to go to war. "The current geo-strategic landscape is characterized by change, taking place at unprecedented scale and speed. Recent geopolitical powerplays have displayed, that where National Interests are concerned, countries will not hesitate to go to war. These developments have reaffirmed the relevance of Hard Power," General Manoj Pande said while addressing participants at the National Leadership Conclave of All India Management Association. He mentioned that the overall 'rise' of a nation can be said to occur when there is a significant and continuous increase in its Comprehensive National Power. While ●P-06



THE CURRENT GEO-STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE IS CHARACTERIZED BY Change, taking place at unprecedented scale and speed. Recent geo-political powerplays have displayed, that where National Interests are concerned, countries will not hesitate to go to war.

Srinagar Boat Tragedy Rescue Op For Missing Persons Enters 8th Day

REHAN QAYOUM MIR



SRINAGAR: The ongoing rescue operation to retrieve the bodies of three missing persons, including a father-son duo and another minor boy, has entered its 8th day, with efforts continuing unabated. As locals from Gandbal remain hopeful for a swift resolution, ●P-06

Army Commander Reviews Counter-Terror Training In Bhandarwah

JAMMU: Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar on Tuesday reviewed the counter-terror training here and commended the collective efforts of the Army and police towards enhancing operational synergy and interoperability among the forces. A total of 1,114 police sub-inspectors (PSIs), including 146 females, are undergoing training in guerrilla warfare at the Corps Battle School in Jammu and Kashmir's Bhandarwah area. The Army commander felicitated outstanding achievers among the trainee PSIs undergoing training since March 18. ●P-06

Terror Victim Muhammad Razaq Laid To Rest In Kunda

AMIT TANTRAY

JAMMU: Muhammad Razaq, a victim of terror attack in Kunda village of Shadra Sharief area of Rajouri district, was laid to rest in the local graveyard in which hundreds of people from all over the area participated. He was given a tearful adieu by the family, relatives and people of the area. The funeral prayers were held at 2.30 pm in Kunda village in which hundreds of the people participated. After the prayers, Razaq's body was laid to rest in the native graveyard where his father was buried. His father Muhammad Akber was also a victim of terrorism as his throat was slit by the terrorists in the year 2003. Razaq was appointed in the social welfare department on compassionate grounds after his father's killing and was working as a junior assistant in the department. Razaq's eldest son is just 15 years old. Earlier, once the bullet-ridden body of Razaq reached his home, the pall of gloom descended in the area as everybody was heading towards his house to pay their respect to the departed soul. According ●P-06

NEP-2020 Focuses On True Values, Teachings: LG Sinha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GHAZIPUR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday said that the New Education Policy (NEP) focuses on true values and teachings of our glorious heritage, adding that the policy prepares students with lifelong learning skills. "NEP 2020 focuses on true values and teachings of our glorious heritage and civilization and prepares the students with industry 4.0 technology, lifelong learning skills so that our young generation is capable to face the future challenges and transform India into a knowledge economy," the Lt Governor said while addressing a seminar on 'National Education Policy 2020' organized at Dalimss Sunbeam School Gandhi Nagar, Ghazipur. In his keynote address on 'Contribution of new National Education Policy in Building Developed India', the ●P-06



CS Reviews Working, Outreach Activities Of Info Deptt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday took a comprehensive review of the activities being carried out by Information Department regarding its public outreach with authentic information and dissemination of reliable news for the public consumption. The meeting, besides Administrative Secretary, Information, Rehana Batul and Director Information, Jatin Kishore, was also attended by Special Secretary, Joint Directors, Deputy Directors and other senior officers of the Department. During this review, the Chief Secretary appreciated the Department for being a reliable and trustworthy source for information dissemination to the public in general and media houses in particular. He further made out that the role of the department becomes even more important in view of the greater chances of fake/misinformative news finding its way to the public consumption. He enjoined upon the Department to be a bridge between the public and the administration for ensuring an effective two-way communication between both. He observed that ●P-06



Govt Promotes J&K As Prime Spiritual Destination

Amid Religious Tourism Surge



MUBASHIR AALAM WANI
SRINAGAR: In response to the burgeoning trend of spiritual tourism, the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) government is taking various measures to position the Union Territory (UT) as a premier religious destination. The spiritual or religious tourism is gaining pace within India, with a huge chunk of tourists traveling to various cities and destinations for spiritual bliss. According to an analysis by online travel aggregator (OTA) MakeMyTrip, spiritual destinations are stealing the show in India's travel market with such locations recording a 97 percent surge in searches in the last two years. Recognizing the economic and cultural significance of spiritual tourism, the J&K administration has embarked on a comprehensive promotional campaign to highlight the religious diversity and historical significance of the region. Last year, the Jammu and Kashmir administration announced it has earmarked another 75 tourist destinations to ●P-06

3 Miscreants Booked Under PSA In B'la



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police in Baramulla on Tuesday said to have booked three miscreants under PSA for their involvement in anti-national activities, after obtaining formal detention orders from competent authority. The three accused persons identified as Maqasid Ali Kohli of Navarunda Uri, Mohd Usman Bhat son of Abdullah Bhat resident of Sahora Uri & Ghulam Nabi Wani son of Late Mohd Shaban resident of Chandkote Kreeri have been booked under Public Safety Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent authority. The booked persons have been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jammu, a police spokesman said in a statement issued. ●P-06

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR Wednesday 24 April MOVIES Schedule

DUNE PART TWO (ENG) 12:40PM (U/A)	CREW (HINDI) 02:40PM (U/A)	GODZILLA X KONG - 3D (ENG) 03:25PM (U/A)
CIVIL WAR (ENGLISH) 04:00PM, 06:45PM (A)	BADE MIYAN CHOTE MIYAN 3D (HINDI ATMOS) 12:10PM, 06:00PM (U/A)	MAIDAAN (HINDI) 05:30PM (U/A)
		SHAITAAN (HINDI) 11:45AM (U/A)

WORLD BOOK & COPYRIGHT DAY

Exhibition of Special Literary Collections organized at SPS Library

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: An Exhibition of Special Literary Collections including Manuscripts, Rare Books and Miniature Paintings was organized at SPS Library Complex here Tuesday in connection with the World Book & Copy Right Day-2024 being observed today.

The main attractions of the exhibition, jointly organized by SPS Library Srinagar & the Oriental Research Library (ORL) Srinagar, were the historic manuscripts like Qarabai-Din, Sadh PandLugman and Shahnama Firdous. Some of the rare books including Rajtarangni by Kalhana, Tareekh-e-Rasheedi, Gazetteer of India and Kashmir - a history of Kashmir were also displayed at the exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Librarian, ORL Srinagar, Mrs Ishrat Majed said that the Oriental Research Library, Srinagar established in 1904, is



a repository of around 6000 rare manuscripts in 17 languages encompassing varied fields. The library also has around 500 rare books and miniature paintings.

She said the Department has approached the National Mission on Manuscripts (NMM) to get their techni-

cal and professional guidance for effective conservation and preservation of these historic documents and impressed by the large collection of rare manuscripts in ORL, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, Smt Mugdha Sinha assured liberal sup-

port from the Govt of India for conservation of these manuscripts. Ishrat said the manuscript collection of ORL is a treasure-trove of religious, philosophical, historical, literary and scientific writings rich in classical languages like Persian, Sanskrit and Arabic. These languages have left deep impression on Kashmiri language by conditioning its growth in terms of forms and scope, she said and added that Sanskrit, the language of court and culture in the beginning of 10th century in Kashmir contributed number of religious, aesthetic and poetic articulations and are preserved in ORL.

Ishrat said such exhibitions make our young generation aware about, the culture, traditions, heritage and history of Jammu and Kashmir.

A large number of people from different walks of life visited the exhibition.

LOK SABHA POLLS

General Observer chairs Officers meeting in Rajouri

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: General Observer for Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency, Sanjeev Kumar Besra Tuesday presided over a pivotal meeting of Nodal Officers to meticulously review the preparedness for Lok Sabha elections 2024 in this Border District.

The meeting served as a platform to disseminate vital information regarding the role and responsibilities incumbent upon each officer during the electoral process.

A threadbare discussion ensued on enforcement of MCC, complaint monitoring, communication plan, SMS monitoring, MCMC, material management, storage of EVM and VVPATs, training and SVEEP, printing of ballot papers, transport plan, randomisation of polling parties etc.

The General Observer



directed the officers to execute their duties with unwavering dedication and a profound sense of responsibility.

Addressing the officers, Sanjeev Kumar Besra, emphasized the paramount importance of meticulous planning and flawless execution for smooth con-

duct of the electoral process. He stressed the need for heightened vigilance, transparency, and adherence to ECI guidelines to uphold the sanctity of the democratic process.

Taking a comprehensive review, the General Observer outlined dif-

ferent tasks and duties assigned to the Nodal Officers, encompassing a wide array of responsibilities. He directed the officers to exhibit exemplary commitment and diligence in discharging their duties, recognizing their pivotal role in facilitating free, fair and peaceful elections.

The General Observer expressed confidence in the collective resolve and capability of the nodal officers to fulfill their roles effectively, thereby contributing to the successful conduct of the Lok Sabha elections in Rajouri district.

The meeting was attended by the ADDC, Raj Kumar Thapa; ADC Rajouri, Rajeev Khajuria; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; Dy DEO, Shakeel Mir; DSEO, Sandeep Sharma; CAHO, Dr Khalid Hussain; CAO, Sohan Singh; DIO, Mohd Nawaz Choudhary; DSWO, Wakeel Ahmed Bhatt; DFO, Mohd Bashir and other concerned officers.

DEO Kupwara reviews transportation of polling staff, EVMs



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: In order to ensure hassle free transportation of polling staff, EVMs and other election related material to the polling stations for smooth conduct of upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in the district, a meeting of concerned Officers was Tuesday held under the chairmanship of District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan.

At the outset, the DEO discussed the Transport plan in a comprehensive manner for smooth dispatching of the poll material and polling personnel. The respective AROs appraised the chair about the requirements of the vehicles and seating capacity of the vehicles so that they reach and depart polling stations in a hassle free manner especially in far flung and hard to reach

areas of the district. She directed the ARTO Kupwara for submission of complete Transport Plan - polling station and Assembly Constituency wise to her office by tomorrow positively.

The DEO stressed that all necessary arrangements are put in place for the dispatching of EVMs to designated locations, and all arrangements of security and safety of EVMs are made as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The DEO emphasized that polling staff, security personnel and election related material reach at respective polling stations on time without any hindrance.

She also reviewed Assured Minimum Facilities and Communication plans in far-off places of the district to ensure smooth and vibrant participation of the electorate.

Secy DLSA visits OSC, Children's Home in Ganderbal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Secretary DLSA Ganderbal, Nusrat Ali Hakak, Tuesday visited One Stop Crisis Centre (OSC), Wayil Ganderbal, PALAASH (Children Home for boys), Kangan Ganderbal, PAREESHA (Children Home for Girls), Gangerhama Ganderbal, and Duriyateem Social Welfare Organization (for girls), Panzin Kangan.

During a visit to Children's Homes/Child Care Institutions, Secretary DLSA Ganderbal ascertained the facilities being provided to the children in the said institutions.

She reviewed capacity and overcrowding in the said institutions. She interacted with children and staff of the homes/ institutions and asked them to maintain a healthy and effective environment in their respective institutions.

She also met children individually to enquire about their well-being,

challenges and difficulties.

During visit to One Stop Crisis Centre, Wayil Ganderbal, Secretary DLSA Ganderbal interacted with some aggrieved women which were present during her visit.

She instructed Centre Administrator, OSC Wayil Ganderbal to ensure that every aggrieved/victim women who came to One Stop Center be provided all kinds of medical, legal aid and other facilities, and also ensure to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence.

Apart from this, necessary instructions were also given to the Centre Administrator, OSC Wayil, heads/officers of Children's homes/child care institutions to provide all basic facilities to the inmates/ aggrieved women/Children well in time and remain in touch with DLSA Ganderbal for the best legal aid services to the distressed women and children.

Newton movie screened at Sherwani Hall to empower new voters

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In an effort to foster active participation of students and the youth in the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, the District Administration, Baramulla, Tuesday organized a special screening of election centric feature film 'Newton' at Sherwani Hall, here.

The screening is part of a series of voter awareness programs conducted across the district Baramulla under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program, aimed at educating and encouraging voters, especially the newly registered ones, to participate in the electoral process.

The District Election Officer (DEO), Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; Dy District Election Officer, Ab Rehman Bhat; Executive Officer, Municipal Council Baramulla attended the screening of the movie with enthusiastic students from various colleges and schools, reflecting a collective

eagerness and excitement towards participating in democratic exercise of voting.

Attendees were captivated by the movie's content during the screening, which provided a wholesome experience about the election process inspiring them to wholeheartedly participate in the Lok Sabha Elections by casting their important votes.

Speaking during the event, the DEO highlighted that the movie screening is part of the series of activities that District Administration has been conducting throughout the district under SVEEP to maximize voter participation in the Lok Sabha elections.

Minga Sherpa elaborated that this initiative specifically targets first-time voters, aiming to provide them with a comprehensive understanding of the democratic voting process with a goal to empower them to actively participate in exercising their right to vote.

Vaccination of Kupwara Hajj pilgrims to begin from 25th April

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Chief Medical Officer Kupwara has issued a Vaccination Schedule for selected Hajj pilgrims of District Kupwara. Accordingly, all the selected Hajj Pilgrims have been advised to report at the following locations at 10 am to get vaccinated.

The Hajj pilgrims belonging to Handwara, Langate, Zachaldara and Vilgam areas are asked to report at Primary Health Centre (PHC) Natnussa on 25th April 2024 to get vaccinated.

Hajj pilgrims from Kupwara, Kalaroo, Sogam, Trehgam and Kralpora shall report at Sub District Hospital (SDH) Kupwara on 27th April 2024. Besides, Karnah bound Hajj pilgrims shall report at SDH Tangdar on 26th April 2024 for their vaccination.

Further, the Hajj pilgrims can also contact the following helpline numbers: PHC Natnussa 9596068777; SDH Kupwara 6006499431 and SDH Tangdar 9906601695.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER MINI SECRETARIAT KULGAM

e-mail: ceokulgamaccts@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited from experienced parties with complete details, terms & conditions for running of the Hostel Mess of EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL TANGMARG in ten (10) days from the date of notification/Publication to the undersigned and delivered to the Office of Chief Education Officer Kulgam by the specified date and time.

SCOPE OF WORK:

Eklavya Model Residential Hostel is primary level hostel for Eklavya Model Residential school located at Tangmarg Aharbal Kulgam. The mess will serve Breakfast, Lunch, Evening Tea and Dinner on monthly basis to the resident students, suggested by Hostel Mess Committee. An indicative menu (including Vegetarian & Non-Vegetarian food) is enclosed. The menu will be changed from time to time as decided by the Hostel Mess Committee in consultation with the caterer.

This office will provide kitchen equipment, furnished dining hall, water, electricity fixtures service counters, gas cylinders and utensils.

The terms and conditions of contract shall be as follows:

- The contract is initially for one year and renewable on satisfactory performance.
- The contractor should have registration from FSSAI Department.
- The relevant papers be attached along with tender for consideration of its eligibility.
- Mess timing would normally be as under. The Mess Committee however reserves the right to make any alteration in the menu in consultation with the Caterer: -
 - Breakfast 7:00 am. to 7:30 am.
 - Morning Tea 9:00 am to 9:30 am
 - Lunch 1:00 pm. to 1:50 pm.
 - Evening Tea 4:10 pm. to 4:30 pm.
 - Dinner 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm
- Strict adherence to the timings, menu and prices of extra items will be made as determined by the Mess Committee in consultation with the Caterer.
- The strength of mess members is expected to be 180 during the year.
- The Caterer shall, at his/her cost, maintain adequate stocks of food grain, grocery etc. and adhere strictly to the standards as prescribed by the FSSAI.
- No food cooked in the Mess shall be taken outside the premises without prior permission of the competent authority.
- Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian food will be cooked and served separately.
- No other food items, other than recommended by the Mess Committee shall be prepared.
- Quality of food / services provided will be inspected/checked from time to time by the Mess Committee and if found unsatisfactory, the contract may be cancelled at / any time by this office with / without furnishing any notice.
- The Caterer shall maintain adequate hygienic condition in the mess and adjoining 'W' area and ensure proper garbage disposal with adequate number of bins to collect segregated waste.
- Only environment friendly materials should be used.
- The Contractor and his employees would be governed by the discipline rules as may be laid down by this office while they are in the Hostel premises.
- The conduct/character/antecedents and proper bonafide of the workers in the Mess shall be the sole responsibility of the contractor. However, the Contractor should provide the necessary details of all its employees to this office.
- No accommodation except the changing/resting room will be provided to the Caterer's workmen.
- The Caterer shall attend monthly meetings of the Mess Committee.
- The Caterer shall not sub-contract the running of mess to any other party.
- The Caterer will be required to provide 'khichri' or any other suitable sick diets for sick residents in lieu of the regular meals.
- The Caterer shall follow the time schedule of opening and closing the mess each day.
- The Mess bill shall be paid to the Caterer after deducting TDS as per the incometax rules.
- The mess contract cannot be terminated by the contractor in the midst of the period of award. If it is done, the security deposit shall be forfeited.
- In case of breach of any term and condition herein contained, the authority shall be at liberty to terminate the contract without assigning any reason and the caterer shall have to vacate the premises allotted to him/her within the time specified by the authorities.
- In case the rates mentioned in the quotations will be same for two or more contractors, the preference will be given to the local contractor.
- Contractor shall deposit Rs. 100000 /- (Rupees One Lac only) with this Office at the time of signing of the agreement as Security Deposit which will be refunded on expiry of the contract as per GFR provisions.

Quotation received after the due date and time, will not be considered the decision to award the Mess services contract will be taken on the basis of prices quoted, feasibility, quality and quantity.

Day	Morning		Lunch	Evening Tea	Dinner
	Breakfast 7:00 am to 7:30 am	Tea Time 9:00 am to 09:30am	1:00pm to 1:50pm	4:10pm to 4:30pm	30pm to 9:30 pm
Monday	Tea with Ginger Omlet & Bread	lea Lipton Butter toast/ Biscuit + 1 Boiled Egg	Rice Mutton curry & Salad 1+ Curry	Tea Namkeen with Bread	Rice Mix Vegetables + Salad
Tuesday	Mix Veg Parath With Butter + Curd	Tea with Ginger Butter Toast/ Biscuit + 1 Boiled Egg	Rice Pulses + Veg Raita	Tea Namkeen with Bread	Rice Mix Vegetables + Fruit Salad
Wednesday	Tea with Ginger Plain Chapati x 3 +Zeera Aloo	Tea Butter Toast/ Biscuit +01 Boiled Egg	Rice Cheese + Matter & Curd	Tea Namkeen with Bread	Rice Pulses, Egg + Veg Raita
Thursday	Black Channa With puri x 3 +Jam	Tea with Ginger Butter Toast/ Biscuit + 1 Boiled Egg	Rice Mix Vegetables	Tea Namkeen with Bread	Rice Chicken Gravy/ Chicken Yakhni + Fruit Salad
Friday	Mix Vegetables Chapati +Butter	Tea Butter Toast/ Biscuit + 1 Boiled Egg	Rice Green Vegetables + Curd	Tea Namkeen with Bread	Rice Rajma Dal & Boiled/ Curry Egg
Saturday	Tea with Ginger Omlet+Bread +Jam	Tea Butter Toast/ Biscuit + 1 Boiled Egg	Rice Chicken Biryani + Raita + Salad	Tea Namkeen with Bread	Rice Green Vegetables + Fruit Salad
Sunday	Chhola/ Channa Puri x 3 +Curd	Tea with Ginger Butter Toast/ Biscuit + 1 Boiled Egg	Rice Mix Vegetables + Curd	Tea Namkeen with Bread	Rice Pulses, Egg + Veg Raita

Note: Perishable items like Paneer, Chicken / Mutton / Fish etc. should be procured a fresh. DIPK-183-24 DT: 23/04/2024

Chief Education Officer Kulgam

PDP has emerged as 'C Team' of BJP: Omar Abdullah

JAHANGEER GANAIE

ANANTNAG: Former Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said People's Democratic Party (PDP) has now emerged as the "C team" of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after the "A and B teams".

Speaking to reporters in south Kashmir's Koker-nag area, Omar said that if the people want to keep communal forces out of power, they must vote for the candidates of the INDIA alliance.

He urged the voters to support National Conference candidates on three seats in Kashmir and Congress candidates on two seats in Jammu and one seat in Ladakh. The remaining parties in Jammu and Kashmir are somehow connected with the BJP, he said.

The NC leader said the "A and B teams" have been



meeting secretly with BJP Kashmir In-charge Tarun Chugh. "(BJP leader) Mushtaq Bukhari has openly urged people to vote in favour of the PDP, as voting for PDP is voting for BJP," he said.

Abdullah predicted that PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti would approach the BJP to persuade Mushtaq Bukhari to retract his statement. "However, the situation has already become clear, indicating that after the A and B

teams, the PDP has now emerged as the C team of the BJP," he said.

Responding to queries about the BJP's announcement of a candidate for Ladakh, Abdullah said they are contesting an election along with Congress there and that they aim to field a candidate who would minimise BJP's chances of victory.

In Kundulgam, Omar Abdullah expressed disappointment over the lack of progress at the Noor Shah

Baghdadi (RA) shrine despite the allocation of around Rs 10 crore during his tenure as Chief Minister.

The former CM also clarified that the National Conference did not join the INDIA bloc for seats. He reiterated that some parties joined the alliance solely for seat sharing and then accused the NC of selfishness. "If NC was indeed selfish, Congress and CPI(M) would have aligned with the PDP," he said—(KNO)

5 more candidates file nominations for Srinagar Lok Sabha seat



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As the process for filing of Nominations by the Contesting Candidates for the General Lok Sabha Elections-2024 is going on, five more candidates filed nomination papers from 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency in the Office of Returning Officer (RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency here on Tuesday.

The candidates, including Mirza Sajad Hussain Beigh, Jibrin Dar, Shahnaz Hussain Bhat and Shamim Ahmad Parray filed their nomination papers as independent candidates.

Similarly, Younis Ahmad Mir also submitted his nomination papers today before the Returning Officer (RO) as a candidate

of Bharat Jodo Party for the Srinagar Constituency.

The last date for filing of nomination papers in 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency is April 25, 2024 (Thursday) from 11:00 am to 03:00 pm. The scrutiny of the nomination papers filed by the Candidates will take place on April 26, 2024 (Friday).

The Candidates have the option to withdraw their candidature by or before April 29, 2024 (Monday) until 03:00 pm. The voting is scheduled in the Constituency for May 13 under fourth phase.

With Two (02) candidates already filed their nominations on April 22, 2024, the number of candidates to contest from the Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat on Tuesday increased to Seven.

Chairman CEPC conducts 2 day tour to Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chairman Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) and Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council (WWEPC) under the Union Ministry of Textiles, Dr. Romesh Khajuria, during his two day visit to Srinagar, convened an interactive meeting with the manufacturers, exporters and artisans associated with the Carpet Industry of J&K.

Dr. Khajuria highlighted the significant role that Srinagar, located in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, plays in global market for handicrafts and luxury goods. Known for its rich cultural heritage and skilled artisans, Srinagar has long been renowned for producing high quality handicraft items that are highly in demand by the consumers worldwide, he added.

Dr. Khajuria interacted with the artisans of village

Wailoo Kunzer of Tang-marg in north Kashmir, who crafted the largest hand knotted silk carpet of the world.

Dr. Khajuria extended congratulations to the dedicated artisans behind creation of this masterpiece including Mohammad Ashraf Parray, Firdous Ahmad Dar and Mohammad Maqbool Parray. He is confident that this remarkable creation will attract buyers worldwide, honoring and supporting these artisans' talent and hard work.

He also visited M/S Carpets Creativity of Art in Idgah, Srinagar, who are crafting innovative Silk Pashmina Carpets.

Dr. Khajuria exhorted upon all stakeholders to join hands and work harmoniously to overcome challenges, seize opportunities and propel the hand-made Carpet Industry to new heights of excellence and prosperity.

Transport dept issues comprehensive advisory for tourists, taxi unions

MUBASHIR ALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: In a bid to enhance tourist experiences, the transport Department of Jammu & Kashmir has issued a comprehensive advisory for the visitors, taxi unions and cab drivers in Kashmir.

The advisory asked that taxi unions and individuals to refrain from obstructing or restricting vehicles with valid permits, leaving such actions to the authority of local administration or traffic, tourist police.

"Taxi Unions or any person representing such unions or any individual driver especially at popular tourist destinations like Pahalgam, Sonmarg, Gulmarg, and Doodhpathri etc. shall ensure that no tourist vehicle that carries an all India/J&K permit is obstructed or restricted in any manner or force any tourist to alight from the vehicle before the conclusion of the journey. Only an authority of the local administration or traffic/tourist police shall be competent to do so," states the advisory.

The advisory encompasses various facets of responsible and professional conduct expected from taxi operators, aimed at providing tourists with a hassle-free and enjoyable journey.

According to the advisory issued, transport



department has outlined specific guidelines and protocols that taxi drivers must adhere to at all times:

Documentation: Drivers are required to carry essential documents, including a valid driving license, vehicle registration certificate, fitness certificate, vehicle insurance policy, permit copy, PUC certificate, and a list of tourists.

Display of Information: Clear display of registration number plates and permit type on vehicles is mandated to ensure transparency and accountability.

Vehicle Standards: Vehicles must be well-maintained, clean, and regularly serviced. Neat seat covers and a first aid kit are obligatory.

Uniforms: Drivers must wear prescribed uniforms while on duty, as specified by the Transport Department.

Queue Management: Drivers are expected to follow queue systems at

airports and other designated places without manipulation or jumping queues.

Fair Pricing: Overcharging is strictly prohibited, and drivers must adhere to the legal fare without imposing additional charges.

Refusal and Alighting: Refusal to carry tourists or asking paid passengers to alight prematurely is forbidden without valid reasons.

Contingency Measures: In case of mechanical breakdowns or unforeseen circumstances, drivers must arrange alternative transportation for tourists to reach their destination.

Lost Items: Drivers are obligated to conduct a thorough search for any items left by tourists in their vehicles at the end of each journey.

Customer Interaction: Politeness and respectful behavior towards custom-

ers are mandatory, fostering a positive and welcoming atmosphere for tourists.

No Smoking Policy: Smoking while on duty is strictly prohibited.

Complaint Handling: Drivers must provide tourists with complaint books upon request and periodically submit them to permit issuing authorities.

Mobile Connectivity: Drivers should ensure their mobile phones are charged and have internet connectivity enabled whenever possible.

No Cell Phone Use While Driving: Cell phone usage while driving is prohibited, and if necessary, drivers must pull over to the left and halt before taking calls.

Avoid Overloading: Vehicles must not be overloaded with passengers or luggage, ensuring passenger safety and comfort—(KNO)

'520 Nursing Staff Appointed'

AIIMS Jammu Set to Launch OPD Services in May

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: After months of anticipation, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu is gearing up to commence its Out Patient Department (OPD) services in May, marking a significant milestone in the region's healthcare landscape.

With the inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi two months ago, preparations have been in full swing to initiate OPD services at AIIMS Jammu, a development eagerly awaited by the residents of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Pathankot.

Situated along the National Highway in Vijaypur, District Samba, AIIMS



Jammu is set to become a hub for medical care in the region. Anticipating a daily influx of 2000 to 3000 patients across various specialty units, meticulous arrangements are being made to ensure a seamless transition.

In the first phase, 183 faculty positions have

been created, with 85 staff already appointed and the recruitment process for the remaining underway. Furthermore, out of 800 nursing positions, 520 have been filled, with these nursing staff receiving comprehensive training at Delhi AIIMS. The recruitment process for 88 paramedi-

cal posts is also underway, encompassing technicians and other essential medical personnel.

To facilitate the operation of advanced medical equipment initially, senior trained medical staff from Delhi AIIMS will be temporarily deputed to AIIMS Vijaypur for three months.

Dr. Shakti Gupta, Director of AIIMS Vijaypur, expressed optimism about the imminent launch of OPD services, emphasizing the comprehensive preparations underway. Despite delays attributed to the non-availability of adequate and trained staff, AIIMS Jammu is poised to deliver high-quality healthcare to the region—(KNO)

Mehbooba's Financial Decline: Assets Drop by Rs 13.34 Lakh in 5 years

ALI ASAD

SRINAGAR: Former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, contesting from the Rajouri-Anantnag seat in Jammu and Kashmir, has disclosed her financial status in her affidavit. As per her declaration, Mufti's assets have undergone a significant change over the past five years.

In 2019, she had declared assets totalling Rs 89.03 lakh, but in her current affidavit, she has disclosed assets worth Rs 75.69 lakh. This reflects a decrease of approximately Rs 13.34 lakh in her assets during this period.

Regarding her income, Mufti's earnings have fluctuated over the years. In the financial year 2018-19, her total income amounted to Rs 8.63 lakh, which reduced to Rs 84.75 thousand in the subsequent financial year.

However, in 2020-21, her earnings surged to Rs 19.98 lakh, followed by a decrease to Rs 12.44 lakh in 2021-22, and further down to Rs 9.85 lakh in 2022-23.

In terms of liquid assets, Mufti has declared possessing Rs 45 thousand in cash and has deposited Rs 23.74 lakh in three bank accounts. Additionally, she has disclosed holding an insurance policy worth

Rs 11.94 lakh. Her movable property includes an SNK ISUZU bus valued at Rs 5 lakh, with no jewelry or precious items mentioned.

On the immovable property front, Mufti owns a residential house in Bijbehara, Anantnag district, with a current market value of Rs 35 lakh. Combining her movable and immovable assets, the former Chief Minister's total property amounts to Rs 75.69 lakh.

Mufti's primary source of income, as per her affidavit, is salary/pension. She obtained an LLB degree from Kashmir University in 1982—(KNO)

May Allah show Azad, Bukhari, Lone the right path: Farooq Abdullah

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Farooq Abdullah, the President of the National Conference, has expressed regret over recent comments made by BJP regarding property distribution.

He also targeted Ghulam Nabi Azad, Altaf Bukhari, and Sajjad Lone, alleging them of supporting the BJP and praying that they may be guided to the right path.

According to Abdullah, Islam promotes the idea of respecting all religions, and it does not condone discrimination. He stated, "Islam teaches us to respect not only our own religion but also others'. A



true Muslim would never snatch the mangalsutra of a mother or sister. If someone commits murder, it is considered a crime against humanity. My Islam does not teach hatred towards others. I hold Hindus, Sikhs, and Muslims in equal regard. This is crucial for the progress of India," Abdullah said.

Abdullah also criticized the actions of Ghulam Nabi

Azad, Altaf Bukhari, and Sajjad Lone, questioning their support for certain individuals and their treatment of Muslims. He urged them to consider whether Muslims, both in Jammu and Kashmir and across India, would receive respect under their leadership. "I want to tell all three (Azad, Sajjad or Bukhari) that they should see what is the attitude of those they are supporting towards Muslims. How will Muslims survive if they come back? Will the Muslims of not only Jammu and Kashmir but of India be respected or not? Ask them this question. I am sorry. May Allah show them the right path."—(KNO)

GCOE Jammu declared Tobacco Free Campus

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The College administration has declared Government College of Education as Tobacco Free Campus after organizing a series of awareness events.

The NCORD committee along with IIC of GCOE, Jammu organized a series of events on "No use of Tobacco and its products" under the aegis of National Tobacco control program and declared the campus

as Tobacco free zone, the College Management said today.

The events organized included pledge on "Not to Consume Tobacco and its Products", an awareness rally and installation of signage boards in the college premises.

About 50 students and 20 staff members participated in all the events with great zeal and enthusiasm

under the patronage of Dr. Jyoti Parihar who sensitized the students about the harmful effects of Tobacco.

These events were organized under the overall guidance of Prof. Sunanda Rani, Convenor, IIC and NCORD committee along with NCORD committee members Prof. Roopa Kumari, Prof. Kiran Thapa and Dr. Shalini Sharma.



DEO Kulgam flags-off cycle rally to raise voter awareness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: In a concerted effort to promote voter awareness and encourage electoral participation, the District Election Office Kulgam Tuesday organized a cycle rally under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative. The cycle rally was flagged-off by the District Election Officer (DEO) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

Other officers who

were present on the occasion included AROs Viqar Ahmad Giri and Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Nodal Officer SVEEP Nazia Hassan, DYS&SO, Tehsilidar, DSP-HQ, BDO, EO, and other officers.

Commencing from the Laroo Bus Stand, the cycle rally concluded at the Sports Stadium Kulgam.

Engaging students from different colleges and higher secondary schools, the rally aimed to foster awareness and motivate

the public, particularly first-time voters, to actively engage in the democratic process.

Speaking at the event, the DEO emphasized the significance of voter education and empowerment.

He highlighted the rally's objective to equip every eligible voter with the necessary awareness, knowledge, and motivation to exercise their voting rights, thereby playing a pivotal role in shaping the democratic process.

Downtown resident paves space to young writers, comes up with 'Koh-e-Maran'

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: In a bid to provide a platform to the young generation, a 30-year-old youth from downtown Srinagar has been publishing a literary magazine to accommodate the write-ups of young writers and scholars' entailing contemporary literature in Jammu and Kashmir.

Salim said that he has published several books of fiction writers particularly of women, which includes Harfi Shehreen and Tabasum Zia Kay Afsanay.

He has also published nearly 200 articles so far on social, cultural and literary topics.

"I have published about 200 articles on social, cultural and literary topics," Salim said, adding that he has started a quarterly literary magazine "Kohi Maran", which was first published in July 2021.

The purpose of publishing "Kohi Maran" was to promote Urdu language and literature in Kashmir especially in the Srinagar

city, he said. "I started publishing a literary magazine titled Kohi Maran in 2021 with a goal to bring the new generation to the folds of Urdu literature. The rich literary reviews, articles or critical write ups published in Koh-e-Maran will be very useful to Urdu language students and research scholars."

Special issue of Kohi Maran will be released on World Book Day with the subject theme of Contemporary Urdu Journalism in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that a special issue of the quarterly magazine is being issued on World Book Day to celebrate the contribution of renowned journalists in Urdu language here.

He claimed that this special issue of Kohi Maran will be beneficial to literary friends, research scholars, journalists and students interested in taking journalism in Urdu language.

"You can find and read all issues of Quarterly Kohi Maran online from Rekhta." He said—(KNO)

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Gandbal Bridge Construction

As they say better late than never. It was music to ears to finally know that there is some forward movement on the construction of a bridge which was in the news for the last so many days for all the wrong reasons. Days after six persons drowned to death in a boat capsizing incident in Gandbal area of Batwara, the authorities in Roads and Building (R&B) department here have started the construction work of the bridge in the locality. Poignantly, on April 16, a pall of gloom descended throughout Kashmir after a boat ferrying 15 people capsized in the River Jhelum at Gandbal, leaving six persons dead while three persons, including a father-son duo and another minor boy, remained missing on the 6th day.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha showed his leadership skills by personally visiting the grieving families and offering condolences. The current establishment issued Rs.5 lakh to the families of the deceased and Rs.50000 for those being treated in the hospitals. This is a great leadership skill exhibited by the LG administration. The DC Srinagar visited the site of the accident multiple times and thus gave us an example of his unwavering commitment for the welfare of the people. Now with the quick restarting of the work on the bridge, the administration is trying all it can do to provide the critical mode of communication to this area.

This bridge is the lifeline of this area as there are not many quality schools from one side of the river. A bridge would literally bridge that gap. There is a massive deficit in the developmental scale of both banks of this Jhelum. This gap needs to be filled as soon as possible. However, it must be said that the entire Kashmir reached Gandbal and Batwara these days to express their sympathies to the bereaved families. This shows that Kashmiris are always united in grief and come what may the spirit of 'Kashmiriyat' will never die.

We hope that the construction of this bridge is completed in time so that people from both the banks do not suffer anymore.

Delayed Marriages - A Call To Embrace Islamic Values, Practices



IMRAN MAQBOOL WANI

Islam places great importance on marriage since it is believed to be a holy union established by Allah. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stressed the value of marriage, saying that it completes half of a person's faith and that believers should get married to protect their innocence and foster family unity. Islam sees marriage as a vehicle for procreation, spiritual development, and companionship. It also offers a framework for love and support between partners in a legal partnership. But in the serene valleys of Kashmir, a troubling trend has emerged over the past two decades which threatens the very fabric of its social structure. The trend is the rise in the frequency of late weddings, which is defined by a large proportion of people women especially delaying marriage much past the traditional age.

People are forced to wait an endless amount of time in search of the perfect match, past the appropriate age to get married, and ultimately face the dismal prospect of being alone. This never-ending cycle contributes to the breakdown of conventional values and family structures by sustaining social pressures and encouraging a culture of delayed marriages. There is a common propensity in the rhetoric around Kashmir's late marriage trend to blame it on Western society.

But it's important to acknowledge that society has a big say in creating and maintaining this tendency. It ignores the complexity present in our own cultural practices and societal conventions when we just place the blame on Western civilization. The complexities of wedding planning are further increased by customs like the "phir sal" ceremony, the exchanging of dry fruit baskets (Dry fruit Tokar), and other pre and post-marriage functions. Though deeply ingrained in tradition, these practices also add to the logistical and financial strains that come with marriage. Couples encounter additional dif-



ficulties as a result of the social expectation to throw extravagant parties after marriage. These traditions, which range from "Phir Sal" to "kokar majme" and dry fruit samawars, not only require a substantial amount of cash but also uphold the idea that weddings are elaborate events. The beauty of marriages has been impacted by the numerous innovations that have been introduced to weddings in recent years.

We actively participate in and encourage the practices that cause the issue of late marriages. Through our choices and the influence of outside variables, such as elaborate "Pre and Post" wedding celebrations and social pressures, we contribute to the continuation of this trend. One notable aspect of our marriage culture is the abundance of "Pre and Post" wedding gatherings, with its own set of customs and rituals. For instance, the "Piyalas Travun" ceremony, which is the first in a series of events culminating in the marriage. Despite being deeply ingrained in our culture, this behavior makes marriage more difficult.

Allah clearly says in Quran in Surah Israa; Verse: 26-27 "And give the relative his right, and also the poor and the traveler, and do not spend wastefully".

There are practical, Islamically-based answers to the problem of delayed marriages in Kashmir that provide some promise. The words of Prophet Muham-

mad (PBUH) encouraging humility and simplicity in marital affairs have great resonance. Thus, it is essential to develop a complete approach that considers the cultural, sociological, and economic factors. First of all, making marriage more accessible to younger age groups might relieve financial burdens and social expectations by streamlining marital customs. Encouragement of young marriages can, within moral and legal bounds, foster family stability and support structures. It is also critical to oppose dowry (another name now gifts) demands so that marriages are based on equality and mutual respect rather than the exchange of expensive gifts.

In addition to creating a supportive atmosphere, encouraging community involvement helps couples feel accountable and like they belong. Understanding Islamic marriage customs, which place a high importance on cooperation, compassion, and mutual respect, can help people create more healthy relationships. Lastly, reevaluating the variety and significance of pre- and post-marital events may help cut down on wasteful spending and social pressures while refocusing resources on creating a solid foundation for married life. By putting these regulations into effect, Kashmir may encourage a change in societal norms that supports young, straightforward marriages based on community, equality, and careful money

management.

Simple marriages, according to the Prophet Mohammad (SAW), are the finest kinds, and Islam outright prohibits excess in all areas of life, including marriage. The Quran also forbids us from overspending as it exhorts us to donate to those in need and to prioritize doing good deeds above frivolous purchases. The tendency of late marriage in modern society gives rise to several societal difficulties. Combating the practice of postponing weddings in Kashmir necessitates a thorough strategy that complies with Islamic law and takes into account social, cultural, and economic aspects. Kashmir may cultivate a culture that encourages timely, equitable unions by advocating for simplicity, early marriages, and community participation while resisting lavish wedding practices and dowry demands.

Stronger family ties and healthier relationships can result from embracing Islam's marriage-related teachings and reassessing cultural expectations around wedding rituals. Kashmir has the potential to create a future where marriages based on financial responsibility, community support, and mutual respect flourish by working together and making thoughtful decisions.

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INACTION VS. WRONG ACTION

Learning From Historical Missteps



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Throughout human history, decisions have been made based on a wide range of factors, from rigorous planning to irrational speculation. In addition to monuments and manuscripts, our ancestors' legacy also includes the results of their choices, including the inertia of inaction and the fallout from poorly thought-out actions.

We stand at a crossroads now, empowered by the clarity of hindsight but also surrounded by the uncertainty that accompanies every choice. In the absence of clear precedents, this article examines the fine line that separates doing nothing from doing the wrong thing. It does this by looking at prior failures and helping us understand how the trial-and-error process influences our current decisions.

Historical Passivity: The cost of stagnation

Lost potential for progress has frequently defined periods of inaction throughout history. For example, the European Dark Ages' stagnation and suppression of scientific investigation hindered the advancement of culture and technology that could have built upon the successes of the ancient world.

The Repercussions of Ignorance

Relentlessly failing to act while injustice is being done has been a mistake. Think about how the world responded passively to the early 20th-century genocides; this allowed crimes to worsen, taking count-



less lives and creating lasting damage that would not go away.

The Risk of complacency

Political and economic inaction, such as ignoring the indicators that the Great Depression was coming, serves as an example of how complacency can result in serious systemic disasters. These miscalculations of passivity resulted in protracted suffering and underscored the urgent requirement for effective governance.

The Dangers of a Conviction without Proof

Historical wrongdoing frequently resulted from decisions that were based on conviction but lacked supporting data. Unfounded notions of superiority and manifest destiny were frequently used as justifications for the expansion of colonial empires, which resulted in the exploitation and persecution of indigenous populations.

The Hazards of Extremist Ideology

There are many instances of bad deeds committed in the name of extremist ideologies throughout the 20th century. Motivated by warped worldviews, the totalitarian govern-

ments of Stalinist Russia and Nazi Germany perpetrated terrible crimes, such as aggressive war crimes and genocide, which resulted in a terrible human cost.

Technological misadventures

The advancement of technology has not shielded wrongdoing. The environmental debacle of the Chernobyl nuclear accident serves as a sobering reminder of the perils associated with an excessive reliance on technology without a corresponding regard for safety precautions and a realistic assessment of the hazards involved.

As a Mathematics professor, I engage my students daily in problem-solving exercises. They encounter a mix of problems—some are familiar and well-rehearsed, while others are novel in both style and concept. When faced with these unfamiliar problems, without any prior reference, the students often resort to the trial and error technique to find the correct solution.

This approach mirrors the experiences of the present generation. They comfortably

follow traditions inherited from their ancestors, but when confronted with new challenges, they find themselves in unfamiliar territory. To navigate these uncharted waters, they, too, apply the trial and error method, drawing upon their knowledge and ingenuity. This method becomes a crucial tool for problem-solving, both in the classroom and in the broader context of life's unpredictability.

Traversing Unknown Regions

When prior data or models are unavailable, modern decision-makers frequently resort to the trial-and-error approach. This is best illustrated by the ongoing difficulties in mitigating climate change, as countries try various approaches to strike a balance between environmental stewardship and economic growth.

The Contribution of Innovation to Education

Innovation in science and technology is a kind of controlled trial and error. For example, testing and improvement of vaccines are done iteratively. In this process, making mistakes is not only unavoidable

able but also a useful teaching tool that points us in the direction of workable answers.

Ethical Aspects of Contemporary Decision-Making Today's decision-makers take into account ethical factors that our predecessors may have disregarded. For example, in scientific research, past transgressions have resulted in strict ethical rules for experiments involving humans and animals, guaranteeing that knowledge acquisition does not come at the expense of well-being.

In conclusion

Our lives are precious, and so were the lives of those who came before us, as will be those who come after us. Let's use our ancestors' lessons and strengths to help make the best world we can for future generations. The false choice is presented by the binary of doing nothing vs acting incorrectly. Making decisions based on historical lessons is the actual path of informed action. We can equip ourselves with the knowledge to make wiser decisions by owning up to our past mistakes, both of wrongdoing and inaction.

When combined with historical awareness and ethical considerations, the trial-and-error approach can be a highly effective force for advancement. As we move forward, let us keep in mind that every choice we make shapes a small portion of the future from the vast expanse of unknowable possibilities, and it is our enormous obligation to do so with courage and caution. Our lives are precious, and so were the lives of those who came before us, as will be those who come after us. Let's use our ancestors' lessons and strengths to help make the best world we can for future generations.

The author is a Faculty member at the Department of Mathematics, SUC, Sharjah, UAE

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Tuberculosis - Barriers To Access



SHOBHA SHUKLA
BOBBY RAMAKANT

A migrant worker who was sick for over three months, actively sought medical help and advice, but his health kept deteriorating. Despite having constant cough, fever, and increasing weakness since months, neither he nor his treating doctor(s) thought of TB. And this did not happen in an area with low TB rates but in India's national capital Delhi – a state with highest TB rates nationwide – and a country which is home to the largest TB burden in the world.

It was only when a frontline community health worker met him, that she thought of TB and he could access TB services, increase his health and treatment literacy, and successfully complete his treatment. One of his daughters too who was found positive for TB (of the lungs and abdomen) in the contact tracing done by the community health worker, is as of now currently on treatment. Both could access a range of social support to help them adhere to the therapy, thanks to the community health worker.

Manjit, who is a native of Bihar state of India, had migrated to Delhi many years back with his parents. He works in a pipe market and lives in New Seemapuri urban slum, East Delhi, in a rented accommodation with his wife and three daughters. The area he lives in, is home to many homeless people and rag pickers and is also a site for garbage processing. This area is about 2-3 kilometers away from Delhi's famous Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital – the only tertiary care government hospital in East Delhi.

Eliminate diagnostic delays

If we are to stop the spread of TB infection it is imperative to diagnose early and accurately, and put each person diagnosed on treatment with medicines that are effective on that person. It is equally vital to ensure that the person is fully supported - in every possible way - to complete the therapy successfully. As per a study done by Dr Susmita Chatterjee et al, average diagnostic delays in those at heightened risk of TB is 12 weeks. We must eliminate these diagnostic delays if we are to end TB.

In July 2023 Manjit started suffering from bouts of cough and fever. He went from one doctor to another, seeking medical help and advice, but neither could his illness get diagnosed nor did he get any relief. On the contrary, his condition kept worsening.

"I was very sick. My body had become very weak. I was unable to walk by myself. There was constant coughing and fever. I consulted many doctors and followed their advice. Many medicines were tried on me. I was even put on typhoid medication for more than 20 days. But with every new treatment, instead of improving, my condition worsened. I suffered like this for more than three months. I had no clue what was happening to me, and perhaps neither did the doctors. I underwent a battery of tests. But no doctor asked me to get my sputum tested [for TB]," said Manjit to CNS (Citizen News Service) in April 2024.

Then luckily, one day a neighbour suggested him to contact Shanti, a community health worker who works as a field officer for Humana People to People India (HPPPI). The neighbour told him that Shanti had been regularly going around the community raising awareness on TB and actively reaching out to those who had similar symptoms as Manjit and helping them access healthcare services.

Thanks to Shanti, same day test and treated made possible for one of the most vulnerable

Shanti took Manjit to the nearby private x-ray clinic in Saboli area of East Delhi and with support from HPPPI a free x-ray was done, which showed Manjit as presumptive for TB. Then, they went to Red Cross healthcare centre where sputum microscopy confirmed TB. His Nikshay ID was made, and he was put on treatment on the same day (Nikshay is a web-enabled real-time patient management system of government's National TB Elimination Programme).

After this, they went to GTB Hospital for a free WHO recommended molecular test via CBNAAT (Car-

tridge-Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test) and drug susceptibility test via Line Probe Assay (LPA). Drug susceptibility test is done to ensure that the TB bacteria that infects a person is not resistant to the medicines he or she is treated with.

Same day test and treat is important when it comes to TB – the deadliest of all infectious diseases – so that the person can become non-infectious soon after beginning the therapy and also reduce spread of TB, as well as lessen human suffering.

Counselling of Manjit was important. Shanti did daily follow-up of father and daughter during their entire course of treatment. Both received health education, treatment literacy, importance of treatment adherence, nutrition, infection control (like wearing of mask) and other support to tide through their treatment journey. For instance, Manjit wore a mask regularly, thanks to Shanti. Shanti also ensured that both got food ration supplements every month, courtesy an NGO operating in New Seemapuri dispensary.

As there is always a likelihood of TB infection in the lungs to spread to others, Shanti went with Manjit to his home and counselled his wife to get herself and their three daughters screened for TB. His wife was initially reluctant to go for a TB test as none of them had any TB symptoms. But upon Shanti's insistence she got convinced to take a free TB test. All tested negative except for one of the daughters who was found positive for TB of the lungs.

When she was taken to GTB Hospital for CBNAAT molecular test and LPA drug susceptibility test, her condition became so serious that she had to be admitted in the hospital for over two weeks. A CT scan later confirmed that she had abdominal TB too (in addition to TB of the lungs). Her treatment had also begun on the same day that she got diagnosed with TB.

It was only through Shanti's untiring efforts, that Manjit and his 10-year-old daughter could get diagnosed with TB and receive treatment, care, and support all through their therapy.

Both got their medicines from the nearest dispensary in New Seemapuri.

"defeated TB" says Manjit

Manjit successfully completed his 6 months long TB treatment on 1st of April 2024, and has tested TB free. "I defeated TB," he said. His daughter is on the path of recovery and her treatment is hopefully about to complete later this month – subject to her test reports.

Shanti has been a pillar of support to Manjit during his entire treatment regimen. "Shanti didi (didi is a Hindi word for sister) helped me access all the available medical facilities, like diagnosis and timely treatment, and helped me get food ration supplements. I too followed the doctor's instructions as I was determined to defeat this enemy called TB. I religiously ate my medicines (3 pills a day) on

critical link between vulnerable people and TB services

Shanti helped Manjit and his daughter to access social support provided by the government of India as well as by other NGOs. For instance, she helped them complete the formalities so that each of them could get direct benefit transfer under Indian government's Ni-kshay Poshan Yojna and receive INR 500 every month during their treatment in their bank accounts.

She gave them moral support to bear with the side effects of TB medication. They too responded in a very positive manner and did not miss any dose of medicine.

The likes of Shanti are engaged in the daunting task of finding TB in the unreached populations – referred to as the key and vulnerable populations, such as, homeless, migrants, slum dwellers, daily wage earners- and connecting them with the healthcare system. As per the India TB Report 2024, key and vulnerable populations are those with heightened exposure to TB bacilli, constrained access to health services on account of socio-economic determinants of health, or an elevated risk of TB due to compromised immune function.

Shanti's work at Humana People to People India is part of LEAD (Leveraging, Engaging and Advocating to Disrupt TB Transmission) project, supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), in close coordination with Indian government's National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

"I work for an NGO. But this is not just a job for me. It gives me a lot of happiness and satisfaction for being able to do something for our fellow human beings who may be living in dehumanising conditions. Manjit was finding it difficult to walk when I had first met him and now, he can comfortably walk and go around his daily livelihood and support his family. This gives me a lot of strength to keep doing what we do. This is the driving force why we try our best to make the area we are allotted to work in, becomes TB free," said Shanti.

Manjit's mantra is Never Say Die. "One must have self confidence that he/ she/ they can fight TB (or for that

matter any other disease). If I had become nervous and dejected and lost confidence about getting cured, it would have become difficult. I gave the disease a good fight - ate my medicines on time and kept my morale and confidence high - that I will get cured. And I won the battle. I defeated TB," said Manjit.

Manjit is not only a TB survivor

Shanti took Manjit to the nearby private x-ray clinic in Saboli area of East Delhi and with support from HPPPI a free x-ray was done, which showed Manjit as presumptive for TB. Then, they went to Red Cross healthcare centre where sputum microscopy confirmed TB.

but also a TB champion who proactively goes to health awareness camps to encourage those with symptoms to get screened for TB, and those with TB disease to stay strong, seek support and finish the therapy.

The indomitable spirit of Manjit and the unstinted support of Shanti bear testimony to the fact that "Yes, we can end TB."

Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant co-lead the editorial of CNS (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 @shobha1shukla and @bobbyramakant



time. I had no prior knowledge about this disease when it struck me. But thanks to Shanti didi and thanks to my doctors, I have learned a lot about TB and have also become treatment literate" said Manjit.

Unlike many other TB patients, Manjit was fortunate enough to not have faced any stigma or discrimination from his friends, co-workers, or his employer. He received their support and solidarity all through his treatment.

Community health workers are

PCOD Vs PCOS: Know About These Hormonal Disorders

If a woman is experiencing irregular periods or no periods, there could be a chance she has PCOS or PCOD. There is a growing rate of women diagnosed with PCOD and PCOS in today's age, but many still don't know the difference between these hormonal disorders.

PCOS or Polycystic Ovary Syndrome is considered a reproductive disorder that causes hormonal imbalance in the body leading to a cluster of symptoms.

It affects many women of reproductive age and is characterised by androgens and estrogen, insulin resistance and irregular menstrual cycles.

Women can often experience abnormal hair growth, acne, and a higher risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes when they have PCOS.

Around the world, one in every 10 women is likely to suffer from PCOS, but a high number of Asians manifest at least one symptom of PCOS.

The old name i.e., "PCOD" was derived from the necklace-like pattern seen while getting an ultrasound and was considered to be a disease.

"It happens when the ovaries produce many immature or partially mature eggs rather than regular mature eggs, which can develop into cysts (little sacks filled with fluid).



We now know that this appearance is part of a syndrome or group of symptoms that make up PCOS," Dr Rajeev Agarwal, IVF specialist & Medical Director at Renew Healthcare,

told IndiaToday.In. PCOS is also related to type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. While the exact cause of PCOS is not known, it is related to genetic

and environmental factors. How is PCOS diagnosed? Dr Agarwal said that a simple vaginal ultrasound can reveal the disorder. Besides this, blood tests along with symp-

ptoms like acne, facial or body hair growth and scalp hair loss can also predict PCOS. He said that one of the most common causes of PCOS is insulin resistance.

Insulin resistance is present in almost 70% to 80% of women with PCOS. The glucose in our body is driven into the cells by a hormone called insulin. If, however, there is insulin

resistance the glucose can't be utilised and sugar levels might go up and to overcome this problem the body will try and produce more insulin and thus its levels will also go up.

"This excess of insulin acts on the ovary in women and produces excess of 2 hormones: LH and testosterone or the male hormone. Almost all problems related to PCOS can be explained via the abnormal behaviour of these hormones," said Agarwal.

He added, "Insulin resistance leads to women having a higher tendency towards diabetes, discolouration of skin and skin tags. The excess of LH hormone prevents ovulation while the excess male hormone causes hair fall, or excess facial hair, acne and weight gain, especially around the hips and belly."

Obesity and vitamin D deficiency further increase insulin resistance, making it a vicious cycle, the expert said.

Treatment for PCOD may involve medication to regulate the menstrual cycle and reduce symptoms.

Treatment for PCOS may include lifestyle changes such as exercise (physical well-being) and diet modifications, hormonal therapy, and medications to improve insulin resistance.

While PCOS is more common in women, PCOD is an older term that is not widely used any more, Dr Agarwal said.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Military Strength,

'Economic Power' is the fountainhead of the growth of the nation, it is the 'Military Strength' that lends it the ability to affect the outcomes, necessary to protect and further its multifarious interests, in expanding strategic horizons, he said.

He said that military strength and capabilities are necessary to prevent war to present a Credible Deterrence, also enabling a robust response to threats and winning wars, when required, across the entire spectrum of conflict.

"In our quest to achieve and sustain a 'Hard Power' quotient, we need to be alive to the implication of external dependency to meet defence requirements. The impact of supply chain disruptions and weaponization of denial regimes - came to the fore, during the Pandemic and also from the lessons of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. These developments have underscored that the security of the nation, can neither be outsourced nor be dependent on the largesse of others," he said.

"In the context of capability development, if we are import - dependent for critical technologies on countries that possess them, we must be very clear that we will always remain one technology cycle behind," he added.

The army chief said that the unprecedented trends in the geo-strategic landscape, the limitless potential of Disruptive Technologies, the transforming character of modern Wars and the profound changes in the socio-economic domain, are the four key drivers of IA's Transformation efforts. (Agencies)

Army Commander Reviews

During his address, the Army commander emphasised the significance of the joint training programme between the Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police, commending their collective efforts towards enhancing operational synergy and interoperability among the forces.

He exhorted all ranks to maintain physical fitness as a hallmark of a professional responder to all security challenges.

Acknowledging the participation of 136 female PSIs, he underscored the commitment towards inclusive training initiatives.

The collaboration between the Indian Army and the Jammu & Kashmir Police was emphasised as indispensable in striving towards a secure and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

An Army spokesperson stated that this is the first major training capsule of its kind, where the Army is training officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in such large numbers at one go.

The trainee cops expressed confidence that the training provided by the Army would result in better coordination between the two elite organisations through sharing and understanding each other's strengths, ethos, culture, values, and best practices.

"Obviously, we have learned a lot here, and this has given us a lot of confidence to overcome difficult situations, as evident from the positive change in our behaviour," said Sonalika Sharma, a trainee PSI with the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Another PSI said that what we have learned here has really boosted our confidence, especially at the beginning of our careers. "Besides this, the joint training with the Army will surely help us work in synergy with the Army and coordinate better to help bring peace in Jammu and

Kashmir," he added.

Traditional 'Zool'

most of the people visited the shrine and cave during the day," they said, adding that hundreds of people continue to throng the shrine.

The ritual is performed by devotees as a mark of respect for the saint as it is held to mark the beginning of agricultural activity after a prolonged winter season.

The Sufi saint is believed to have settled in Aishmuqam and is said to have gone into deep meditation inside the cave and battled a demon that was petrifying the villagers.

To celebrate his victory, people assemble every year and light up their wooden torches and oil lamps.

More than hundred staircases, leading to the shrine, are also lit up by the devotees on the occasion.

"People enter the cave mausoleum, seeking the blessings to end their miseries," said a devotee, Tanveer Ahmad.

For the thousands of pilgrims, who gather at Ashmuqam, the annual torch festival also symbolizes the end of the long winter and the beginning of the new sowing season.

People from different communities visit the shrine to spread the message of communal harmony and brotherhood, added Tanveer—(KNO)

Srinagar Boat Tragedy

they have urged the administration to deploy MARCOs and deep divers into the waters of Jhelum to find the missing persons.

An official present at the spot informed that the rescue operation, led by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), has been tirelessly searching the Jhelum River for the missing bodies of Showkat Ahmad, his son Haziq Showkat, and another minor boy, Farhan Parray. Despite eight days of continuous efforts, no traces of the missing persons have been found so far, he said.

"We are continuously searching Jhelum all the way from Gandbal to Sonwar, and no traces of the missing persons have been found for eight straight days," ASI SDRF Abdul Rashid said, adding that multiple boats have been deployed in the water on the eighth day, but the search has yielded no results yet.

The ASI also informed that the search operation has extended to areas like Chat-tab Veer and Rajbagh, but there have been no traces of the missing persons—(KNO)

Terror Victim Muhammad

to the locals, he was a kind hearted and helpful person who was always ahead of others in reaching out to the people whenever they were in need.

Locals said that terrorists had reached his home by enquiring from locals without ascertaining their identity. They were hiding in his house and once Razaq entered after completing prayers, he was fired upon by the terrorists and injured him critically. He was shifted to the nearby hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

They believed that terrorists were probably after Razaq's brother Tahir Khursheed, who is working in the Territorial Army, but there was no confirmation from police and administration—(KNO)

NEP-2020 Focuses

Lt Governor highlighted the vision and aim of NEP 2020. He said the education policy focuses on nurturing creative potential of students and promotes critical thinking and problem-solving.

"National Education Policy's aim is to prepare individuals who are not only knowledgeable and skilled but develop cognitive capacities and eternal Indian knowledge and ideals for growth of society and to build Viksit Bharat. The policy will impart scientific knowledge, develop the personality of the individual for upskilling and reskilling and open up new opportunities in the future as per the needs of the industries," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor said after centuries, there has been a new awakening in the society and after several decades there is a new education policy that is rooted in Indian ethos and emphasises on extensive use of technology, research and innovation, experiential and innovative approaches, integration of technology such as machine learning and artificial intelligence and promotion of start-up incubation centres to transformation India.

The Lt Governor also encouraged and motivated the youth to make their important contribution in prosperity and development of the region.

CS Reviews Working,

since every department has some people-oriented aspects of great repute, it should be ensured that the success stories are published for optimum publicity in the larger public interest. He also favoured inspiring the youth for foraying in different vocations by sharing success stories registered by people in different areas of interest.

Regarding the promotion of J&K as a popular film shooting destination, the Chief Secretary maintained that the Department has an added responsibility to facilitate the Production Houses in smooth and hassle-free completion of their projects. He advised for taking on board the institutes of national eminence like NFDC, ISD, IIMC etc. for holding film festivals, conducting workshops and Film Bazaars for different stakeholders.

The CS also took note of media campaigns, social media activities, advertisements, cultural activities and other capex works taken up by the Department during 2023-2024.

In her detailed presentation, the Administrative Secretary, Information Department, Rehana Batul gave out a brief about the functioning, role and responsibilities assigned to the Department. She revealed that during the previous financial year, the Department has undertaken robust public outreach activities by issuing about 15,498 press releases and giving widespread coverage to more than 600 government programs.

She elucidated that the department works by way of utilizing multiple mediums such as print, radio, audio-visual, digital & social media to keep the masses well informed about the policies, programmes and activities of the government. Regarding the social media reach, it was revealed that the FB pages of DIPR have cumulative 3,56,000 followers, X (Twitter), 3,16,000 followers, Instagram

and YouTube Channels have 6,000 followers each.

Director Information, Jatin Kishore, took the opportunity to apprise the meeting that the Department after conducting an exhaustive exercise has recently launched Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy 2024 which is much more inclusive, futuristic and incentive driven. It was also revealed that the onboarding of Film Shooting permissions and Film Subsidies on the Single Window Platform is being done.

The Director also informed about the new initiatives undertaken by the Department for the timely dissemination of news to the public. He mentioned that the Department has introduced the features like Rebuttal(s) issuance against the fake news items.

It was also revealed that the Department plans to hold Film Festival and Literary festivals later this year. He revealed that the Department has recently launched the Season 2 of two youth oriented programs namely "Inspire Gen-Z" and "Beats of J&K" in the first ever mega Youth Conclave at Jammu.

Furthermore, the meeting was apprised about the mega outreach campaigns carried out by the Department during the past year. It was mentioned that the Department has been successful in giving wide publicity to major events like G-20, UT Foundation Day, Annual Shri Amarnath Ji yatra and the VVIP visits to the Union Territory.

3 Miscreants Booked

Pertinent to mention that many cases are registered against these persons and were involved in disturbance of L&O and subversion. Despite their involvement in many FIR's they did not mend their activities, police said—(KNO)

Govt Promotes

enhance religious tourism in the region. By leveraging various marketing channels and platforms, including social media, travel expos, and digital advertising, the government is showcasing J&K as a prime destination for spiritual rejuvenation and pilgrimage.

"After getting a good number of tourists for the last many years, the government is now exploring various tourism segments to further increase the flow of visitors. Last year, the government announced 75 tourist destinations to enhance religious tourism in the region. The promotion part of this project has already started. In Jammu we have many historic temples and in Kashmir we have shrines, mosques and temples to attract devotees from across the world," he said.

Pertinently, J&K boasts a plethora of sacred sites revered by pilgrims and spiritual seekers alike. From ancient temples nestled in the foothills to revered shrines perched atop lofty peaks, the UT offers a spiritual sanctuary for devotees from all walks of life.

Travel agents said they also promote various spiritual destinations of Jammu and Kashmir. "We receive a good number of devotees for Shri Amarnath and Vaishno Devi pilgrimage. So, travel has their separate packages for spiritual tourism. During our promotional events, we showcase the spiritual destination to the participants to promote our union territory as prime spiritual destination of India," said Umar Ahmad, a travel agent—(KNO)

BJP winning 35 seats in Bengal: Amit Shah

IAN S

KOLKATA: If the BJP winning 18 seats in West Bengal during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls can ensure the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, bagging 35 seats this time will surely guarantee freedom from illegal infiltration, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

Addressing an election rally at Karandighi under the Raiganj Lok Sabha constituency in North Dinajpur district, Amit Shah said: "The people of West Bengal voted in large numbers for the BJP candidates in 2019. Thereafter, the Ram Temple in Ayodhya became a reality. If the number (of BJP seats) goes up to 35 this time, the people of West Bengal will get freedom from the menace of illegal infiltration."

A major part of the Home Minister's 20-minute speech focused on illegal infiltration, as he launched a scathing attack against Mamata Banerjee, saying: "Instead of resisting illegal infiltration, the Chief Minister is pampering the



infiltrators for vote bank politics.

"In Sandeshkhali, she tried to protect those responsible for harassment of women because of the same vote bank politics. But after the women raised their voices, the authorities were forced to take action and send the accused behind bars."

He also said the country needs Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister for a third straight term to free the nation from the menace of illegal infiltration and

to grant citizenship to the genuine refugees.

"The Chief Minister is encouraging illegal infiltration and also opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Even the Congress has said that if it comes to power, it will withdraw CAA. I dare the Congress and the Trinamool to block CAA if they can," the Home Minister said.

He also said that only the BJP can end the reign of corruption in West Bengal, where every government job is sold.

"A massive amount of Rs 51 crore was recovered from the residence of a close aid of Partha Chatterjee, who is behind bars now. But Mamata Banerjee is yet to suspend her from the party," Amit Shah said.

The Home Minister also said that an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) will be set up in North Bengal, which has been a long-standing demand of the people of the region, if the BJP retains power for a third consecutive term.

Mexico-based Indian scientist leading fight against wheat diseases receives Padma Shri

ARUL LOUIS

NEW YORK: Ravi Prakash Singh, the Mexico-based scientist who received the Padma Shri award, has been hailed for his achievement in making wheat strains resistant to rust diseases, protecting the supply of the foodgrain that is an essential element in diets around the world.

The Padma Shri awards ceremony took place with President Draupadi Murmu on Monday at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Singh, who is the head of Global Wheat Improvement at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), is originally from Varanasi.

"Singh has contributed to the development of 649 wheat varieties released in 48 countries, working closely with scientists at national wheat programs in the Global South," Mexico-based CIMMYT said.

Of them, 224 were developed directly under his leadership and are grown on about 10 million hectares, it added.



Singh has worked at the institute since 1983 after getting a PhD from the University of Sydney in Australia.

CIMMYT said, "His scientific efforts protect wheat from new races of some of agriculture's oldest and most devastating diseases, safeguard the livelihoods of small-holder farmers in the most vulnerable areas in the world, and enhance food security for the billions of people whose daily nutrition depends on wheat consumption."

Rust diseases are caused by fungus and their name is derived from the discoloration of the leaves of



the affected plant.

He has developed more than 730 climate-resilient, high-yield wheat varieties that benefit small-holder farmers," according to the institute.

He received the 2021 Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRI) Lifetime Achievement Award.

CYMMIT said that "in the early 2000s, when a highly virulent rust race discovered in East Africa threatened most of the world's wheat," Singh sounded the alarm over the outbreak.

That led to the creation of the BGRI and an international cooperative effort to stop the rust known as

Ug99, CYMMIT said. Singh's efforts led to the development of "a series of elite wheat lines" resistant to 12 types of rust diseases and to "new, high temperature-tolerant races of stripe rust fungus that had been evolving and spreading worldwide since the beginning of the 21st century," the institute said.

Ronnie Coffman, the international professor emeritus of Plant Breeding and Genetics at Cornell University and Vice-Chair of BGRI, said when he received the award, "Thanks to Ravi Singh's vision and applied science, the dire global threat of Ug99 and other rusts has been averted."

About his pioneering technique, CIMMYT said that Singh helped establish the practice of "pyramiding" several rust-resistance genes into a single variety making it difficult for evolving pathogens to be able to attack the new varieties of wheat, the institute added.

He received the Parvasi Bharatiya Sammelan Award in 2021. (IANS)

BIRYANI BLUNDER

Lord Ram's image on plates sparks outrage in Delhi



IAN S

NEW DELHI: A biryani vendor in northwest Delhi was found serving his dish on disposable plates with images of Lord Ram printed over it.

Police said that they recovered plates with Lord Ram's image on it from the vendor's shop.

The incident surfaced on Saturday afternoon when local Hindu groups noticed the plates featuring the revered deity's likeness at the biryani shop.

Protests also erupted, however, police reached the spot and controlled the situation after assuring thorough probe into the matter.

A senior police official said that the shopkeeper

was detained soon after they received information. "He was booked under section of 107/151 (preventive detention) CrPC and later allowed to go," said the official.

A video showing Lord Ram's images on the disposable plates went viral on social media and a crowd gathered near the shop on Saturday. The locals confronted the vendor, observing people being served biryani on these plates, only to see them discarded later.

"Two plates with Lord Ram's photo printed on it were found at a biryani shop. During the probe, it was revealed that the shopkeeper had bought 1,000 disposable plates from a factory and only four of them had Lord Ram picture on it.

This was also verified with the factory owner" said the police official.

Meanwhile, people took X and shared the images of plates with Lord Ram's pictures on it used by the vendor.

"He is doing this intentionally ... He also knows this is wrong, but continually serving biryani in Lord Ram Images plates," wrote an X user, Sandeep.

"Biryani served on plates with Lord Ram's photo in Delhi's Jahangirpuri. Hindu organisations noticed this and called the police. They saw the plates being served with Biryani and discarded in the trash after use. Please don't ask the name of the shop owner," said another X user, Shilpa.

Next 5 years to give further thrust to local manufacturing: Ashwini Vaishnaw

NISHANT ARORA

NEW DELHI: The simplifications around compliances via the 'Make in India' initiative under Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave local manufacturing a much-needed thrust in the last 10 years and the next five years will only take that vision forward across sectors, Union Railways and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday.

In a free-wheeling interview with IANS, Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the last decade saw a massive growth in local manufacturing with a robust push to exports, led by the electronics sector which has reached \$100 billion while generating 12 lakh jobs.

"In the last 10 years, ever since PM Modi launched the 'Make in India' programme, he made several simplifications around compliances to bring about a big improvement in manufacturing. The results can be seen today. Look at the manufacturing growth in any sector, be it defence, textiles, electronics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals or others," the Union Minister emphasised.

Manufacturing has emerged as a significant leader in almost every sector and has a key impact



on employment.

"In electronics manufacturing alone, about 12 lakh new jobs have been created. Electronics manufacturing has reached about \$100 billion. In mobile manufacturing, India has become one of the top two countries in the world and the way it is growing is phenomenal. The country will benefit greatly from this and employment will only increase in years to come," Ashwini Vaishnaw elaborated.

As per the latest government figures, "the export of mobile phones has also increased from an estimated Rs 1,566 crore in 2014-15 to an estimated Rs 90,000 crore in 2022-23, making an impressive increase in

exports by more than 5,600 per cent."

The industry and the government are working to scale electronics manufacturing in India towards meeting the \$300 billion goal and PM Modi 3.0 will cement this vision in the next five years.

The Union Minister said that in the next five years, this growth will emerge even stronger because people have faith in PM Modi's policies, his way of working relentlessly and transparency.

"PM Modi's clear focus is to make India a global manufacturing hub. There is a unified belief among people regarding that clear focus," said Ashwini Vaishnaw. (IANS)

Kejriwal, K Kavitha's judicial custody extended in money laundering case

IAN S

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Tuesday extended till May 7 the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and BRS leader, K Kavitha in the money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam case.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court passed the orders upon expiry of the previously-granted judi-

cial custody. In collusion with other ministers of the Delhi government, AAP leaders, and other persons.

On Monday, the Delhi High Court dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking extraordinary interim bail to incarcerated Delhi Chief Minister in all the criminal cases registered against him by the central agencies, till the completion of his tenure or the trials, whichever ends earlier.



cial custody.

The ED arrested CM Kejriwal on March 21 after questioning him for over two hours at his official residence in Delhi.

The ED has termed CM Kejriwal the "kingpin and the key conspirator" of the alleged excise policy scam

Imposing a cost of Rs 75,000 on the petitioner, a law student, a Bench presided over by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan termed the petition as "totally misconceived" and questioned his locus standi to file such a plea.

PM Modi extends wishes on Hanuman Jayanti

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday extended wishes to the nation on the auspicious occasion of Hanuman Jayanti.

Taking to his official social media handle X (formerly Twitter), he shared: "I extend my best wishes to all the people across the country on Hanuman Jayanti. Pavanputra's dedication will always remain an inspiration for all Ram bhakts. I wish that with his blessings, the resolution of a Viksit Bharat gets new energy. Jai Bajrangbali!"

In a video compilation dedicated to Lord Hanuman, Prime Minister Modi emphasised the profound significance of Hanuman in the Hindu epic, Ramayana.

He underlined that with-



out the presence of Lord Hanuman, the story of Lord Ram and the Ramayana would not have been complete.

The Prime Minister also highlighted Hanuman's humility, as he (Hanuman) always credited his achievements and success to Lord Ram rather than himself.

Hanuman Jayanti witnessed enthusiastic cel-

ebrations nationwide, with devotees thronging temples to seek blessings from Lord Hanuman.

The day was marked by fervent prayers, devotional songs, and festive gatherings, spreading joy and happiness.

Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to commence his election campaign in Tonk-Sawai Madhopur on Tuesday.

RBI sees India's GDP growth trend surging past 7 per cent

IAN S

MUMBAI: India's GDP growth trend is on the cusp of an upshift, with early signs of it rising above 7 per cent recorded during the 2020s before Covid-19 struck, according to the RBI's monthly bulletin for April released on Tuesday.

"The conditions are shaping up for an extension of a trend upshift in India's real GDP growth, backed by strong investment demand and upbeat business and consumer sentiments," the report states.

It also points out that the global growth momentum has been sustained in the first quarter of 2024 and the outlook for global trade is turning positive. Treasury yields and mort-

gage rates are ticking up in major economies on expectations of interest rate cuts.

The positive outlook on global trade is expected to boost Indian exports and

2023 and January 2024, the RBI bulletin points out.

In the latest update, it expects India to contribute 16 per cent of global growth, the second largest share in the world in terms of market exchange rates by which metric, India is the fifth largest economy in the world and positioned to overtake Germany and Japan within the ensuing decade.

The RBI bulletin also states that the country's CPI inflation has gravitated to 4.9 per cent in March after averaging 5.1 per cent in the preceding two months.

However, it cautions that in the near term, extreme weather events may pose a risk to inflation, along with prolonged geopolitical tensions that could keep crude oil prices volatile.



No poison found: Viscera report of Mukhtar Ansari

IAN S

LUCKNOW: The viscera test report of gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, on Tuesday, stated that no poison has been found.

Mukhtar Ansari died of cardiac arrest at the Rani Durgawati Medical College in Banda district on March 28 while serving a conviction in jail.

Mukhtar's brother and MP Afzal Ansari had alleged that the gangster-turned-politician was killed by poisoning.

The post-mortem report confirmed that Ansari died of cardiac arrest.

Ansari's family has alleged that he died due to "slow poisoning" in the jail. A senior hospital source, who oversaw the post-mor-

tem examination and had access to the report, said on condition of anonymity, "The cause of death of Mukhtar Ansari was found to be heart attack (myocardial infarction)."



The autopsy was conducted by a panel of five doctors.

Umar Ansari, the younger son of Mukhtar Ansari, was present when the post-mortem was conducted at the Rani Durgawati Medical College.

J&K Police announces ₹10 lakh reward for terrorist involved in Rajouri killing

AMIT TANTRAY

JAMMU: J&K Police on Tuesday announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh for any information leading to the identification and capture of the terrorist identified in the heinous killing of a man in Rajouri district on Monday.

The reward has been announced for the terrorist identified as Abu Hamza for his involvement in terror activities, including the heinous killing of Mohd Razaq in Kunda village of Rajouri on Monday, a police official informed.

Muhammad Razaq, a victim of the terror attack in Kunda village of Shadra Sharief, was laid to rest in the local graveyard in which hundreds of people from all over the area participated. He was given a tearful adieu by the family, relatives and people of the area.

According to KNO, the funeral prayers were held at 2.30 pm in Kunda village in which hundreds of the people participated. After the prayers, Razaq's body was laid to rest in the



native graveyard where his father was buried.

His father Muhammad Akber was also a victim of terrorism as his throat was slit by the terrorists in the year 2003. Razaq was appointed in the social welfare department on compassionate grounds after his father's killing and was working as a junior assistant in the department. Razaq's eldest son is just 15 years old.

Earlier, once the bullet-ridden body of Razaq

reached his home, the pall of gloom descended in the area as everybody was heading towards his house to pay their respect to the departed soul. According to the locals, he was a kind hearted and helpful person who was always ahead of others in reaching out to the people whenever they were in need.

Locals said that terrorists had reached his home by enquiring from locals without ascertaining their identity. They

were hiding in his house and once Razaq entered after completing prayers, he was fired upon by the terrorists and injured him critically. He was shifted to the nearby hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

They believed that terrorists were probably after Razaq's brother Tahir Khursheed, who is working in the Territorial Army, but there was no confirmation from police and administration—(KNO)

PM Modi synonymous with trust, hope, credibility: Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana Tuesday said Yashasvi Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has become synonymous with trust, hope, and credibility, resonating deeply with people of Bharat.

"Modi Ki Guarantee has become a household assurance and confidence among the people that the government under him will deliver whatever promised to assuage the urges and aspirations of every Indian, irrespective of religion, region or caste", Mr Devender Rana said while addressing people at Bain Bajalta, Tutan Di Khui, Aithem, Surinsar and Sidhra here today alongwith Pt. Rameshwar Dutt Sharma, Mr. Som Nath Khajuria, Ex-Sarpanches Bodh Raj, Krishan Singh, Anil Sharma, Anil Barsala, Mohan Singh, Abdul Mehmood, Abdul, Sardar Singh, Sham Singh, Tara Chand, Mohd Sadiq, Mukhtyar Ahmed, Jagdish Khajuria, Bhushan Singh and others.

He said the Prime Minister's credibility on global landscape has made every compatriot proud, who believe in what Modiji says on the basis of deliv-



erance during the past one decade, be it fighting coronavirus, evacuating Indians and others in distress in conflict ridden countries across the continents, initiating host of measures to mitigate the miseries of people, providing rations to over 80 crore countrymen, facilitating basic amenities like Izzat Ghars, Har Ghar Jal, Ujjwala scheme, renewed education policy, health for all, start up mission, vocal for local and host of other welfare initiatives.

"Seeing is believing", Devender Rana said while referring to the other initiatives like infrastructural development, technological advance-

ment Digital India, and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan that have not only transformed the socio-economic landscape but have also instilled hope and confidence among citizens for a brighter future. PM Modi's unwavering commitment to the welfare of every Indian has further solidified his image as a leader who stands for the aspirations of all, he said, adding that his policies, aimed at empowering the marginalized, promoting economic growth, and fostering a conducive environment for entrepreneurship, have further reinforced confidence in every section of society.

He said Modi Ji embod-

ies the aspirations of a new India, driven by innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive growth. This has benefited every segment of larger Indian society. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has not remained aloof but joined the nation as equal and proud partner in the country's growth trajectory. He referred to the Prime Minister's vision for 'Naya Jammu and Kashmir' and said this has become a success story post 2019 political developments, which have manifested in peace, paving way for economic activity, tourism resurgence and overall development. The transformation of Jammu and Kashmir is the biggest Modi Ki Guarantee that is discernible in a big way, he added.

Rana exhorted the people to further strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Modi, saying every vote cast during the ongoing elections to Lok Sabha will give new wings to India's pace of development and civilizational resurgence. His hat-trick in government will open up vistas of opportunities for all, especially the youth, who are going to be the future, not only of the great nation of India but the entire world, he added

Cyber Police Sgr unveils major mule account racket in Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone, Srinagar Tuesday said to have investigated a new modus operandi, where individuals are involved in setting up mule bank accounts.

These accounts serve as channels for the receipt and transfer of unlawfully obtained funds on behalf of cyber fraudsters, a statement issued reads. Such activities are pivotal to organized fraud operations targeting vulnerable segments of the society, including homemakers, the economically disadvantaged, auto-rickshaw drivers, labourers, and local vendors, it said.

"The funds, often acquired through online fraudulent means such as investment scams, online gaming apps, phishing or identity theft are discreetly shuffled between multiple accounts to evade detection. Perpetrators, operating from outside the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, lured potential victims through emails, chatrooms or social media, offering inducements in exchange for renting out their bank accounts. Once trapped,



victims unknowingly help in illegal transactions through mule bank accounts, sending the money to the criminal's main accounts," it said.

Acting upon the matter, Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone, Srinagar, has filed a case under FIR number 10/2024 under relevant legal provisions and initiated a comprehensive investigation.

"Subsequent inquiries have revealed numerous mule accounts operating in various Districts of Kashmir Zone, with transactions totalling crores of rupees. Four individuals from Srinagar city have been identified in orchestrating and managing these mule bank accounts, as well as enticing unsuspecting individuals to participate in these illegal activities," the statement added.

Consequently, these four accused persons

identified as Sajad Ahmad Rah son of Mohammad Maqbool Rah residing at Chinar Colony Mehjoor Nagar, Srinagar, Tawqair Ahmad Bhat son of Tariq Ahmad Bhat residing at Banpora Nowgam, Srinagar, Ubaid Ahmad Rah son of Mohammad Ayoub Rah residing at Hamdaniya Colony Bemina, Srinagar and Amir Rah son of Mohammad Maqbool Rah residing at Chinar Colony Mehjoor Nagar, Srinagar have been arrested, the statement reads.

Meanwhile, Cyber Police Kashmir urged the public to remain vigilant and guard against falling victim to such fraudulent schemes. Fraudsters often exploit unsuspecting individuals through personal or social media platforms, dangling promises of rewards, incentives, or 'work from home' opportunities. Participation in money mule activities is unlawful and carries severe legal ramifications, including imprisonment. Should you suspect being victimized by money laundering or inadvertently engaging as a money mule, prompt reporting to the authorities is imperative, the statement said—(KNO)

Expo Mart of int'l standard need of the hour in Kashmir: Chairman CEPC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Dr. Romesh Khajuria, Chairman of Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) and Chairman of Wool & Woollens Export Promotion Council (WWEPC) under the Ministry of Textiles Govt of India, visited Srinagar (J&K) from April 20 to 22 April 2024.

An interactive meeting was conducted at CEPC's Srinagar Office which was chaired by Dr. Romesh Khajuria with manufacturers, exporters, and artisans associated with the Carpet Industry of J&K, a statement issued reads.

Dr. Khajuria's statement underscores the significant role that Srinagar, located in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, plays in the global market for handicrafts and luxury goods. Known for its rich cultural heritage and skilled artisans, Srinagar has long been renowned for producing high-quality handicraft items that are highly in demand by consumers worldwide.

To capitalize on this reputation and further boost the handicraft industry in the region, Dr. Khajuria suggests the establishment of a permanent Expo Mart. This Expo Mart should be designed following the

models of successful Expo Marts such as Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi. The Exhibition Mart in J&K will serve as platforms for showcasing and trading various products on a large scale, providing a space for local artisans, manufacturers, and exporters to display their goods to both domestic and international buyers. Additionally, manufacturers and exporters would have the opportunity to network with potential buyers and investors, facilitating business growth and expansion.

Dr. Romesh Khajuria, interacted with the artisans who crafted the largest hand knotted silk carpet of the world 72X40 ft (1480 sq ft) in village Wailoo Kunzer of Tangmarg in north Kashmir. Under the guidance of Fayaz Ahmad Shah and Abdul Gaffar Sheikh the artisans celebrated the completion of the world's largest silk hand knotted carpet. Crafted over eight years since 2016, this achievement fills Tangmarg, Kashmir, with pride. It's not only a testament to Srinagar (J&K) artisans' skills but also offers employment opportunities.

Dr. Khajuria extends heartfelt congratulations to the dedicated artisans behind this masterpiece: Moham-

mad Ashraf Parray, Firdous Ahmad Dar, and Mohammad Maqbool Parray. Despite facing numerous challenges, including the impact of COVID, their perseverance shines through. He is confident that this remarkable creation will attract buyers worldwide, honoring and supporting these artisans' talent and hard work. He also visited M/S Carpets Creativity of Art in Idgah, Srinagar, who are crafting innovative Silk Pashmina Carpets.

Dr. Khajuria, in his address to the gathering, assured that the responsibility given to him by the Office of DC Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, for Council's Election 2024, will be undertaken seriously. He is reaching out to the industry to request support in conducting fair and transparent elections for the CEPC.

Dr. Khajuria extends his heartfelt best wishes to all associates of the J&K Carpet industry. Let us join hands and work harmoniously to overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and propel the Handmade Carpet Industry to new heights of excellence and prosperity. Together, we can create a brighter and more vibrant future for our industry—(KNO)

8 notorious drug smugglers booked in B'la: Police

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Acting tough against drug peddlers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday said to have booked eight notorious drug smugglers under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla after obtaining formal detention orders from competent Authority. The booked drug smugglers have been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jammu, a police spokesman said in a state-



smugglers namely Javid Mohiuddin Bhat son of Gh Mohiuddin Bhat resident of Allapora Karhama Kunzer, Danish Ahmad Dhoobi son of Ggulam Mohd resident of Ogmuna Kunzer, Ghulam Mohiuddin son of Sakhi Mohd resident of Chandoosa, Adil Ahmad Bhat son of Nasir Ahmad resident of Goom Ahmadpora Pattan, Wikar Hussain Beigh son of Arshid Hussain resident of Lateefabad Chandoosa, Afted Ahmad Wani son of Habibullah resident of Bandi Payeen Chan-

doosa, Bilal Ahmad Bhat son of Gulzar Ahmad & Mohammad Asif Bhat son of Ghulam Hassan, both residents of Maloora Srinagar have been booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority. The booked drug smugglers have been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jammu, a police spokesman said in a state-

ment issued. Pertinent to mention here that many cases are registered against these drug smugglers and were involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of Bandi, Kunzer, Ogmuna, Pattan, Mirgund Wagoora, Kreeeri & other areas of the District. Despite their involvement in many FIRs, they did not mend their activities and were again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth, the statement reads—(KNO)

DC B'pora reviews Floriculture, Fisheries Departments

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive review of Floriculture, Fisheries and Sericulture departments in a meeting held here at Mini Secretariat.

The meeting deliberated upon various issues of the Fisheries Department, including Fish production and the streamlining of market management.

The chair was informed that the department of Fisheries has established three Trout units viz, Shokbaba Trout Farm, Guzerbal Trout Farm and Trout Farm Wanpora Gurez besides one Carp Fish Farm at Trigam in Sonawari and has also created major assets in shape of Ova houses, a Trout Feed Mill, Inspection huts, and Anglers lodges etc.

Moreover, the Department of Fisheries has for the first time established two Biofloc units, one in Government and other in



the private sector in District Bandipora.

While taking review of the Sericulture Department, Concerned from sericulture department informed the DC that in district Bandipora 6 mulberry farms are functional besides 7 departmental nurseries.

The meeting was informed that the departmental nurseries are spread over an area of 23.5 hectares with annual Silk-worm seed consumption of 83000 lac dfls.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADDC Mohammad Ashraf, ADC Umar Shafi Pandit, CPO Mohammad Maqbool, and concerned district heads of departments.

DEO Bandipora reviews poll preparedness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman Rather Tuesday chaired a meeting of Officers at Mini Secretariat, here to assess the preparedness for the Lok Sabha Elections- 2024.

On the occasion, the DEO reviewed the preparations made by Election Nodal Officers regarding the responsibilities assigned to them.

The Nodal officers briefed the DEO about the preparations and steps initiated for the smooth conduct of elections and implementation of various instructions of previous meetings.

The meeting discussed threadbare various aspects of election, including arrangements at special polling stations, unique polling stations, model polling stations, plantation at polling stations, poll day monitoring formats, postal voting counter etc.

Issues related to status of distribution of EPICs, provisions made in polling stations, availability of material at all the three assembly



segments viz. 14-Sonawari, 15-Bandipora, 16-Gurez.

Besides, SVEEP activities being carried out to increase voter turnout, training of manpower, deployment of security forces, election expenditure, implementation of MCC, working of MCMC, Working of Joint Election Control Room of Civil Administration and police were also threadbare discussed in the meeting.

While reviewing the status of the transport plan, the Nodal Officer concerned apprised the DEO that the

transport plan for poll day has been framed and submitted to the concerned.

Nodal Officer postal ballots informed the meeting that all the necessary measures for home voting, visiting teams for home voting, and service voters are in place.

While reviewing the availability of material, Nodal Officer material management apprised the chair that all necessary election related material have been provided to AROs of three Assembly Segments.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO stressed the need for enhancing awareness under SVEEP to educate people about the importance of exercising their franchise.

He asked Nodal Officer SVEEP to identify areas with low voter turnout and focus SVEEP activities in those areas.

He directed the SVEEP cell to implement strategies in a coordinated and targeted manner in order to scale up SVEEP activities for promoting voter education, awareness and participation.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Mohd Ashraf Bhat, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Nodal Officer MCC) Umar Shafi Pandit, DyDEO Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ARO Bandipora), Assistant Commissioner Development (Nodal Officer EVM), SDM Gurez (ARO Gurez) SDM Sumbal (ARO Sonawari), DTO (Nodal Officer Expenditure) DIO (Nodal Officer MCMC), Executive Engineers and other concerned.

Drugs, deception, and Kupwara police's drive to dismantle vast network

RAHEE MUSHTAQ

KUPWARA: Following the directions of SSP Kupwara, Shobhit Saxena, DO Awooru Ayush Sharma, has launched a vigorous crackdown on drug peddlers and consumers in the area.

Taking swift action, Sharma has detained several accused individuals living in the jurisdiction of police post Awooru, Zirhama, Marhama, Gujarpatti in Kupwara district.

Sharma expressed his commitment to eradicating the menace of drugs from the area, stating, "Our mission is not just about enforcement, but also about rehabilitation. We aim to create a safer and healthier environment for all residents."

The local populace has lauded Sharma's proactive approach and the collaborative efforts of law enforcement and the community.

"Role of SSP Kupwara and police in Awooru has been crucial in addressing this issue," said a resident, reflecting the widespread sentiment of appreciation. As the crackdown continues, there is a palpable sense of optimism among the residents of Awooru and adjoining areas.

Locals believe that the efforts of police will lead to a significant reduction in drug-related activities in the area.

In past Kupwara police have booked several dozen drug peddlers under stringent laws to prevent gullible youth from falling prey to drug menace.