

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

Rajnath Singh
@rajnathsingh

Bharatiya Janata Party is going to form the government for the third time under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

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Civilian Injured In Sopore Gunfight, Operation On

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A civilian was injured during an ongoing encounter that broke out in Sopore village of north Kashmir on Thursday evening.

Officials said that a civilian identified as Farooq Ahmed Dar received a bullet injury in his shoulder during an **P-06**

Sikh Coordination Committee Calls On LG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A delegation of Sikh Coordination Committee Jammu Kashmir led by its Chairman S. Ajit Singh, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhawan on Thursday.

The members of the delegation put forth various welfare issues of the Sikh Community.

The Lt Governor assured the delegation of the appropriate action on the issues projected by them during the interaction—(KNO)

Congress Tied Hands Of Soldiers, We Gave Them Full Freedom: PM

IANS

BHOPAL: Accusing the Congress party of "tying the hands of soldiers" in the past, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday, said that it is his government that has given full freedom to the armed forces to retaliate in a befitting manner.

"We have asked our jawans to fire 10 bullets in response to one," said PM Modi while addressing a rally in the Chambal region of Morena.

Slamming the Congress party for ignoring people who contribute most to the nation, PM Modi stated that for BJP, there is nothing bigger than the nation.

"While for Congress, their own family is everything. Hence, the Congress government, for so many years, did not fulfil demands like One Rank One Pension (OROP) for soldiers. As soon as we formed the government, we implemented OROP. We also addressed the concerns of soldiers standing at the border," said Prime Minister Modi.

On Wednesday, PM addressed two public rallies in the state and also did a roadshow in Bhopal.

BJP has retained Morena Lok Sabha seat for the last seven terms. Former Union Minister and Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar represented this constituency two times before the party fielded a fresh candidate, Shivmangal Singh Tomar against Congress' Satyapal Singh Sikarwar, a former BJP MLA.

WHILE FOR CONGRESS, THEIR OWN FAMILY IS everything. Hence, the Congress government, for so many years, did not fulfil demands like One Rank One Pension (OROP) for soldiers.

Over 1.7 Million Voters To Decide Fate Of 22 Candidates In Jammu Today

AMIR TANTRAY

JAMMU: Jammu Parliamentary constituency is all set to go for the polls during the second phase of General Elections which will seal the deal for the arch rivals Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) and Congress Party.

The fate of 22 candidates, who are in the fray, will be decided by over 17.80 lakh voters on the Jammu Parliamentary seat.

There is a direct fight between BJP's Jugal Kishore Sharma and Congress party's Raman Bhalla. As Sharma is seeking votes on the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bhalla is reminding people his good work done in Jammu in the past when he represented Gandhinagar Assembly constituency of Jammu district in J&K Legislative Assembly and also when he was minister in Omar Abdullah led National Conference (NC)-Congress coalition government.

After delimitation exercise, barring Sunderbani-Kalaote Assembly segment, Rajouri and Poonch districts were separated from Jammu Parliamentary constituency and Reasi district, which was earlier part of Udhampur Lok Sabha seat, was made part of it. The new shape of this constituency is suiting a particular party and its candidates depending upon the earlier trend for the last two Lok Sabha elections and this time also the incumbent Member Parliament (MP) is hopeful to win it.

At present, 17,80,835 lakh voters including 9,21,095 male and 8,59,712 female voters besides 28 third gender electorates are eligible to vote for this seat. Out of the total voters, 10498 people are registered as Persons with Disability (PWD) and 666 voters are above the age of 100 who will be exercising their franchise to send their leader to Lok Sabha **P-06**

Border Residents To Play Crucial Role

AMIR TANTRAY

JAMMU: With the Jammu parliamentary constituency going for polls today (Friday) in the second phase, one of the major issues around which the election campaigning of political parties revolves is border areas.

Be it people living on the International Border (IB) or Line of Control (LoC), the politics and politicians of Jammu can't ignore their sufferings and issues.

This election also people from both government as well as opposition sides have tried to raise the issues which suits their politics and which can earn them votes **P-06**

Operating From Pak Properties Of 4 Terrorist Handlers Attached In Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday said properties of 4 terrorists handlers operating from Pakistan have been attached in Handwara on orders of a court.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police has launched a special drive against the aforementioned terrorists and as part of this drive, the properties of these 'proclaimed offenders' were attached, the police said.

"These absconders/proclaimed offenders have exfiltrated to Pakistan or Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) in 1990s or in first after 2000 and are presently in the Pakistan or PoK. Since then, they are continuously involved in handling terrorists and spreading terrorism in Handwara and other areas of Jammu and Kashmir," police said.

"Following the prescribed procedure (1)land measuring ten (10) Marlas at Kralgund belonging to proclaimed offender Mumtaz Ahmad Khwaja Son of Mohammad Subhan Khwaja resident of Kralgund,(2) **P-06**

Chief Secretary Reviews Take-Up Of Vishwakarma, RAMP Schemes In UT

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday reviewed the take-up of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes like PM Vishwakarma and Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity (RAMP) implemented by the Department of Industries & Commerce (I&C) in the UT.

The meeting, besides Commissioner Secretary, I&C; Secretary, RDD; Secretary, SDD was also attended by MD, TPO; representatives from Ministry of MSME, NSDC; HoDs of the Department from Kashmir/Jammu and other concerned officers from these Departments.

The Chief Secretary asked to make an effective strategy for training and capacity building of the artisans registered for the PM Vishwakarma scheme. He asked DCs to visit the training centers to ensure that the aspirants are given quality **P-06**

8,652 Dog Bite Cases Reported To ARC SMHS In One Year

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: A whopping 8,652 bite victims, mostly from dog bites, sought treatment at the Anti-Rabies Clinic at Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital in the past year, officials said.

They said the prevalence of dogs across the valley has contributed to human-dog conflicts, leading to a rise in cases of dog bites in the region.

An official from the Anti-Rabies Clinic SMHS informed that from April 01, 2023, to March 31, 2024, a total of 8,652 bite cases were recorded, with the majority originating from Srinagar.

This figure of 8,652 cases marks the highest recorded in the past decade, underscoring the urgent need to address the issue **P-06**

Sonamarg Welcomes Record-Breaking 1,62,281 Tourists In 3 Months

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: Sonamarg is witnessing a heavy footfall of tourists with 1,62,281 visitors flocking to the popular destination in the last three months.

Sonamarg, with a literal meaning 'the meadow of gold' and with snowclad mountains sharing a spectacular blue sky, situated at an altitude of 2730 m, is a mesmerising hill station in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

According to data obtained, the influx of tourists began on January 1st and continued until March 31st, with a notable increase in both domestic and foreign visitors. Of the total visitors, 155,851 were domestic tourists, while 4,108 were foreigners. Additionally, 2,322 local residents explored the beauty of their own region.

The place has become a premier attraction for travellers, both local and non-

local, in Kashmir.

Local shopkeepers are elated with the upsurge in tourist activity, expressing gratitude to the tourism department for its promotional efforts. "The current influx of tourists has surpassed previous records, indicating the growing appeal of the region among travellers," they said.

Members of the tourism sector warmly welcome the tourists, seeing it as a revival of their **P-06**

Inclment Weather Forecast Srinagar Admin Issues Advisory

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The District Administration Srinagar Thursday issued an advisory for the people of the District in general, and those residing on the Left and Right Banks of River Jhelum its tributaries and Nallahs in particular to refrain from venturing in and around these water bodies and limit their activities till the improvement of weather.

The advisory has been issued in view of the inclement weather with forecast of rainfall/snow in (higher reaches) at many places with Thunder/Lightening hailstorm at isolated places from 26th-30th April by the Indian Meteorological department (IMD) Srinagar Station.

Further, the Tourists, local Shikara Wallas, Sand Miners and Boat Crossing **P-06**

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

Friday 26 April MOVIES Schedule

GHOSTBUSTERS (ENG) 03:05PM, 07:40PM (U/A)	BADE MIYAN CHOTE MIYAN 3D (HINDI) 04:25PM (U/A)	MAIDAAN (HINDI) 06:40PM (U/A)
RUSLAAN (HINDI) 05:40PM (U/A)	CREW (HINDI) 03:55PM (U/A)	GODZILLA X KONG - 3D (ENG) 01:50PM (U/A)

Secy Planning inspects JFRP works in Srinagar, Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary Planning and Civil Aviation Department, Aijaz Asad, Thursday inspected various ongoing Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Projects being executed under World Bank funding in Srinagar and Budgam districts.

During the visit, the Secretary took stock of progress on additional block at Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla in Srinagar and Emergency Operations Centre in Budgam.

While inspecting construction of 120 bedded Specialized Orthopaedic Unit (additional hospital block) at Bone and Joint Hospital, Barzulla, he directed the concerned officers to focus on quality parameters thereby ensuring timely completion.

Aijaz Asad, while enquiring about the technical specifications of the building, directed the concerned engineers to keep regular check on the technical and quality parameters for effective implementation.

The Secretary was informed that the building will be G+4 structure with 120 beds capacity and technically advanced modular Operation theatres besides pre-operative and



post-operative units which will considerably augment the infrastructure of valley's largest centre for the orthopedic care.

The block will also feature the Pneumatic Tube System, a first of its kind in hospitals in J&K, ensuring seamless transport of various medical items, including blood samples, test reports from one floor to another. The system will minimize human interference in supply of these items like blood sample sent from one floor will directly reach its destination without any hassle.

Pertinently, the prestigious project has been taken up under the com-

ponent "Critical Infrastructure" of JFRP being funded by the World Bank.

The Secretary also reviewed work progress on prestigious project of Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Control Building at Ompora, Budgam.

The EOC will be fully equipped with all the latest modern technologies, software being used world over for forecasting of natural disasters and coordinating the relief and rescue operations in case of any natural disaster. Besides, the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Centre building would be the central control room for the dewatering pumping stations in Srinagar City for scientifically controlling and managing all the pump stations in the City using IT enabled services.

He directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work on the project and mobilize more men and machinery on site to ensure that work is completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Earlier, the Secretary visited the Government Woollen Mills, Bemina here and took stock of ongoing works undertaken under World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project there.

DEO Kupwara inaugurates cricket match in Trehgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Under SVEEP programme, Education Department and Youth Service & Sports Department Kupwara Thursday organized a cricket match at Boys Higher Secondary School Trehgam.

The cricket match was inaugurated by District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan who is also District Election Officer.

On the occasion, the DEO along with officers released some pigeons in the sky to mark the inauguration of the cricket match.

Additional District Development Commissioner Kupwara (ARO Trehgam), Chief Education Officer (Nodal Officer SVEEP), District Youth Services & Sports Officer, ZEO and CDPO, besides, Employees from line departments, Anganwari



Workers, ASHAs and large number of students and

general public attended the programme.

Speaking at the occasion, the DEO urged the people to come in large numbers and cast their valuable votes on the polling day.

ADDC Kupwara also spoke and administered an oath to the participants to cast their vote on polling day to strengthen the democracy.

Earlier, the school children presented a variety of programmes including Dumbbells, Gojri programme and other cultural variety programmes, highlighting the significance of voting in the democratic process.

Later, the DEO participated in the plantation drive conducted in the compound of BHSS Trehgam and planted cedar trees.

Meanwhile, the two day Plantation Drive under SVEEP has been concluded in district Kupwara.

Signature Campaign for voter awareness held in Sumbal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative, the Sub Divisional Administration Sumbal in collaboration with District Election Office Bandipora Thursday organised a signature campaign at Irrigation Colony Sumbal.

The programme was aimed to promote ethical voting, raise awareness on voter rights and responsibility of electoral participation.

The signature campaign was inaugurated by Dy. District Election Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat along with Sub Divisional Magistrate Sumbal (ARO 14-Sonawari) Aamir Choudhary.

SDPO Sumbal and AERO Sumbal (Tehsil Sumbal) were also present

on the occasion.

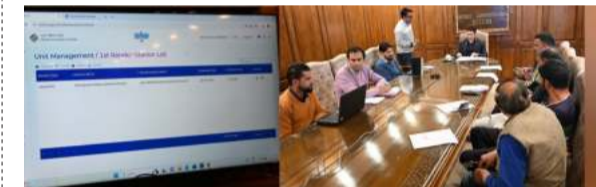
With the theme '20 May 2024, I WILL VOTE FOR SURE' the signature campaign was aimed to instill in voters the importance of responsible voting and informed decisions.

The Dy. DEO said that the campaign will play a crucial role in spreading the message of ethical and inducement-free voting among voters across the district.

On the occasion, selfie points were also installed with the message 'Nothing Like Voting, I vote for Sure' to promote voter awareness and engagement.

Large gathering of the public besides officers and officials of various departments marked signatures on the 'Signature Campaign Board' placed at the main gate of Irrigation Colony.

Supplementary randomization of EVMs, VVPATs conducted in Kulgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Supplementary 1st Randomization of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) and VVPATs for the General Elections to the Lok Sabha 2024 was held Thursday at Kulgam in accordance with the Election Commission of India guidelines.

The process was conducted under the supervision of the District Election Officer (DEO), Athar Aamir Khan, AROs and the representatives of the National, State recognised Political Parties and the contesting candidates of 3-Anantnag Rajouri PC.

The randomisation was

done on the EMS Software/Portal of ECI, to the satisfaction of the representatives of all the Political Parties and Contesting Candidates present in the meeting.

All the representatives of political parties expressed their satisfaction over the entire randomisation process.

The copies of lists of randomized CUs/BUs and VVPATs were handed over to the representatives of the political parties and contesting candidates present in the meeting during the randomization. The entire process was done under video coverage as per guidelines.

AS College organises Election Mascot-Making Competition

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Amar Singh College Thursday organized the election Mascot-making Competition under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) to disseminate awareness about the election process among young and first-time voters.

The event was organized as part of SVEEP initiatives led by the District Election Officer Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat.

Organised under the leadership of Prof (Dr.) Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges and Principal Amar Singh College, the event witnessed a remarkable turnout of students

eager to contribute to promoting electoral participation and voter awareness.

More than 60 students exhibited their artistic skills to promote the biggest festival of Indian democracy, making the event a resounding success.

The proceedings of the event were held at Taseer Hall and the inaugural speech was delivered by the principal.

Professor Aijaz also accentuated that the election mascot will play a big role in these campaigns by inspiring ethical and effective voting.

Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, Convenor ELC, Prof. Shahnawaz Muntazir, Prof. Pervaiz Ahmad Lone and Dr. Zubair Nazeer participated in the event and motivated the students.

NOTICE

I want to change the name in electricity bill from Peer Mohammad Yousuf, S/o Peer Ghulam Mohammad, R/o Nishat, Srinagar, bearing consumer ID: 0201020007347, Installation Number: 34408/R1 to Mohammad Yaqoob Makhdoomi, S/o Peer Mohammad Yousuf R/o Nishat, Srinagar. If anybody has any objection in this regard may contact the Office of concerned within a period of 7 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SVEEP Awareness programme galvanizes community participation in Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Amidst an atmosphere brimming with civic fervor, a remarkable event unfolded at Malangpora village under the aegis of SVEEP.

Spearheaded by the Nodal Officer SVEEP, the event resonated with the theme, 'Every Step Counts, Every Vote Counts.'

The vibrant gathering drew in a diverse array of participants, including members of the public, enthusiastic women, first-time voters, and citizens hailing from Malangpora,

Sonrigund, Kulu and Puchal villages. The palpable energy and engagement underscored the community's commitment to democratic principles.

Central to the agenda were voter education sessions, meticulously designed to empower students with a nuanced understanding of the electoral process and the pivotal role each citizen plays in shaping the democratic fabric.

The SVEEP awareness programme transcended mere education, fostering a spirit of collective responsibility and empowerment.

Voter awareness campaign held at Gandhi College

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The NSS Wing of Gandhi Memorial College, Srinagar, in collaboration with the Departments of Political Science and History, organized a Question-Answer (Q/A) Session on Elections and Voting as part of the #Merapehlavotedeshkeliye and Voter Awareness Campaign at Conference Room of College campus.

The event began with Professor Mohammad Zubair Ud Din, Assistant Professor History, introducing the purpose of the programme and highlighting the significance of voting in India- World's



Largest Democracy.

This was followed by a question-answer session in which students actively participated. They raised various queries related to elections and voting.

Dr. Samir, the HOD of Political Science, patiently answered each question and also addressed additional concerns related to the topic, such as the importance of voter ID cards and the process of casting postal votes.

YSS G'bal inspires voter awareness through cycle race for girls

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Youth Services and Sports (YSS) department Ganderbal Thursday orchestrated a remarkable cycle race for girls as part of the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response from young girls, highlighting their dedication to becoming active participants in the democratic process.

Commencing from

the iconic clock tower in Duderhama, the race took the scenic route to the Government College of Physical Education in Gadoora, Ganderbal, where the race concluded amidst enthusiastic cheers.

The spirited participation of student girls underscored their eagerness to contribute to the democratic ethos of the nation.

They expressed gratitude to the YSS department and the Nodal Officer of SVEEP for organizing a purposeful event tailored specifically for girls.

The presentation ceremony, graced by senior department officials, honored outstanding student players with trophies and medals, recognizing their unwavering dedication and sportsmanship.

In addition to the cycle race, GHS Shallabugh of Zone Ganderbal conducted a road rally, where students and school officials raised voting awareness slogans, emphasizing the importance of participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha 2024 elections.

Moreover, across the district, various sports events were organized as part of the annual calendar of activities. Zone HariGANiwan hosted a zonal level cycle race for boys in the U/14 years age group, promoting sportsmanship and healthy competition.

Furthermore, Zone Tullamulla organized events in basketball, table tennis, chess, carrom, and cricket across educational institutions, providing a platform for enthusiastic students to showcase their talents at the grassroots level.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE SRINAGAR

Email: srinagardic@gmail.com / gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in Tel. No: 0194-2427478

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Evergreen Furniture House I/E Zainakote stands formally registered with this office under No. 01/03/08093/PMT/MSME dated 20.05.2010, for the activity of "wooden furniture and joinery items by hand tools with small surface planner, as proprietorship concern of "Mohammad Sultan Dar Dar S/o Abdul Rehman Dar R/O Zainakote HMT Srinagar

Now the promoter of the unit intends to change of name and style from M/s Evergreen Furniture House to M/s Nurtalife Pharmaceuticals.

Any person having any objection, for above proposed change in favour of the unit shall report to General Manager DIC Srinagar within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice

DIPK-217-24 General Manager District Industries Centre Srinagar

DT: 25/04/2024

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION- IST, SRINAGAR.

Email: xen.ed1st@gmail.com Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

CORRIGENDUM

Reference: This office e-NIT 002 of 2024-25 dated 15.04.2024 issued vide this office letter No: EDI/175-79 dated: 15.04.2024

Name of the Work: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of temporary wiring for illumination of Shri Amamath Ji Yatra (2024) Base Camp at Bus Stand Panthachowk.

For the referential e NIT

1. Kindly read:- For serial No 1.01, 1.02 the material shall be provided by KPDCIL instead of Material available with stores.

For the referential e NIT

2. Kindly read:- Quantity for serial No. 1.21 as Job instead of Number.

All other terms and conditions of the e NIT shall remain same.

Sd/-

No: EDI/463-67

Dated: 25.04.2024

DIPK-NB-98-24 DT: 25/04/2024

Executive Engineer, ED-Ist, Srinagar.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,

AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION & FARMERS WELFARE DEPARTMENT KASHMIR SEED PRODUCTION OFFICER

LALMANDI, SRINAGAR, J&K

SALE OF VEGETABLE SEEDLINGS

It is to inform General public that Sale of different open pollinated and hybrid vegetable seedlings are ready from sale from 27th of April, during office hours at Kitchen Garden Lalmandi Srinagar.

Sd/- Seed Production Officer Agriculture Production & FWD Lalmandi, Srinagar

DIPK-206-24 DT: 25/04/2024

Justice Tashi Rabstan reviews facilities at J&K Yateem Khana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority) Thursday visited J&K Yateem Khana, Bemina and reviewed the facilities being provided to the inmates residing there. Justice Rabstan interacted with the children living in the Yateem Khana seeking feedback from them regarding the standard of services they are being offered there.



Justice Tashi was accompanied by Abdul Bari, Joint Registrar (Protocol), High Court of J&K and Ladakh besides others. Chairman J&K Yateem Khana, Mohammad Iqbal Khardi and General Secretary, Manzoor Ahmad besides Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, were present on the occasion.

During his visit, Justice Tashi inspected all the facilities available in the home including Class Rooms, Hostel, Library, Computer Centre, Dining Hall, Medical Facility unit and Kitchen. Interacting with the administrator of the Yateem Khana, Justice Tashi expressed satisfaction over the facilities

being provided to the inmates and impressed upon them to intensify efforts in rehabilitation and well-being of the inmates. He emphasized the importance of creating a conducive environment for the inmates, ensuring their holistic development and integration into society. He urged upon the NGOs and civil society members to step forward and play an active role in shaping the future of these inmates, thereby contributing towards the cause of nation building. Justice Tashi also directed the Legal Services Authority to organize awareness programs on regular intervals for the benefit of inmates of the Yateem Khana by involving panel lawyers and para legal volunteers.

22 candidates file nominations from Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: On the last date of filing of nomination papers for the General Lok Sabha Elections-2024 from 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, twenty two (22) candidates filed their nomination papers in the Office of Returning Officer (RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency(DC Office Complex, Srinagar) on Thursday (April 25, 2024).



Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi of Jammu Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) filed nomination papers before the Returning Officer 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today, while Salman Sagar submitted his nomination papers from Jammu Kashmir National Conference as a covering candidate.

Similarly, Hakikat Singh from National Panthers Party Bhim, Rakesh Handu from J&K National United Front, Amir Ahmad Bhat from Democratic Progressive Azad Party and Qaiser Sultan Ganai covering candidate of Democratic Progressive Azad Party submitted their nomination papers before the RO

02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency. Likewise, Ashiq Hussain from Rastriya Jan Kranti Party, Mohammad Yousuf Bhat from Gana Suraksh Party, Suraya Nissar from National Republic Party of India and Farooq Ahmad Bhat from National Youth Party also filed their nominations from 02-Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat. Those who filed their nomination papers as Independent candidates include Wahida Tabasum, Dr. Qazi Ashraf, Fida Hussain Dar, Abdul Hamid Rather,

Arun Kumar Raina, Bansilal Bhat, Saquib Rahman Makhdoomi, Shadib Hanief, Javid Ahmad Wani, Jehangir Ahmad Sheikh, Shabir Ahmad Malik and Sajad Ahmad Dar. With the filing of 22(Twenty-Two) nominations today (Thursday-April 25, 2024), the last date of filing nomination papers in 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, the total number of candidates who filed their candidature for 02-Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat reached to 39 (Thirty-Nine), as 17(Seventeen) candidates have already filed their nomination papers on April 22, 2024(Monday), April 23, 2024(Tuesday) and April 24, 2024(Wednesday). The scrutiny of nomination papers 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. Voting in the constituency is scheduled on May 13, 2024 under the fourth phase and the counting of votes is set for June 4, 2024.

BJP has announced support to Mehbooba Mufti, alleges Omar Abdullah

ALI ASAD

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) candidate Ruhullah Mehdi officially filed his nomination for the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat,

such elections before. Now it is absolutely clear that all of them are against us. BJP has announced support to Mehbooba Mufti. Two of their leaders have announced sup-



accompanied by a contingent of party stalwarts including NC President Farooq Abdullah, Vice President Omar Abdullah, Congress State President Vikar Rasool Wani, and other prominent leaders and supporters. The filing of nominations was marked by a strong show of unity and support from within the NC ranks. Amidst the nomination process, Omar Abdullah, in a pointed statement, took aim at the BJP's electoral strategy in the Kashmir Valley. He emphasized that the BJP had refrained from direct contestation and instead deployed what he referred to as "A, B, C teams" in the electoral fray. Omar said, "We have seen

port to Mehbooba Mufti in Rajouri, Poonch. BJP, all their A, B, C teams, Raj Bhavan are all together contesting elections against the National Conference." Responding to queries regarding the BJP's alleged exploitation of religious sentiments for political gains, Omar Abdullah denounced the trend, highlighting it as a recurring theme in BJP's electoral playbook. "When they feel that the ground is slipping from under their feet, they start talking in terms of religion again," Omar said. The former Chief Minister alluded to recent political attacks, particularly targeting Muslims, following the first phase of voting—(KNO)

People want me in J&K's for development: Azad

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad today urged the public to be vigilant against misleading slogans and false promises. While addressing the public at the roadshow in Dooru, Anantnag, he questioned the silence of MPs from regional parties in parliament, particularly regarding the matter of Article 370. He said, "Almost all the MPs of two political parties from Kashmir remained silent on Article 370. It was me who stood in parliament and fought for it. While others remained silent, they only exploited people, misled them. They were mum in parliament. I raised almost all major issues in parliament, be it Article 370, CAA NRC, or the lynching of innocents. You have tested those parties, give a chance to my candidate, Adv Saleem Parry; he will raise your issues the way I did." Azad reiterated his unwavering commitment to development as the cornerstone of his political agenda. With five decades of dedicated service to the nation, he emphasized the unassailable integrity that has characterized his political journey. In his own words, he asserted, "In my 50 years of politics, no one can question my integrity. I have never taken a single penny



from anyone for doing their work." Furthermore, he outlined his vision to empower the youth and catalyze the development of Jammu and Kashmir through tangible initiatives. His vision encompasses the establishment of more colleges, roads, schools, universities, and hospitals, aiming to uplift communities and foster progress across the region. "I do not engage in personal attacks or abusive rhetoric," he affirmed, highlighting his commitment to constructive dialogue and civility in political discourse. Reflecting on the pressing challenges facing Jammu and Kashmir, Azad disclosed that while his party leaders had proposed his candidacy

in parliamentary elections, his conscience led him to a different decision. Witnessing firsthand the grievances of the people, including the lack of basic amenities such as electricity, water, employment opportunities, and infrastructure development, Azad recognized the urgency of addressing these issues at the state level. "The demand of the people is clear – they want genuine progress and development," Azad affirmed. "Only by focusing our efforts on the state level can we address the pressing needs of our communities and pave the way for a brighter future." Azad made the decision to concentrate his efforts on addressing the immedi-

ate challenges confronting Jammu and Kashmir. "The transformative policies needed to uplift our communities can only be enacted by forming a government," he stated. He further said, "My people want me to focus in Jammu and Kashmir. I can't resolve the basic issues of development in Parliament; there you can only fight and demand. But here, if we form the government, we can take decisions on our own, we can develop by our own. That's why I took this decision." Among others present on the occasion were Adv Saleem Parry candidate, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, Shubay Jan secretary and others.

138 polling teams deployed in Sunderbani-Kalakote

GMK NEWS NETWORK



RAJOURI: As many as 138 polling parties along with polling material were dispatched to different polling stations in Sunderbani-Kalakote AC, part of 5- Jammu Parliamentary Constituency (PC) where polling is being held today. Amidst tight security, the polling staff and other logistics left from Boys Higher Secondary School Kalakote, marking a crucial step in the polling process for Lok Sabha Elections 2024 in the Sunderbani Kalakote Assembly Constituency. District Election Officer, Om Parkash Bhagat; DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range, Tajinder Singh; ADC Kalakote, Mohd Tanveer; DDE, Zahir Kaifi were present on the occasion. The dispatching of 138 polling parties represents a significant logistical feat, bearing testimony to the collective efforts of the district administration, security personnel, and election officials. To ensure the safety and

security of the polling parties and the polling material, stringent security measures have been put in place. The deployment of adequate security personnel will ensure a secure environment for the polling parties to carry out their duties without any hindrance. District Election Officer, expressed confidence in arrangements made for the Lok Sabha Elections 2024. He emphasized the commitment of the district administration to transparency, impartiality, and efficiency in conducting the electoral process. There are 96,986 voters, including 50,923 males, 46,062 females, and 1 transgender voter in Sunderbani-Kalakote AC. Of the total of 138 polling stations, 102 have been identified as sensitive. Earlier, the postal ballot voting was successfully carried out in the Sunderbani-Kalakote AC. Home voting was also marked by an enthusiastic participation in Sunderbani-Kalakote Assembly Constituency.

Abdullahs enjoying life at BJP's pleasure: Sajad Lone

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Gani Lone Thursday hit hard at leaders of National Conference, saying both Dr Farooq and Omar Abdullah are enjoying life out of jail at the pleasure of BJP. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a party convention in north Kashmir's Handwara, Lone said leaders of National Conference have to give an account of the misdeeds they committed from rigging to killings. He said both fathers have been assigned a new task of polarisation ahead of Lok Sabha elections across the country. "Both Dr Farooq and Omar are out of jail at the pleasure of the BJP, Farooq Abdullah is already found involved in the JK Cricket



Association scam, while his son Omar is trapped in the JK Bank scam. Why are the duo enjoying life out of jail," Lone said. He said NC leadership is now given the task of polarization to create a communal atmosphere in the country. "Their statements of polarisation are not only a nuisance for J&K but for the Muslims of India as well," he said. He also said from 1987 rigging to killing thousands of youth NC leadership is accountable before

the nation for the misdeeds they did in their times. He further said that after the Prime Minister of India, the father-son are the most protected persons, who are being guarded by 100 personnel each. Lone who is PC's Lok Sabha candidate from north Kashmir's Baramulla said he will reach out to people to seek their vote. "We are hopeful to get 35-40 percent votes. We won't show overconfidence, but will reach people with a soft heart," he said. (KNS)

R&R Commissioner reviews polling arrangements for Kashmiri Migrants in Delhi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Dr Karwani reviewed polling arrangements for Delhi based Kashmiri Migrants and interacted with them at National Capital. Dr Karwani, during his 3 day visit to Delhi and NCR, reviewed the polling arrangements in the special polling stations set up at 4 different locations of Prithviraj Road, Shalimar Bagh, Dilshad Garden and Najafgarh. He issued spot directions for further improvement. He also interacted with representatives of different Kashmiri Pandit organizations. Dr Karwani and his team gave a detailed presentation on the scheme of voting for migrants in the Lok-Sabha elections 2024. A migrant residing in Delhi NCR can opt to vote in a special polling station, for which s(he) has to fill Form -M or opt for postal ballot, for which Form 12-C is to be filled. Pertinent to mention that the process of filling Form12-C has been recently simplified. Dr Karwani appealed all migrants in the Delhi NCR to cast their vote, which is their democratic right.

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LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

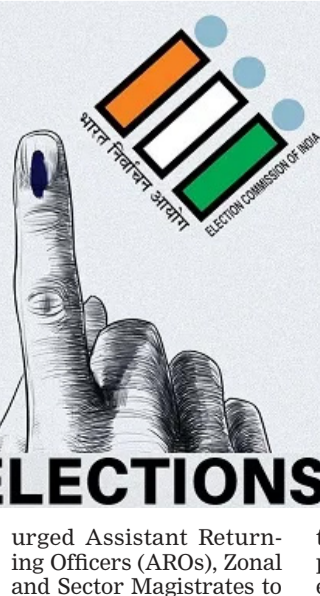
Election teams reach all 365 Polling Stations across Samba

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA: Election teams have safely reached all designated Polling stations across Samba district, part of Jammu Parliamentary Constituency, going to polls Thursday. The district has 365 polling stations with 72 flagged as critical and three as shadow polling stations. The dispatching of polling parties took off from three designated centers. Two centres for dispatch of teams were established at Mini secretariat Samba and one at SDM office Vijaypur. As many as 150 teams were dispatched to assembly constituency 70-Samba, 112 to AC 69-Ramgarh and 103 to AC

71-Vijaypur. District Election Officer Abhishek Sharma

ensure timely arrival of poll parties at their designated locations. Comprehensive arrangements were made for departure of polling parties, encompassing vehicles, seating arrangements, refreshments, and security measures. The District Election Officer, accompanied by SSP Vinay Sharma, conducted visits to all centers. They interacted with polling parties, urging them to adhere to Election Commission guidelines diligently and execute their assigned tasks with dedication and integrity. The deployment of polling parties marks a crucial step in the electoral process, ensuring that democratic exercise proceeds smoothly and efficiently.



Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Kashmir Braces For Another Wet Spell

The news from the weatherman is not good. In all probability, Kashmir is preparing to brave for an extended spell of wet showers starting from 27th of April. The weatherman predicts showers would be moderate in the majority of the areas and high in a few. With snow beginning to melt and water level considerably high in our rivers this has set alarm bells ringing in various quarters of the social media and many are praying the showers to be of less intensity. Just a decade or two back a spell or two of showers at this time of the year was welcomed with open arms. There was no cause to worry as the water-carrying capacity of river Jhelum was quite high. It was only if it rained continuously for about eight to ten days that the water level started hovering around the danger mark. But from the last decade, a two-day shower is enough to see the attached water level at various gauge stations darting about the danger mark. This is increasingly worrisome and has left the Srinagar basin at the mercy of showers in the upper southern mountain valleys. Also, the fact that the mountains were much more greener, there were plenty of trees which ensured that a lot of water did not reach the main river. Now with deforestation having reached scary levels a two-day spell of showers has the potential to bring about disaster. Most of these predictions end up in a few spells of drizzles or passing showers at various times of the day. However, the fact that the water level in Jhelum is already high the administration would be well advised not to lower guard. The fact that this is a peak tourism season also is an important factor. The security of locals, as well as that of tourists, has to factor in all of the preparedness and estimation. These showers would make it a little bit more difficult to haul out the dead bodies of people killed in the Gandbal boat tragedy. If only the water level recedes would it be easily to find the dead bodies of those who drowned in that incident. We hope that the dense clouds thin out and apart from a few spells of light rain there would no serious rain to threaten a flood. All hands in prayers!

Reflections On Earth Day

SALLY DUGMAN

Are you personally or people who you know placing too many demands on our planet to provide relative extravagance and indulgences for us? After all, the world is expected to eventually be required to support quite a bit more than our already over 8 billion humans currently extant and THAT is already putting a strain on many of our basic and essential resources.

Further, it's indirectly and directly creating climate change, promoting the 6th great extinction event, and creating literally mountains of garbage and permanent water pollution, along with deforestation, poisons in the air that were all forced to breathe like pm 2.5 that is like little minuscule fish hooks nicking our lungs and doing the same to tube walls and blood cells in our circulatory systems.

How about the land and waterways being polluted with forever chemicals and the GMO Monsanto-Bayer chemicals being positively correlated with seriously dangerous diseases, and microplastics even discovered in placentas and breast milk? And how about landmines and spent munitions littering landscapes across the world and creating widespread ruin, loss, torment, intended deaths even if children, intentional starvation and societal dysfunction?

Already we have ecological overshoot, conflict and collapse scenarios taking place in increasing parts of the world like the Horn of Africa. Put another way — would you personally try to trek to the USA with your family to live in motel room in Massachusetts where you each are fed three meals a day, have n/c public school for the children and basic healthcare available for all or would you prefer a steady diet of Haitian mud cookies and street gang thugs destroying your family's lives as you live in a cramped and tiny slum-hovel shack?

The ramifications of this happening are clear. We are destroying our planet on which we depend for survival of everything alive and replacing it with



dead junk that we can sell to make an economic profit for our individual selves.

In the end, we humans are just going to have to try harder to support the whole or largesse of us — to bring betterment to all rather than economically make out personally like bandits while we destroy the planet in the process.

One of my associates calls human-kind the plague species. How far off is he all considering even if we do create so much that's amazing like dance choreography, plays like the ones by Euripides's, symphonies jotted into paper that people with orchestra instruments can coordinated with each other following the same gorgeous auditory timing and plan, philosophy, sculptures and paintings, skyscrapers, rockets to the moon, medicine, math, semiconductors, atomic force microscopy that blows my mind as I have a "thing" about metrology, the particle collider, symbolic logic, hermeneutics and its close companion-semiotics, linguistics and language;

incredible acts of ethics, kindness and support etc., etc.

We have a long way to go, though, past our prior successes. We definitely need to try harder if the brunt, the majority of our kind and other life, can make it past this century. So we all have to be more mindful about the choices that we make. We must, therefore, apply the seventh generation principle.

The Seventh Generation Principle is based on the Iroquois philosophy that the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. It is said that a leader needs to make decisions that serve the needs of the unborn voices seven generations into the future and help people in the present live with the tensions and conflicts that sometimes arise when the needs of future generations are not considered in the present. Leaders in this framework are responsible for keeping future needs firmly in focus and allowing those needs to shape our choices in the present.

"The Seventh Generation Principle comes from the Iroquois Confederacy Constitution, written somewhere between 1142 to 1500 AD. The Iroquois Confederacy is considered the oldest participative democracy on Earth. It planted many of the seeds that led to the formation of the United States. (There's a terrific PBS documentary on the Iroquois Great Law of Peace here.)

"Today the Seventh Generation Principle generally refers to decisions about our energy, water, and natural resources. Remembering this important tenet reminds us that our decisions must be sustainable for many generations to come. It also can be applied to relationships. Imagine what it would be like if every decision would result in sustainable relationships seven generations in the future!" — Dr. Kathy Allen, The Seventh Generation Principle.(CC)

Sally Dugman lives in MA and is alarmed to watch the destruction of the natural world.

Plastics – Destroying Our Pretty Blue Planet

PRATAP ANTONY

An anonymous 'they' are accused of damaging our pretty blue planet, but we know for certain it is not 'they'. It is 'Us'. 'We'. It's we who are ravaging and plundering our Earth.

'We' are like a virus pandemic that devastates the environment, it is overpopulation, pollution, burning fossil fuels and by deforestation that have caused climate change, soil erosion, poor air quality, and undrinkable water.

World Earth Day 2024: on this year's Earth Day, April 22, 2024. EARTHDAY.ORG has announced the theme: 'Planet vs. Plastics'.

Before coming to the issue of plastic pollution, we will mention that – Deforestation, air pollution, global warming, water pollution, natural resource depletion are immensely demanding problems of our still beautiful looking planet from space. Earth.

Oil is formed as a result of heat and pressure on the remains of tiny sea plants and animals which lived, died and sank to the ocean floor millions of years ago and were buried deep under layers of sand and silt. Heat and pressure over millions of years turned these fossils into what we today call crude oil and gas. That's why oil and gas are called fossil fuels. The oil that is extracted by drilling deep into the earth is called crude because once it is extracted it has to be refined into petroleum products to be useful.

Ever since we discovered how to extract and refine oil and make so many products from petroleum, we are more dependent on oil than we can imagine, we have been exploiting the oil wells at a higher rate every single year – and even though we have regularly discovered more and more oil fields and dug more and more oil wells and extracted more and more oil, our rate of demand is managing to outpace the oil produced.

The rate of oil 'production', meaning extraction and refining has grown almost every year of the last century. Our usage of petroleum products is so great that we could say that we are dependent on crude and



PLANET VS. PLASTICS

petroleum products to a point when we cannot get out of it.

Petrol for vehicles and for other major land and air transportation is not the only use of oil. Crude is refined into many petroleum products. Petrol for our vehicles is only one of them. There are several others – LPG, Naptha, kerosene, gas oil and fuel oil which have widespread industrial uses.

Lubricants and Tar/Asphalt for paving roads. Fertilisers and Pesticides in agriculture. Detergents and chemical fertilisers. Petro-chemicals are a basis for perfumes etc. Other petroleum products such as Naptha, LPG and Ethane used in the production of petrochemicals such as Ethylene, Propylene, Butadiene, Benzene, Ammonia and Methanol – are the main ingredients in the manufacture of all plastic products

Clothing And Textiles – Synthetic fibres which we wear and Synthetic rubbers. It's not just the blended polycloth it is also zippers, buttons, shoe-soles, pillow fillings etc. umbrellas etc. (Using cotton in many cases would save a lot of cotton farmers)

Offices – CD's, pens and ball pens, computers, telephones and so many office equipment including erasers which are

now made of petroleum based synthetic material.

Play and Leisure – Board games, footballs, basketballs and for various games, playing cards, sleeping bags, tennis racquet strings, plastic flower pots, photo albums, cameras etc. all sorts of toys for children, dolls, rattles, pacifiers, feeding bottles etc.

Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, as rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them.

It's not just plastic bags and packaging that is the problem of plastic waste, there are bits and pieces of plastic everywhere, like the disposal of used computers, laptops, smartphones and so many other things we don't think about as plastic.

Plastics, once created, will stay around for hundreds of years. Plastics break down differently from other organic materials. They slowly degrade into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic known as microplastics and nano plastics and these minute pieces of plastic can now be found everywhere, from the oceans' depths and far deserts, to the most remote and

high mountaintop.

These tiny plastic particles are dangerous and have found their way into every step of the food chain, from marine life to human beings. They're found everywhere, from table salt to our food and bottled water. They pollute and poison environments and the animals that inhabit them.

Plastics is possibly the single most damaging products that humans have ever produced, and the damage it causes will last longer than we do.

So, what can we do? Consume resources responsibly – consume less, waste less – Reduce – Reuse – Recycle

According to a report – Nairobi, 16 May 2023, by UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Plastic pollution could reduce by 80 per cent by 2040 if countries and companies make deep policy and market shifts using existing technologies.

The report suggests first eliminating problematic and unnecessary plastics to reduce the size of the problem. Subsequently, the report calls for three market shifts – reuse, recycle and reorient and diversify products:

Reuse: Promoting reuse options, including refillable bottles, bulk dispensers, depos-

it-return-schemes, packaging take-back schemes etc., can reduce 30 per cent of plastic pollution by 2040.

Recycle: Reducing plastic pollution by an additional 20 per cent by 2040 can be achieved if recycling becomes a more stable and profitable venture. Removing fossil fuels subsidies, enforcing design guidelines to enhance recyclability and other measures would increase the share of economically recyclable plastics from 21 to 50 per cent.

Reorient and diversify: Careful replacement of products such as plastic wrappers, sachets and takeaway items with products made from alternative materials (such as paper or compostable materials) can deliver an additional 17 per cent decrease in plastic pollution.

We need to think long term; understand the significance of our actions and really care about their consequences. We've got to give up short-term thinking, and improve our ability to plan and design for long term, and work with good intentions and reverence for nature.(CC)

Pratap Antony writes on ecology and environment, social justice and pluralism

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Protect The Arctic Region

Arctic Ecology Can Be Devastated Further By Rapid Militarization



BHARAT DOGRA

The Arctic region is warming at twice the global rate, leading to rapid melting of ice—some have even predicted ice-free summers by year 2034. This has brought unprecedented threats to various species of the region including the polar bear. Some species are threatened by the shrinking, even vanishing habitats where they have always lived safely and happily, some are threatened by the fast reducing access to their staple food, while some are threatened by weather extremes.

Despite this there is still relentless march to exploit the vast natural resources of the region, including oil, natural gas, rare earth and other minerals. Partly due to the huge natural resources and partly due to strategic and geo-political reasons, big power confrontation in this remote region can also increase. In fact melting of ice increases the possibility of higher exploitation of natural resources as well as carving out of new maritime routes with all its strategic and commercial implications. Another complication is the increasing confrontational situation of NATO and Russia which may get extended, tragically, even to the Arctic region with very heavy costs to ecology and to native people.

The Arctic region is spread over 8 countries 7 of which are NATO members. These are USA, Canada, Iceland, Denmark (Greenland), Norway, Sweden and Finland. The eighth country is Russia. While Russia has a well-established military presence here, this is largely defensive as Russia has important strategic interests to protect here spread over a vast area. With Finland and Sweden recently becoming NATO members and with the situation in Ukraine not working out to be favorable to NATO plans, the USA may just be tempted to try to create difficulties for Russia in this region. Russia may respond by giving more opportunities to China to acquire a presence here. One move by one side may lead to another move by the other side and very soon the situation may become much more tense and risky.

This should be avoided in the interests of world peace as well as the considerations of protecting Arctic ecology. Not just actual conflict but even large-scale military exercises may prove to be quite harmful for Arctic ecology. Under the Nordic Response 2024 exercise in Norway, in March as many as about 20,000 soldiers from 13 NATO member countries were gathered in the Arctic region with frigates, submarines and other vessels, and over 100 aircraft. This is likely to ultimately increase to about 90,000 soldiers.

A high-risk situation already exists here in which climate change and global warming first create conditions in which exploitation of natural resources and militarization are likely to increase more, and this trend in turn greatly increases the possibilities of global warming further, apart from destruction of local environment and life-species in more direct ways as well. All this should be avoided. With due caution and by ensuring there is no undue suspicion of each other's intentions, conflict in this region can be avoided as both sides also recognize hopefully how costly in economic as well as in ecological terms, above all of course in terms of loss of human lives, conflict in such a region is likely to prove. Special mechanisms should be in place to minimize militarization and the possibility of any conflict breaking out here.

Further we look here at the various high risks that have already occurred in recent times in this region in more details in the context of a part of this region—Greenland. Very high rate of ice melting has been reported here—even melting of as much as 18 billion



tons of ice sheets in just 3 days of mid-July in Greenland. Very frightening estimates have been presented of the extent of rise in sea level if melting on such a scale continues.

It was reported that Donald Trump made an offer of a payment to Denmark to acquire control over Greenland. This was considered an atrocious offer by most people and for good reason was not even considered seriously by the Denmark government. This even led to the cancellation of a planned visit of President Trump to Denmark. Although Denmark controls the foreign policy and security of this vast island, Greenland has been moving towards autonomy and self-government.

However, it is not difficult to under-

stand why the USA has been keen to acquire Greenland. In fact even President Truman made an offer in 1946 to purchase Greenland for 100 million dollars. This offer was refused, but Denmark later succumbed to USA pressure to set up military bases in Greenland, including a nuclear-powered station Camp Century.

With its strategic location close to Russia as well as the USA, Greenland remains of great military interest to the USA. This is a factor that has acquired more significance recently with the accentuation of big-power rivalries.

In addition, Greenland is a source of precious mineral resources, including gold and rare earths. The opening up of these rare earth deposits to China is something that the Western powers will like to stop, given the fact that China already has high levels of control over rare earths.

Greenland has a population of just 57,000 people in its vast territory of 836,330 sq. miles and has the lowest population density in the entire world. This Arctic region is highly sensitive

threatened.

Hence there is a strong case for the entire Greenland to be administered by the United Nations as a zone of neutrality, peace, and environment protection. Under such an arrangement, ecologically protective livelihoods and basic facilities will be ensured by a UN-administered program, which will treat the entire island as an area of ecological protection where any exploitation of natural resources will be strictly controlled and no military installation will be allowed. In addition, there will be a very careful well-planned effort for undoing the damage already done.

As the snow melts with global warming, the remains of what was once a nuclear-powered military sta-

tion (Camp Century) of the USA will open up, requiring a very careful clean-up effort. An even bigger danger exists in the form a nuclear weapon which was lost here in a bomber airplane accident in 1968. This was the peak of the Cold War period when some USA bomber planes carrying nuclear weapons used to be in the

air all the time and the Thule military base in Greenland was a special place for these operations due to the relative proximity of Russian targets from here. The airplane accident took place when the USA bomber containing nuclear weapons was approaching this military base in Greenland. The USA had obtained the permission of the Denmark government to set up this military base but it is not at all certain whether the Denmark government, let alone the local communities, had been informed about the transactions here involving the transport of nuclear weapons.

Actually, the plane contained four nuclear weapons but three could be recovered. In the salvage operation in 1968 thousands of pieces of debris as well as millions of tons of ice, suspected to contain radioactive debris, were collected. Still, one weapon could not be found despite the huge research effort. Workers employed in the clean-up work suffered from cancer later and have been claiming compensation till recently.

It is by now widely accepted that in this accident as many as four nuclear weapons were endangered, three were recovered more or less intact but one hydrogen bomb was never recovered. One aspect of a UN-administrated protective future should be to remain on constant alert for any tell-tale signs of damage from this so that a potential catastrophic event can still be prevented.

The existing military installations particularly the Thule Military Base should also be dismantled as part of the efforts to establish Greenland as a zone of peace and neutrality. While the wider paradigm of future development should be based on ecological protection, protective livelihoods, peace, and neutrality, within this paradigm local people should have all the autonomy for highly decentralized governance. There should be a special program of mental health and well-being to bring down the high rate of suicides and substance abuse in the region.

Clearly, there are several serious issues in Greenland that have to be sorted out. A big effort with continuity has to be made to ensure a more protective future for Greenland which is in fact crucial for the entire world. (C—Counter Currents)

Bharat Dogra is Convener, Campaign to Save Earth Now. His recent books include Protecting Earth for Children, A Day in 2071, Planet in Peril and Man over Machine.



from the ecological point of view, a sensitivity which has increased further in times of climate change. As the ice sheets that cover vast areas melt under the influence of global warming, buried carbon deposits will be released and sea levels will rise. The region's unique biodiversity including polar bears and seals will be badly

threatened.

Clearly, there are several serious issues in Greenland that have to be sorted out. A big effort with continuity has to be made to ensure a more protective future for Greenland which is in fact crucial for the entire world. (C—Counter Currents)

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Congress, SP playing divisive politics, says PM Modi in Agra

IAN S

AGRA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday lashed out at the appeasement politics of the INDIA bloc, saying the Congress and the Samajwadi Party were playing divisive politics to consolidate their vote banks, while the BJP was pursuing politics of development for all.

Addressing a rally at the Kothi Meena Bazar ground here, PM Modi said the Congress manifesto bore the Muslim League stamp, whereas the BJP manifesto aimed at strengthening national unity.

"Some forces were opposed to our policy of self-reliance in the defence sector. We are working on the 'Saturation Model' which promotes sabka saath and sabka vikas. Our secularism does not discriminate. All sections are beneficiaries of our welfare schemes. Those who have been left out will be included in the next term," the PM said.

Criticising the Congress' stand on reservations for the Muslims, PM Modi said the fathers of the constitution did not want religion



to be the basis of reservation. He said, "On several occasions, our courts stalled the Congress bid for granting reservations to minorities. The INDIA bloc wants to cut the OBC share and give to minorities. In Karnataka overnight they did this. They have the same game plan for UP to extend reservations from the backdoor. The Samajwadi Party too is playing a dangerous game. The two 'UP ke Ladke' have the same thinking, appeasement is the basis of their coming together."

PM Modi warned the people of the Congress party's policy on redistribution of wealth, that the heritage tax was nothing but loot and dacoity. "They want to deprive our women, mothers, and daughters of their 'mangalsutra' and 'stree dhan'. Your wealth and property will be snatched away from you," he warned, asking the audience if they were feeling angry. The response was loud and angry.

The Prime Minister hit out at the corrupt elements in the opposition.

He said nobody would be spared. "The country's future depends on the youth and our youth is full of hopes. We are proud of our youth who are aspirational. Our government was doing all that was required to harness the youth's power...The Congress party was only promoting nepotism and family interests."

PM Modi said tourism in Agra was set to scale new heights as Kashi and Ayodhya were drawing large numbers of visitors who surely would visit Agra.

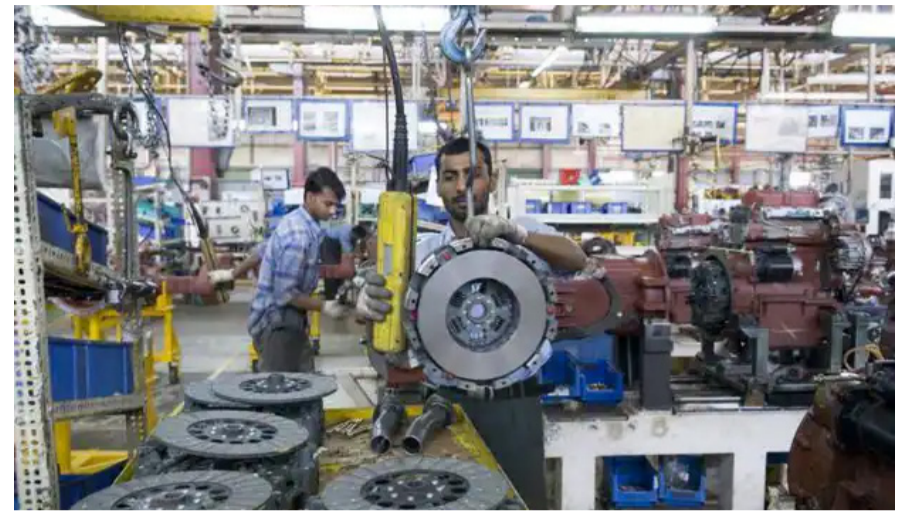
7% job surge for fresh graduates in India's manufacturing sector: Report

IAN S

NEW DELHI: India's manufacturing industry's intent to hire fresh graduates has jumped to 48 per cent in the first half (January-June) of 2024, an increase of seven per cent from 41 per cent in July-December 2023, a new report showed on Wednesday.

According to learning and employability solutions provider TeamLease EdTech, this surge coincides with boosted capital investments and increased merger and acquisition activities within the automobile, electronics, and textile domains.

"As investments pour in and technological advancements reshape production processes, there's a palpable sense of momentum driving the sector forward. This presents an exciting opportunity for young talent to contribute meaningfully to India's industrial resurgence," said Shantanu Roj, Founder and CEO, TeamLease Edtech.



The report contains 377 companies of various sizes operating in 18 different sectors throughout India. Key roles in demand include product designers, automation engineers, embedded engineers, mechanical engineers, and quality assurance assistants. As per the report, Bengaluru emerged as a hotspot for automation engineers, with a 61 per cent demand for professionals in this

field. Meanwhile, Chennai leads in the demand for embedded engineers, with 56 per cent of companies actively seeking talent in this domain. Hyderabad and Gurugram stand out as preferred destinations for mechanical engineers, capturing 50 per cent and 47 per cent of the demand, respectively.

The need for specialised roles expands beyond major metropolitan areas,

with cities like Chandigarh and Nagpur showcasing significant requirements, the report noted.

"It's interesting to see sectoral demand in smaller cities like Chandigarh and Nagpur. This offers a unique opportunity for job seekers to go beyond the traditional Tier 1 cities," said Jaideep Kewalramani, Head of Employability Business and COO, TeamLease Edtech.

NDA rule has shown superior numbers on GDP growth, inflation

IAN S



NEW DELHI: The NDA rule of the last 10 years has shown superior numbers on GDP growth, inflation, CAD (Current Account Deficits), unemployment and FDI ex of pandemic year compared to the UPA regime, broking firm Prabhudas Lilladher said.

Under the NDA regime, tax collection has been robust, government CapEx has seen multifold increase which has kept the economy growing at 7 per cent despite global slowdown.

Rural development, food subsidy, domestic electricity connections, LPG have shown an upward trajectory under both regimes, the report said.

The NDA's focus on infrastructure is visible as CapEx is 4 times during NDA II than UPA II, the length of the highway has more than doubled and the number of airports have increased from 74 to 146.

The NDA rule of the last 10 years has shown higher GDP growth, lower inflation, lower unemployment rate, lower CAD and higher FDI. Tax collection has picked up significantly during NDA due to benign rates and better compliance. Government-led CapEx has led to sustained growth amidst global headwinds.

NDA has undertaken several important reforms including FDI in insurance, Air India privatisation, FDI in defence, reduction in corporate tax and retrospective taxation changes, the brokerage said.

Nifty is expected to scale up to 25,810 levels by December 2024. The upward mobility in Nifty is attributed to the continuation of the NDA government and La Nina-led normal monsoons which is expected to provide stability in policies and boost demand economic growth, the brokerage said.

Ex-PM Deve Gowda, Pralhad Joshi slam Congress over wealth redistribution issue

IAN S



BENGALURU: Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, who is BJP's candidate for Karnataka's Dharwad Lok Sabha seat, on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the Congress and Rahul Gandhi over the 'wealth redistribution' row.

Addressing a press conference in Hassan, JD-S supremo Deve Gowda said that Rahul Gandhi, with his remarks on wealth redistribution, has insulted and humiliated two Congress Prime Ministers who brought market reforms and increased the wealth of this nation.

"Rahul Gandhi wants to do a wealth survey and redistribute wealth. Does he think he is a Maoist leader? Is he dreaming of a revolution?," Deve Gowda said.

"Rahul Gandhi wants to give 30 lakh new central

government jobs. I have run this country. There are only 40 lakh sanctioned jobs. How can he add 30 lakh more overnight? How much will he pay these people? Where will he employ them? Will he make them lift operators in government offices in four shifts? Only someone with no practical knowledge can speak like this," the JD-S supremo said.

Meanwhile speaking to reporters in Hubballi, Union Minister Joshi said that the Congress has the "agenda of snatching away properties of all sections" and people should be careful about the "conspiracy".

"The Congress wants to push this country into the Maoist system. This is clear with the manifesto of the Congress party and the speeches of its leaders. Maoism has failed in the entire world. But, now attempt is made to bring it here. People should be careful," he said.

Kejriwal's arrest not based on belated contradictory: ED's affidavit in SC

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has denied that the arrest of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the Delhi excise policy scam case was based on belated contradictory or coerced statements of the other accused obtained in exchange for no-objection for their bail and said that its case was strong.

On Wednesday, ED had submitted an affidavit to the Supreme Court in response to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest in the case.

The ED, in its affidavit, claimed that CM Kejriwal had made submission before the Delhi PMLA court, stating that he had no objection to the custody/remand being extended further.

"The petitioner has

waived his right to question his custody as of today and the petitioner cannot be allowed to argue that his custody as of today is illegal and the present petition

March 21 and then during ED Custody the same was asked again and his reply was recorded in his statement wherein he refused to share the same.

Kejriwal on March 21 after questioning him for over two hours at his official residence in Delhi and is presently lodged in Tihar jail.



is liable to be dismissed on this ground alone," read the ED's affidavit.

The agency also claimed that CM Kejriwal was asked to provide the password to his mobile phones during the search on

"Even his statements during custody would reveal that despite being confronted with materials, the petitioner chose to give completely evasive answers," it added.

The ED arrested CM

The ED has termed CM Kejriwal the "kingpin and the key conspirator" of the alleged excise scam in collusion with other ministers of the Delhi government, AAP leaders, and other persons.

RBI crackdown triggers crash in Kotak Bank shares

IAN S

MUMBAI: Shares of Kotak Mahindra Bank crashed by as much as 12 per cent in morning trade on Thursday to Rs 1,620 on BSE as investors dumped the stock following the RBI crackdown on the lender.

The RBI had, on Wednesday evening, barred Kotak Mahindra Bank, with immediate effect, from taking on new customers and issuing fresh credit cards.

Infina Finance, one of the promoter group entities of Kotak Mahindra Bank had donated electoral bonds worth Rs 60 crore to the BJP. However, the RBI has taken stringent action against the bank to protect the interest of consumers.

The RBI order said business restrictions on Kotak Mahindra Bank have been imposed in the interest of customers as the Uday Kotak-controlled bank was assessed to be deficient in its IT Risk and Information Security Governance.

The RBI said that stringent action has been taken to protect consumers and

to prevent any possible prolonged outage which may seriously impact not only the bank's ability to render efficient customer



service but also the financial ecosystem of digital banking and payment systems, according to the RBI order.

"In the absence of a robust IT infrastructure and IT Risk Management framework, the bank's Core Banking System (CBS) and its online and digital banking channels have suffered frequent and significant outages in the last two years, the recent one being a service disruption on April 15, 2024, resulting in serious customer inconveniences.

"The bank is found to be materially deficient in building necessary operational resilience on account of its failure to



build IT systems and controls commensurate with its growth," the RBI order states.

The RBI investigation into the operations of the bank revealed serious deficiencies and non-compliances in the areas of IT inventory management, patch and change management, user access management, vendor risk management, data security and data leak prevention strategy, business continuity as well as disaster recovery rigour and drill.

Happiest Minds acquires Noida-based PureSoftware Technologies for Rs 779 crore

IAN S

NEW DELHI: IT company Happiest Minds Technologies, on Thursday, said it has acquired Noida-based PureSoftware Technologies for \$94.5 million (Rs 779 crore).

Through this acquisition, Happiest Minds said that it has strengthened its domain capabilities in banking, financial services, insurance (BFSI) and healthcare and life sciences verticals.

PureSoftware, with its 1,200-strong workforce, will augment the capabilities and services offerings to Happiest Minds' product and digital engineering services (PDES) business unit.

"Our Mission of 'Happiest People. Happiest Customers' and PureSoftware's 'Customer Delight by Creating Employee Delight' harmonises our shared vision of driving happiness for people and customers," said Ashok Soota, Executive Chair-

man, Happiest Minds.

In addition to augmenting its presence in the US, the UK and India,



Happiest Minds will also get a near-shore presence in Mexico and offices in Singapore, Malaysia, and Africa.

PureSoftware reported revenues of \$43 million (Rs 351 crore) for fiscal 2024. "As a part of Happiest Minds family, we will be

able to deliver even greater value to our stakeholders including customers, employees and partners,"

able to deliver even greater value to our stakeholders including customers, employees and partners,"

Lawyers, parties in-person to receive SC case-related messages on WhatsApp: CJJ

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday announced the integration of WhatsApp messaging services with the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) services of the Supreme Court.

Now, litigants, parties in-person and advocates-on-record (AoRs) will receive automated messages regarding e-filing, objections raised by the registry, causelist and uploading of orders and judgments, CJI Chandrachud told the members of the bar in open court.

Saying that WhatsApp has taken the role of a powerful communication tool, the Chief Justice said that this "small initiative" will have a big-bang effect.

He added that the causelists will be sent over WhatsApp to judges as well, and such a digital initiative will not only save paper but also our planet Earth.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the second highest law officer of the Centre, who was present in the Chief Justice's court, said that the integration of the WhatsApp messaging facility is one more revolutionary step taken by the apex court and expressed his gratitude for the occasion.

NAME CORRECTION

I Umar Farooq Dar, S/o Farooq Ahmad Dar, R/o Housing Colony, Chanapora, Srinagar want to change my daughter's name from Alina Jan, D/O Umar Farooq Dar, R/o Housing Colony, Chanapora to Alina Umar, D/O Umar Farooq Dar, R/o Housing Colony, Srinagar. Anybody (if) having any kind of objection in this regard may file the same at Registrar Birth and Death Srinagar Municipal Corporation, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, with time, no objection will be entertained.

