







Srinagar ● Thursday 02, May 2024 ● Vol: 15 ● Issue No: 103 ● Pages: 08 ● Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Jmu-Sgr NH **Reopens For Light Vehicles After 2 Days**



JAMMU: The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was on Wednesday reopened for light motor vehicles (LMVs) after remaining closed for the past two days following multiple landslides triggered by heavy rains in Ramban district, officials said. • P-06

Search Operation To Track Down **Terrorists Extends** To Kathua



JAMMU: Security agencies have widened the ambit of the search operation to Kathua district to track down two groups of terrorists involved in the killing of a village defence guard in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur

A village defence guard (VDG) was killed • P-06

Rainfall Fallout

Several Bridges, Roads **Damaged In Kashmir**



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Following incessant rains over the past few days, numerous roads bridges and structures across Kashmir have suffered damage.

According to an official statement provided. floods have wreaked havoc on key infrastructure assets in various districts.

Among the affected structures are the Shumriyal Bridge, Khumryal Bridge (side walls), Shatmuqam Bridge, Sohipora-Hayhama Bridge, Farkyan Bridge, two RDD buildings in Kup-

have any holistic sewerage project

even in Srinagar,"

wara, and the AD Handicrafts office building. The Shumrval-Gunda jhanger road has been severed due to scouring and a breach in the Doban Kachama dam.

The adverse weather conditions have also caused damage in Uri, Baramulla and Pulwama. In Uri, several structures and roads, including Baramulla-Babareshi and Pakhwara-Tangmulla at Rafi-

ahad have been affected Pulwama has witnessed partial damage to two roads and one orchard due to landslides, along with reports of a damaged boundary wall at a school. Flood spill channels at various locations have also been compromised.

Waterlogging has emerged as a major issue across several districts, affecting schools, offices and roads. Moreover, breaches in embankments at various points have resulted in water entering residential structures, compounding the •P-06

No Dossiers, 'Aatank Ke Aaka' Get Dose In New India: PM Modi

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Wednesday that earlier when terrorists attacked, the weak government used to send dossiers, but the New India today gives a dose to terrorists

He said that the Tricolour was hoisted at the Lal Chowk with full glory after the abrogation of Article 370.

Addressing a public rally in Sabarkantha's Himatnagar, PM Modi said, "The Congress used to scare people that if the Ram Mandir is constructed, then there would be chaos in the country... There was no chaos in the country but there is chaos in the heart of the Congress

'They said that if Article 370 is abrogated, then the country will break and there would be rivers of blood... But this is Modi. Now Article 370 is abrogated and the Tricolour is hoisted at the Lal Chowk with full glory,' PM Modi added.

PM Modi also lashed out at the Congress for not pursuing terrorists when



they were in power. He also accused the

Congress of vote bank politics by not stopping the practice of Triple Talaq.

"Our Muslim sisters were the biggest victims of vote bank politics... You (Congress) did not provide security to the Muslim sisters even after Supreme Court's verdict... The abolition of Triple Talaq provided security to families, not just the women... They (Congress) did not stop

the practice of Triple Talag for the vote bank... I did not worry about vote bank. I don't work for winning the elections. I wanted to make the lives of Muslim women easier and we made Triple Talaq illegal...," PM Modi

He also targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

added.

"The Shehzada (referring to Rahul Gandhi) of Congress gets a fever when I do all of this...

He is saying that if Mod becomes PM for the third time, there would be fire in the country. The fact is, the dreams of the Congress have burnt and turned to ashes...," PM

Modi said. Polling for the first phase and the second phase was held on April 19 and April 26, respectively.

The next round of voting will be held on May 7. The counting and results will be declared on June 4. (ANI)

THEY SAID THAT IF ARTICLE 370 IS ABROGATED, THEN THE COUNTRY will break and there would be rivers of blood... But this is Modi. Now Article 370 is abrogated and the Tricolour is hoisted at the Lal Chowk with full glory," PM Modi added.

Properties Of 7 Terror Pak Based Handlers Attached In B'la

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday said to have attached the properties in Baramulla worth lakhs belonging to seven terror handlers based in Pakistan.

"Police in Baramulla after obtaining attachment order passed by

Hon'ble Additional Sessions Court Baramulla attached properties (8 Kanals, 6 Marlas & 2 Sersai) land worth lacs belonging to terror handlers based in Pakistan namely Sajad Ahmad Bhat son of Gh Mohammad resident of Bardan, Irshad Ahmad Khan

son of Abdul Aziz resident of Pringal, Gulla Mochi son of Gama Mochi resident of Limber, Mohd Aslam Khan son of Shah Zaman

resident of Pringal, Mohd Beigh son of Abdul Gani resident of Ijara, Khalid Mir son of Ayoub Mir resident of Hiller Peerniyan & Rafiq Ahmad Bakerwal son

of Shamus Din resident of Limber," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The action was taken under sections of 88 CrPc & are linked with case FIR No. 02/2008 u/s 2/3 • P-06

Southern Gujarat Chamber Of Commerce & Industry Delegation Calls On LG Sinha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Ramesh Nathalal Vaghasia, President, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with office bearers of SGCCI met the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan Wednesday.

The meeting discussed several interventions for promotion of trade and industry sector in the UT of J&K.

The Lt Governor assured the delegation of necessary support and handholding from the UT Administration to the potential investors for their business ventures in Jammu Kashmir. Sh Vikramjit Singh, Commis-



sioner Secretary, I&C Department J&K; and members of SGCCI including Sh Nikhil Khimchand Madrasi, Honorary Secretary; Sh Kirankumar N. Thummar, Honorary Treasurer; Sh Sanjay Panjabi, Coordinator and Sh Arvind • P-06

CS Reviews Progress On Implementation Of Reforms In Transport Department



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday reviewed implementation of different reforms in the Transport Department.

Besides Secretary Transport and IG Traffic, the review meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Finance; Secretary PWD; MD RTC; Director Motor Garages; Joint Transport Commissioner; Regional Transport Officers and other concerned officers in person and virtu-

ally.
The Chief Secretary sought a precise brief about the progress achieved, so far, on different initiatives being taken up by the department from time to time to streamline its overall functioning. He asked about the •P-06

MOVIES

Schedule

Sluggish Demand, Seller Surplus

Challenges Mount For Kashmir Real Estate

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: Real estate sector in Kashmir is facing a challenging period marked by sluggish demand.

Brokers and property developers are finding themselves in a predicament as they encounter a growing number of sellers but a dwindling pool of buyers.

As per the real estate firms, the percentage of the property buyers in Kashmir has been dwindling, which they cite as a reason for stress in other sectors.

"Real estate market is down in Kashmir right now. People don't have enough money to invest in real estate. Very less turn to buy properties in the form of plots now,' said Zuhaib Ahmad Bhat, owner of Valley Real Estate.

He said the firms encounter an unusual situation as the number of sellers are more compared to the

"I will give you an example that today I received as many as 10 queries out of which six were sellers. People are



now selling properties with a meager proportion willing to buy them," Bhat said.

The sluggish demand in the real estate sector has also exerted downward pressure on property prices across various segments. "The rates of property has come down. For example, if a seller has a property worth Rs 1 crore, he gets customers with an offer of only Rs 70 lakhs. The purchasing power has come down for the last few months," he said.

Nayeem Ahmad, another real estate agent, claimed the market has come down by more than 30 per cent.

"Several economic factors have contributed to the current state of the real estate market in Kashmir.Potential buyers, deterred by economic uncertainties and a cautious approach towards investments, are adopting a wait-and-see approach, leading to a mismatch in supply and demand," he said

The property developers hope for the revival in the sector. "Since it is the season of elections, we hope for the revival of the sector. • P-06

LS Polls—**2024**

Sajad Lone Files **Nomination Papers**



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Setting the stage for a high-stakes electoral battle, Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Wednesday filed his nomination papers for Baramulla Lok Sabha segment.

Accompanied by the party's top leaders, Lone filed his nomination papers before returning officer for Baramulla Lok Sabha seat, Minga Sherpa. Lone filed his nomination paper in a low-key manner. Sources in Peoples Conference said that Lone had directed the party workers to desist from holding any rally or gathering in Baramulla town today in view of the floods in north Kashmir.

Lone would be locked in a direct contest with former Chief Minister and National Conference vice— • P-06

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RUSLAAN (HINDI) 02:30PM (U/A)



GODZILLA X KONG - 3D (ENG) 02:00PM (U/A)



CREW (HINDI) 01:45PM, 05:45PM (U/A)

♦CMYK♦

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

General, Police Observers for Srinagar PC visit Ganderbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The General Observer for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC), Mukul Kumar along with Police Observer, Sandeep Singh Chauhan Wednesday visited Ganderbal and held a joint meeting in the V.C Room of DC Office here to take first hand appraisal of the preparedness for Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in the district.

The meeting was attended by District Election Officer, Shyambir; SSP Ganderbal, Sandeep Gupta; Additional District **Development Commission**er, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad; Dy DEO, ACR, SDM Kangan, CPO and other Nodal Officers.

At the outset, the Observers held an extensive interaction with Assistant Returning Officers (ARO) and Nodal Officers, and discussed threadbare various crucial aspects related to the conduct of Lok Sabha elections in the district.

The District Election Officer provided a detailed overview of arrangements including SVEEP, Material Management, Manpower Plan, Transport Plan, EVM Management, arrangements at polling stations and Distribution cum Receipt Centres (DCRC), and other measures undertaken for smooth and peaceful conduct of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in the district.

Interacting with the Nodal Officers, the Observers stressed to work with utmost coordination to ensure inci-

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DEO Shopian inspects polling

stations of AC Zainapora



dent free and smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections in the district.

It was informed that as many as 2,05,029 registered electorates are exercising their franchise in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in the twin **Assembly Constituencies** of the district.

The District Election Officer assured the Observers of the administration's full preparedness to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections. Measures such as providing facilities for voters including ramps for persons with disabilities were highlighted to enhance the voting experience.

While reviewing the status of polling stations, the DEO informed that a total 260 polling stations are established in 213 designated locations in the district, besides 24 Special Polling stations are also established in different locations of the district.

While reviewing the AMF in polling stations, the General Observer emphasized that sufficient space shall be ensured in such polling stations which are adjacent to each other so that voters may not face any inconvenience while casting their vote.

Furthermore, Observers also supervised the 2nd Randomization of Polling Staff and training session being imparted to the Presiding Officers, and enjoined upon the Officers to work with added zeal and unwavering dedication to uphold sanctity of the election process and safeguarding the democratic spirit.

Meanwhile, inspected the functioning of Media Monitoring teams during which Nodal Officer MCMC /DIO briefed them about their operations which are well-equipped and prepared to handle their responsibilities effectively. He further informed that no case of Paid News has been identified as on date in the district.

Later, the Observers inspected the readiness of the Polling Stations during which the General Observer gave necessary instructions and stressed for close coordination among concerned officials to ensure that facilities at all polling stations meet the highest standards of accessibility and efficiency.

The Observers also thoroughly reviewed the arrangements at the Dispatch cum Receipt Centres (DCRC) established in Green Campus CUK for 18-Ganderbal Assembly Constituency and PTS Manigam for 17-Kangan constituency. Both the AROs briefed the Observers about the arrangements and action plan for dispatching poll parties and election materials to the polling stations.

They stressed on proactive approach and cooperation from all the stakeholders in preserving the sanctity of our democratic institutions.

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

Plantation drive brings life to



conduct of the elections. SHOPIAN: The District During the inspection. Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb Wednesday undertook an extensive visit to several polling stations of the Zainapora Assembly Constituency of the district (part of the Anantnag -Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency), in order to inspect and review on- ground preparation for the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha

Elections. DEO inspected polling stations located at Dangam, Baaskuchan, Cheermarg and Babapora villages of the constituency with the aim to assess and review the status of assured minimum facilities at these polldistrict administration. ing stations.

The inspection encompassed a thorough examination of various facilities put in place for the smooth

the DEO engaged with stakeholders to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place to facilitate a smooth and efficient voting process. Basic amenities such as electricity, water supply, sanitation, accessibility for differently-abled voters was assessed at these polling stations besides logistical support for polling staff was also taken stock of.

Expressing satisfaction with the overall preparedness observed during the visit, the DEO said that facilitating free, fair and transparent elections is the utmost priority of the

The DEO was accompanied by AEROs, BDOs, BLOs and other concerned officers and officials

364 Kulgam polling stations

KULGAM: In a concerted effort towards environmental sustainability and community engagement, the District Election Office Kulgam executed plantation drives at all 364 polling stations of the district under SVEEP

With the General elections to Lok Sabha scheduled on 25th May 2024, the Kulgam Administration took proactive measures to not only enhance voter awareness but also contribute to the welfare of the environment.

About the initiatives taken by the District administration, the District Election Officer Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan said that through collaborative efforts with locals, youth and volunteers each polling station has become a beacon of greenery and

ecological consciousness. The plantation drives serve as a testament to the district's commitment to fostering a culture of civic mental stewardship.

The DEO said that Drive not only aims to enhance voter awareness but also to contribute to environmental sustainability.

He also appealed to the people to use their right to vote on 25th May 2024.

Pertinent to mention that such concerted efforts not only enriches the local ecosystem but also underscores the pivotal role of communities in shaping a greener and more participatory democracy.

Meanwhile, SVEEP Team under the supervision of DEO Kulgam has also planted thousands of plants including Deodar, conifer and other plants.

The District has started plantation drives from day of the announcement of Elections GELS-2024 in the Country under the theme 'VOTE AND PLANT FOR FUTURE and DEO Kulgam along with his Team is taking personal efforts to take this message to every Voter of the District and the Country.

DLSA Shopian, Labour Deptt celebrate 'International Labour Day'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian in collaboration with Labour Department Shopian Wednesday celebrated 'International Labour Day,' at Transport Yard Mega Fruit Mandi Aglar, here.

The programme was held under the guidance of Chairman DLSA Shopian and was attended by Labour Inspector Shopian, Presiian, Deputy Chief LADC Shopian, Panel Lawyers, PLVs and officials of Labour Department Shopian.

dent Bar Association Shop-

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief LADC Rafie Ahmad Ganie said that 1st May is celebrated as International Labour Day all over the world. This is a day that marks the importance of labour and assures the dignity of work for every profession.

The day recognizes the labourer's contribution and impresses upon us the need to respect and honour them. He also emphasized the role of the Legal services Authority.

President Bar Association Shopian, Advocate Gowher Hussain Wani also spoke about the Labour laws and said that it is concerned with the establishment of a labour-relations framework that provides peaceful industrial relations between labourers and organized workers. He enunciated the

participants about different acts and schemes under **Building and Construction** Workers Act.

Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Nasir-Ul- Islam also threw light on the provisions of labour laws

Advocate Abdul Basit Bhat held a candid interaction with the laborers present. He said the objective of celebrating this day is to spread awareness about the rights and opportunities of every laborer

DLSA Srinagar, SMC commemorate 'International Labour Day'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with Srinagar Municipal Corporation Wednesday observed 'International Labour Day', marking the significance of the global event, with great enthusiasm and fervor at ADR Centre, District Court Complex Srinagar.

The event, celebrated globally on May 1st every year, was held to mark the importance of labour rights and to create awareness about the significance of the day. The event was held under the guidance of Jawad Ahmed, Chairman of DLSA Srinagar (PDJ, Srinagar).

The programme witnessed the presence of Jahangir Ahmed Bakshi Secretary DLSA, Srinagar; Syed Zeenat Ul Isalm, Sr. Journalist, from Asian



Mail; officials and Legal Aid Defense Counsels of DLSA Srinagar, officials of Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Para Legal Vol-

unteers of DLSA Srinagar. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary, DLSA

Srinagar emphasized the

importance of the day to the participants. He highlighted the need to promote and protect the rights of workers, and to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect.

Iram Aziz, Official DLSA Srinagar emphasized the

participants about the Labour laws. She said these laws are essential for protecting the rights of workers and promoting a fair and equitable work environment.

Sehar Nazir, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Srinagar threw light on the objectives of International Labour Day. She emphasized the need to promote fair labour practices, improve working conditions, and provide social security to workers.

The main aim of observing International Labour Day was to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the rights of workers, and to promote a culture of fair labour practices in the region. The event was an opportunity to reiterate the commitment to promoting the welfare of workers and to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect.

Awareness programme under **SVEEP held in Rahamoo**



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: An impactful awareness programme under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative was conducted at Village Rahamoo. Pulwama

The event witnessed active participation from various segments of society, including the general public, women, new voters, imams and youth.

The programme aimed to educate and engage the community in the electoral process, emphasizing the importance of voter participation and democratic

Through interactive

sessions and informative materials, attendees were empowered with knowledge about voter registration procedures, electoral rights, and the significance of exercising their franchise.

The inclusive nature of the event, with representation from diverse demographics such as women, youth, and religious leaders, underscored the commitment towards fostering inclusive and participatory democracy.

The success of the awareness programme reflected the collaborative efforts of the Election Commission and local stakeholders in promoting electoral literacy and enhancing voter turnout.

DIC B'la bids adieu to official on his superannuation



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The District Information Centre (DIC) Baramulla bade a heartfelt farewell to Hakeem Ghulam Mohammad. Senior Assistant. who retired on superannuation after 40 years of dedicated service.

In a ceremony held at the Girls' Higher Secondary School Baramulla, colleagues, friends, and dignitaries came together to celebrate the illustrious career of Hakeem Ghulam Mohammad.

District Information Officer (DIO), Baramulla, Iftikhar Ahmad, officials from Information Department Baramulla, employ ees from several other departments and other Media persons.

During the farewell function, the DIO hailed the contributions of Ghulam Mohammad in the department and congratulated him on his retirement. He extended his best wishes for his postretirement life.

In his farewell address, Hakeem Ghulam Mohammad reflected on the journey of his illustrious career in the information department and expressed gratitude for the support and camaraderie he received during his time at DIC Baramulla.

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FBI DIVISION TANGMARG Office Phone No.01954-254611 Email Address: fbidivisiontangmarg@gmail.com



Short Term e-TENDER NOTICE No.01 of 2024-25 of FBI Division Tangmarg

(STAGE CONTRACT)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on Percentage basis are invited from approved registered eligible contractors with J&K UT Govt. for following works:

S. No	Name of work	Upper Ceiling. Cost of Work (In Lacs)	Earnest Money (Amount in Rupees)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Amount in Rupee)	Ref.to Authorization no.	M.H. of Account	Position Of Fund
1	Annual Stage Contract for Restoration Maintenance Preemptive Flood Works on Ferozpora Nallah and its tributaries of Tail Race Sub Division Kunzer for the financial year 2024-25	12.00 Lacs	24000/-	10-05-2024 to 31/03/2025	BEE/ CEE & DEE	500/-	AAA NO. 56/ SE/ Hyd/ DB/1&FC of 2023-24 Dated:-12-03-2024	2711 M&R	Assured
2	Annual Stage Contract for Restoration and Maintenance of Babul Irrigation Canal for the financial year 2024-25 Head Works Sub Division Tangmarg	8.00 Lacs	16000/-	10-05-2024 to 31/03/2025	CEE & DEE	500/-	AAA NO. 55/ SE/ Hyd/ DB/I&FC of 2023-24 Dated:-15-03-2024	2701 M&R	Assure
3	Annual Stage Contract for Restoration and Maintenance of Irrigation Canal for the financial year 2024-25 Upper Ningli Sub Division Kreeri	8.00 Lacs	16000/-	10-05-2024 to 31/03/2025	CEE & DEE	500/-	AAA NO. 55/ SE/ Hyd/ DB/I&FC of 2023-24 Dated:-15-03-2024	2702 M&R	Assure
4	Annual Stage Contract for Restoration and Maintenance of Irrigation Canal for the financial year 2024-25 Tail Race Sub Division Kunzer	8.00 Lacs	16000/-	10-05-2024 to 31/03/2025	CEE & DEE	500/-		2702 M&R	Assured
5	Annual Stage Contract for Restoration and Maintenance of Tilgam Irrigation Canal for the financial year 2024-25 Head Works Sub Division Tangmarg.	5.00 Lacs	10000/-	10-05-2024 to 31/03/2025	CEE & DEE	300/-	AAA NO. 55/ SE/ Hyd/ DB/I&FC of 2023-24 Dated:-15-03-2024	2702 M&R	Assured

Chief Electoral Officer's Authorization No.CEO-ELECOCOE/30 dated: -2024-1/6364 dated:-24-04-2024. Chief Engineer Kmr. Jal Shakti (I&FC) department Srinagar's Authorization No.CE/IFCK/PS/1305-37 dated: -26-04-2024 .

1	Publishing date:	30 -04-2024	04:00 PM
2	Download date start:	30-04-2024	05:00 PM
3	Bid Submission date start:	30-04-2024	06:00 PM
4.	Bid Submission date Ends:	06-05-2024	04:00 PM
5	Date of Opening	07-05-2024	11:00 AM

Bids must be accompanied with 2% CDR/FDR and cost of tender document non-refundable/non-transferable) to be deposited under M.H 0702 Rev Misc in the shape of treasury challan /e-challan (mentioning therein NIT No. S.No of work and Adv. Cost of work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti FBI Division Tangmarg and date on it must be prior to date of issuance of this tender notice

No:- FBID/CC/436-53 Dated:-29-04-2024 DIPK-311-24 DT: 01/05/2024

Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) FBI Division Tangmarg.

■ **◆CMYK**◆ ■

NEWS



JKAACL dedicates 34th Balidaan Diwas to Amar Shaheed Sarwanand Koul Premi

Artists' recognition crucial towards preserving region's rich cultural heritage: CS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organized the 34th Balidaan Diwas in tribute to the esteemed poet, Amar Shaheed Sarwanand Koul Premi, at K L Saigal Hall, Writer's Club Jammu.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, was the chief guest on the occasion.

During his address, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of honoring the legacy of Premi ji by following his path in true spirit. He highlighted the significance of recognizing and celebrating the contribution of artists and poets towards preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the region.

The session commenced with address by Rajinder Premi followed by Principal Secretary Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta and Secretary JKAACL, Sanjeev Rana,



who offered high tributes to the literary legend, Amar Shaheed Sarwanand Koul Premi

The event witnessed presence of distinguished personalities and enthusiasts who celebrated the profound contribution of late poet to the cultural tapestry of the region.

The session culminated with vote of thanks by Rajinder Premi.

community. Residents and parents are appalled

by what they perceive as

a reckless disregard for

the future of the children,

emphasizing the need for

swift and decisive action to

have grown louder, ques-

tioning the methodology

and reliability of DIET

DIET

District Institute of

Educational Training

Kud. The incident has

prompted calls for a thor-

ough investigation into

the matter and for appro-

priate measures to be

taken against those found

responsible. Discussions

have already been initi-

ated with key stakehold-

ers, including the Cluster

Incharge, Principal DIET

Kud, Chief Education Offi-

cer Udhampur, and SCERT

A memorandum has

been submitted to the DC

on behalf of the affected

families, urging concrete

steps to address the issue

and restore confidence in

the education system. The

incident serves as a stark

reminder of the challenges

faced by rural communi-

ties in accessing quality

education, underscoring

the importance of ensur-

ing accountability and

transparency in educa-

Voices of discontent

rectify the situation.

Following the inaugural

L Jowhar shared 'Views of Different Scholars, Critics and Writers about Late S N Koul Premi' in Kashmiri.

The session was graced by the presence of Professor Rattan Lal Hangloo, former VC of Allahabad University, who shed light on the literary accomplishments of Sarwanand Koul Premi.

Professor Rattan Lal Shant presided over the session while Arwind Karwani, Commissioner Relief and Rehabilitation, graced the event as chief guest.

The poetry session featured esteemed poets including B N Betab, P N Shad, A K Naaz, Santosh Shah Nadaan, J K Bezaan, Ashok Gowhar, B N Abhilash, Dolly Tickoo, Moti Lal Masroof, Tej Sagar, Dildar Mohan, Rajinder Agosh, Vijay Wali and Kusum Dhar, who mesmerized the audience with their poignant verses.

A musical tribute to the poetry of Amar Shaheed Sarwanand Koul Premi captivated the audience.

All SSCL projects to be completed within 45 days: CEO

SRINAGAR: The major relief to the commuters travelling in and around City areas here are expected to heave a sigh of relief as the government on Wednesday stated that all the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) projects that are presently going on will be completed in the next one and a half

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) SSCL, Dr. Owais Ahmed visited the Karan Nagar area here to review the completion of the project. He conducted a comprehensive assessment of the Srinagar Smart City Projects in Karan Nagar, Batmaloo, and Moominabad areas.

Talking to the media persons after reviewing the project, Dr Owais said that all the underground work has been completed and the surface is now ready for the macadamization process.

"The road will be macadamized in the few days

after the weather conditions improve completely,' he said, adding that the project has been completed in the double shift and now is in the final stage, which will be completed in the

next few days. "All the projects in Srinagar are expected to be completed within the period of one and a half

months," he added.

Pertinently, Karan Nagar to Kak Sarai road has given tough times to the people, especially during the rainfall as the potholed road filled with the muddy waters pushed the commuters as well as the pedestrians to the wall.

However, the completion of the project will ensure a smooth ride to the motorists and also is expected to put an end to the frequent traffic congestion being witnessed along the route.

Meanwhile, the CEO has directed the Engineers of SSCL to work in double shifts for timely completion of the projects as the projects are vital in nature.

Moreover, the CEO, SSCL also talked about the induction of e-buses here, saying that the people heave a sigh of relief after the introduction of the electric buses.

"At present, we have 100 e-buses and 98 out of them are functional and two have been kept reserved," he said, adding that the e-buses are plying normally and several facilities like digital payments and other things have ensured convenience to the passengers. "In the coming time, more facilities will be ensured for the passengers," he said—(KNO)

DIET Kud Under Scrutiny After Erroneous Exam Results Spark Outrage

SRINAGAR: The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) in Kud finds itself embroiled in controversy following the release and subsequent revision of class 8th exam results, leaving parents and students dismayed and raising questions about the institution's credibility.

The saga began when the initial results, declared on April 25, showed 235 out of 288 children from the Pancheri and Landar clusters passing the exams. However, just two days later, a revised set of results was issued, with 155 children now declared as failed. This sudden reversal has ignited anger among the affected families, prompting them to raise concerns with the District Commissioner (DC).

While the principal of DIET Kud has attributed the discrepancy to a technical flaw, the reassurance of redoing the exam paper after a month has done little to assuage the frustration felt by the parents and students. Many are calling for the cancellation of the revised results and demanding accountability from the officials respon-

sible for the lapse. The abrupt alteration in the exam results has cast doubt on the credibility of DIET Kud, with the incident drawing widespread condemnation from the

6 more candidates file Nomination Papers for Baramulla PC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

session, another captivat-

ing paper reading session

followed, featuring insight-

ful presentations by the

Professor P N Trisal

delved into a comparative

analysis of Sarwanand's

translation of Bhagwat

Gita alongside other trans-

lators while Vinod Kumar

Pandita presented a poi-

gnant paper titled 'Sarwa-

nand Koul Premi: A Poet of

Love and Harmony', and R

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

eminent scholars.

BARAMULLA: Six more candidates filed their nomination papers Wednesday at the office of the Returning Officer (RO), 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, Minga Sherpa, to contest the General Lok Sabha Elections-2024 from 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency

Sajad Ahmad Lone from Jammu & Kashmir People's Conference Party, Imran Raza Ansari from Jammu & Kashmir People's Conference Party and Suhail Ahmad Khan, an Independent Candidate filed their nomination papers before the RO for 1-Baramulla ParliamenSimilarly, Peerzada

tary Constituency.

Mudasir Rashid Shah from Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party (BHIM), Nazir Ahmad Sofi, Independent Candidate. and Mustaq Ahmad Mir from National Loktantrik Party submitted their nomination papers at the office of the RO, 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency.

With filling of 06 Nominations today the total number of Candidates who have filed their Candidature for 01-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency goes to ten, as four Candidates have already filed their Nominations papers.

Tourist lady killed, another injured in Sonamarg accident

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: A tourist lady was killed while another pedestrian was injured after being hit by a vehicle in Sonamarg area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Wednesday, officials said.

Officials said that a vehicle (Tata Mobile) bearing registration number JKO1T-0637 hit two persons including a tourist lady at Sonamarg area, leaving them critically wounded.

Both the injured were

taken to the hospital for treatment where the tourist lady was declared brought dead

by the doctors. The deceased lady has been identified as Sushila (67), wife of Late Babu Rao of Pune, Maharastra while the injured has been identified as Mehraj Ahmad Ganie, son of Mashoq Ahmad Ganie of Haril Handwara. The injured, who is in critically condition was immediately referred to SKIMS, Soura for further treatment, they said—(KNO)

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, the Congress and National Conference (NC) have jointly named Haji Muhammad Hanifa Jan as their candidate for the Ladakh Lok Sabha seat.

ALI ASAD

The decision was finalized and approved by both parties on Wednesday, marking a united front in the upcoming elections. The voting for this crucial seat is scheduled for the fifth phase on May 20.

Haji Muhammad Hanifa Jan, a prominent figure in Ladakh, has emerged as the consensus candidate for both Congress and NC. BJP has fielded advo-

cate Tashi Gyalson as its candidate for the Ladakh Lok Sabha seat. Gyalson, a legal practitioner by profession, previously served as a councilor from the Lingshed constituency and was elected as the sixth Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Chairman and Chief Executive Councilor of Leh in 2020. He transitioned to the BJP from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) after the dissolution of the BJP-PDP coalition

government. The contest for the Ladakh seat is expected to be closely watched,

given the recent political realignments and the historical significance of the region. Ladakh, which became a union territory in 2019, comprises two districts: Kargil and Leh. The Ladakh Hill Autonomous Development Council (LAHDC) elections have traditionally shaped the

political landscape of the region, with the BJP dominating in Leh and the NC holding sway in Kargil. The upcoming election will witness a fierce battle between the BJP's Tashi

Gyalson and the joint candidate Haji Hanifa, representing the alliance between Congress and NC. The outcome of this contest will not only determine the political representation of Ladakh but also reflect the evolving dynamics in the region's electoral landscape. Historically, the Ladakh

Lok Sabha seat has seen a varied pattern of representation, with Congress, NC, and independents competing for electoral success. While Congress has a legacy of victories dating back to 1967, the BJP has emerged as a formidable force since 2014. However, NC's victories in 1998 and 1999 highlight the unpredictability of the electoral dynamics in Ladakh-(KNO)

NC-Congress field Haji Hanifa Secy Health chairs Executive Committee meeting of SHC, NHM for Ladakh Lok Sabha Seat



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Health and Medical Education (H&ME), Dr Sved Abid Rasheed Shah, Wednesday chaired Executive Committee meeting of State Health Society, National Health Mission, regarding execution of approved activities under State Programme Implementation Plan for FY 2024-25 and release of funds to District Health Societies and other implementing agencies.

Mission Director NHM, Nazim Zai Khan, gave detailed PowerPoint Presentation regarding Action Taken Report on the minutes of previous meeting, approved annual Programme Implementation Plan and budget sheets for 2024-25 and other related

issues The Secretary, while reviewing the budget allocation for various schemes, stressed upon reducing out of pocket expenditure at public health facilities through proper implementation and availability of funds for various welfare schemes under Maternal

and Child Health. Dr Abid Rasheed

directed the concerned for strengthening the existing process of recruitment at district and UT level to bring more transparency in the system and avoid litigations. He had discussion on various issues regarding the welfare and career progression of NHM employees. The meeting was

attended by Principals of Government Medical Colleges, Jammu/ Srinagar, Director (Budget), Finance Department, Director Finance H&ME, Managing Director J&KMSCL. Director Health Services, Jammu/ Kashmir, Direc tor AYUSH, Director Rural Development, Kashmir, Director Planning, H&ME, Additional Secretaries, H&ME, Controller, Drug Control Organization, Director Planning, NHM, Joint Director, Planning, H&ME, FA&CAO, SHS, NHM, representative from Planning and ICDS departments, Programme Managers and other officers from State Health Society,

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> Mohd Ramzan Rather S/o: Abdul Rahman Rather R/o: Kreshbal Srinagar

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> Abdul Qayoom Beigh S/o: Ghulam Ahamd Beigh R/o: Nowshera Srinagar

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> **Shahzaad Rafiq Khan** F/o: Faryal Shahzaad R/o: Khanyar Srinagar

tional institutions—(KNO) Over 100 works of Archaeology

Department put on hold

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: Over 100 works of Archaeology department have been kept on hold in the Valley while the officials said that the projects to be taken up only after the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) will come to an end.

Sources within the Archaeology department informed that this delay could have significant repercussions for the progression of projects and the dissemination of vital archaeological knowledge.

department. The renowned for its groundbreaking research in uncovering historical mysteries and preserving cultural heritage, is currently facing setbacks due to strict adherence to the



Model Code of Conduct (MCC), they said.

They added that more than 100 projects across Kashmir are on hold, and once the MCC comes to an end, the projects will

receive the green signal. An official in the Archaeology department expressed his concerns over the impact of the delays on the department's research initiatives. "The

enforcement of the MCC is essential for upholding the integrity of our work; however, once the MCC ends, all works will start at full pace," he said.

"In the first phase-I, at least 60 works are being taken up while in the phase-II, 40 works will be completed and all these projects have been kept on hold till the MCC is in the place," he said—(KNO)

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS-2024 **GMC Sgr organizes Voter Awareness Campaign under SVEEP**

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Gandhi Memorial College Srinagar organized a grand cultural programme as part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative to promote the cause

Various cultural performances were presented, captivating the audience and aligning with the theme of promoting

In his remarks as the chief guest, the college's Principal, Prof Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi emphasized the importance of voting in the upcoming parliamentary elections. The event also recognized and distrib-

uted certificates to outstanding volunteers from the National Service Scheme (NSS). This event served as an effective plate form to raise awareness about the value of voting and encouraging active participation in the democratic process among the

student community.

NIC B'la bids farewell to official on his retirement



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: National Informatics Centre, Baramulla bid a heartfelt farewell to Ghulam Hassan Mir, who retired as a Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) after an illustrious career spanning 33 years.

Speaking during the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr.Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Technical Director Barkatullah Sheikh and colleagues of Ghulam Hassan congratulated him on his distinguished career and wished him a fulfilling and joyful new chapter of life.

Ghulam Hassan Mir expressed his gratitude towards his colleagues and said that he is thankful for the opportunities, support, and camaraderie that he has experienced during his tenure.

SRINAGAR | Thursday-02-May-2024

Morning Kashmir

Good Morning

Food Adulteration

he European Union's food safety authorities have flagged the presence of cancer-causing chemicals in 527 food products. This is truly a tragedy for brands in proportions unmanageable and has the potential to severely dent the 'Make in India' mass manufacturing campaign being run by the present dispensation.

The issue which shocked the whole world came into the spotlight when renowned Indian spice brands were scrutinized for allegedly containing traces of ethylene oxide, a chemical, above the permissible levels. This has led to a ban on these products in Hong Kong and Singapore, and now the European Union has followed suit, highlighting the widespread nature of this contamination. This news came as a rude shock to almost every household as these brands are first choice for any kitchen in India. A common man on the streets is wondering if the export qualities of these spice companies is this bad then what to make of the quality they serve to domestic consumers.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) conducted tests on various food items between September 2020 and April 2024. The products tested included a wide range of categories, with the majority being nuts and sesame seeds (313), herbs and spices (60), dietetic foods (48), and other miscellaneous food products (34). The tests revealed that a significant number of these products contained ethylene oxide beyond the permissible limits, prompting the EU to take action. Even though the government has sprung into action and triggered a series of quality tests for these brands, one wonders why it took red flagging by a foreign investigative agency to set alarm bells ringing. Why were our officials not proactive in this regard? Why were the requisite quality tests not conducted in time? And most importantly who will compensate for the dent that brand India received after this news?

Somebody has to share the responsibility. These brands should be heavily penalised for violating the norms and at the same time heads should start rolling in the agencies meant to monitor quality control of exported items from India. At a time when India is about to become 'Vishwa Guru' in human resources, space technology, and manufacturing this news has taken the dreams of taking over to others as the new manufacturing hub.

Morning Kashmir

Printer, Publisher, Owner, Editor in Chief:

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editor:

Mir Suhail

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

Manager:

Peer Sajad R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998 Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001 Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From: Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer Aijaz Ahmad Dar

Revolutionizing Spinal Care With Endoscopic Spinal Surgery



DR SUMIT GOYAL

n recent years, a groundbreaking method called Endoscopic Spinal Surgery has become a ray of hope for people dealing with spine problems. This modern technique uses a slim tool called an endoscope, which has a camera and light, to explore the spine through small cuts. Unlike traditional surgeries where big cuts are made, Endoscopic Spinal Surgery relies on tiny openings, usually less than an inch wide, causing minimal disturbance to the surrounding area.

The Surgery may be performed on an outpatient basis, meaning patients can return home on the same day as their surgery, in contrast to traditional surgeries, which necessitate longer hospital stays.

The endoscope gives surgeons a clear and close-up view of the spine's



troubled area, helping them precisely tackle issues like herniated discs or spinal stenosis. By reducing the need to disturb nearby tissues, the surgery aims to keep healthy parts of the spine safe and lowers the chances of complications related to tissue damage.

Endoscopic Spinal Surgery is tailored for each patient, this means that surgeons customize the surgery to suit the specific needs of every individual, making it more effective and improving the results. Additionally, because the cuts are smaller, patients end up with less scarring compared to traditional surgeries, which is a boon for appearance.

The Surgery may be performed on an outpatient basis, meaning patients can return home on the same day as their surgery, in contrast to traditional surgeries, which necessitate longer hospital stays. This is not only beneficial for the patients but also results in a reduced burden on healthcare

As spinal care continues to improve, Endoscopic Spinal Surgery is becoming a go-to option for many. It's effective and gentle on the body, making it a top choice for those in need. Scientists and doctors are always working on ways to improve surgery, finding new techniques, and using advanced technology to

enhance safety, accuracy, and effectiveness.

Endoscopic Spinal Surgery has become a game-changer in spine care. It's bringing hope to many who once felt stuck with spine issues. With ongoing improvements and collaborations, this surgery will continue to lead the way in providing effective and safe treatment for spine problems. The advancements in Endoscopic Spinal Surgery benefit patients and contribute to the overall progress of medical

Author is Neurosurgeon and Neurointerventionist, Yatharth Hospital, Greater Noida

The Crumbling State Of TV Debates



DR. SHIBEN KRISHEN RAINA

n the modern media landscape, political debates should serve as a vital forum for exchanging ideas, analyzing policies, and fostering substantive civic discourse. However, a concerning trend has emerged in recent years – the alarming deterioration in the quality and integrity of these televised debates. From perpetual interruptions to a blatant disregard for core issues, the state of political discourse on television has plunged to depths that threaten the very foundations of democratic dia-

One of the most glaring symptoms of this decline is the prevalence of participants incessantly talking over each other. Instead of engaging in respectful and thoughtful exchanges, panelists frequently devolve into loud shouting competitions, rendering meaningful conversation a near impossibility to listen to. This not only diminishes the value and purpose of the debate itself but also actively alienates viewers from seeking informed and constructive discourse.

Furthermore, a troubling tendency has taken root - the tendency of participants to stray from the central topic or issue at hand. Whether motivated by a desire to deflect criticism or a lack of adequate preparation, speakers habitually turn off from the main issue and thus leave the audience frustrated and disengaged. This consistent deviation from the core themes undermines the very purpose of political debates and erodes public trust in the media's ability to facilitate informed discussions.

Another troubling phenomenon plaguing modern political debates on TV is

00000



the pervasive expression of anger, hostility, and personal attacks by the participants creating a problematic and helpless situation for the anchor. Rather than presenting well-reasoned arguments and engaging in civil discourse, some panelists resort to inflammatory rhetoric and worthless assaults. This not only detracts from the substantive merits of the debate but also sets a dangerous precedent for civil discourse in society at large.

Moreover, the habit of indiscriminately talking about prepared talking points repeatedly has become rampant in political debates. Instead of offering genuine insights or engaging with opposing viewpoints in a meaningful way, participants too often resort to parroting pre-scripted narratives, resulting in a shallow and unproductive exchange devoid of reliable discourse. As viewers witness this

'his not only detracts from the substantive merits of the debate but also sets a dangerous precedent for civil discourse in society at large.

stale and hackneyed political debates, the temptation to simply switch off the

television altogether or seek refuge in entertainment programming grows increasingly. Succumbing to this urge is indicative of the vicious cycle of declining discourse and further diminishes the media's vital role as a catalyst for informed civic engagement. It is incumbent upon all stakeholders in the media industry to take proactive and decisive steps to address this crisis and restore integrity to political debates. This may involve implementing stricter guidelines for participant conduct, fostering a culture of accountability, and prioritizing substantive dialogue over sensationalism and spectacle.

Crucially, viewers themselves bear a profound responsibility to demand better from the media and hold broadcasters accountable for the quality of their programming. By actively engaging with content that upholds the principles of

respectful discourse and meaningful exchanges, and by vocalizing dissatisfaction with substandard offerings, audiences can drive positive change and reclaim the integrity of political dis-

In the end, the crumbling state of political debates on television represents a crisis of civic discourse that demands immediate attention and strenuous action. Only by recognizing the root causes of this decline and taking decisive steps to address them can we hope to reclaim the integrity of political discourse and ensure that television remains a platform for informed civic engagement, democratic participation, and the robust exchange of ideas that represent a healthy democratic society.

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

landscape of much-too-

Whither Social Justice And Decent Work For Women?



As we celebrate the Labour Day let us celebrate the women of the world, because it is the women who are holding this world together..." so said Betty Ogwaro. Member of Parliament and former Agriculture Minister of South Sudan, while speaking at a special session of Gender Equality Talks, focussing on "invisible labour at home: the unpaid care work. Women shoulder the hardest of labour (paid and unpaid, visible and invisible) but seldom get recognition, rights, and justice.

International Labour Day is observed on May 1 every year, to recognise the contributions of workers, advocate for their rights, and promote a fairer and more sustainable future of work for all. This year, the focus is on "Social Justice and Decent Work

Every day is an unpaid Labour Day for most women But where is this social jus-

tice for women? Every day is an unpaid labour day for a vast majority of them. As per current

olicy efforts that promote the growth of more flexible job arrangements and provide resources for self-employed women, such as access to financing and business development services, can mitigate demand-side failures.

estimates, over 75% of the world's total unpaid care work is done by women. Unpaid care work refers 'to all unpaid services provided within a household for its members, including routine housework, child care, care of the elderly and other household members'.

Gender disparities in unpaid care work are observed globally, with women spending two to ten times more hours than men on unpaid caregiving and domestic work on physically strenuous and emotionally exhausting unpaid household chores like cooking, cleaning, child rearing, caring for family

members, etc. Citing the plight of rural women, Betty says that as agriculture is the mainstay in South Sudan, the day to day life of rural women revolves around farming. "They do all the work- till the land, plant the seeds, weed and harvest the crop, store it. But once it becomes a 'product', it is the husband, and not the woman, who controls it. If the produce is sold the money belongs to the man and not to her." Also if they want to expand their agricultural activities, women cannot borrow money from the bank because they do not own any property -neither land nor house- in their name to use as collateral

The principle of "one who tills the land, owns the land" is far from truth for most of women farmers.

However, be it the rural women or the urban women, regardless of the hours of the day women put into them, these strenuous and

Equal pay for equal work, equal pay for work of equal value, pay transparency

Stable Employment

Recognizing the impact of feminization on employment opportunities

DECENT WORK FOR WOMEN

Not reproducing gendered roles in organizations

Pathways to professional development and advancement

Maternity and parental leave topups, pension, health and dental benefits

Safe reporting mechanisms for discrimination and harassment

unpaid activities are often dismissed as a set of mundane daily chores which they are expected to perform by virtue of being a woman-daughter, wife, mother, or a female relative. Deep rooted patriarchal societies have always ignored women working in households and taken their vital, yet unpaid and invisible labour at home for granted. Since decades, gender gaps in

education have narrowed across Global South countries, but these gains have not translated to comparable improvements for women in the labour market. Women continue to be employed at significantly lower than men and are rates often concentrated in lowerpaying jobs with more limited job protec-

tion.

Despite
their significant contribution to the agriculture sector, rural women typically find themselves

every hour of their unpaid labor, they would contribute about \$10.8 trillion to the global economy annually.

A study done in India, corroborates the fact that a greater proportion of women's time is devoted to fulfilling domestic responsibilities, irrespective of their employment status. So, for women in employment, this often results in a 'second shift'. Add to this the hours of emotional labour that goes into holding families together and putting up with patriarchal constructs of what women should do or

Recently, an Indian politician mentioned in one of his election speeches about how women remain, unpaid labourers, as they do myriad household chores, but never get paid for it.

Our male-dominated society has always ignored women work-

land rights, women become more

vulnerable, even as men gain

authority and control over them.

unfair society. It takes for grant-

ed that certain tasks within the

household-like domestic upkeep,

cleaning and

cooking,

A patriarchal society is an

holds and taken them for granted. We need more men (including our leaders) to deliberate seriously on this issue, for women's unpaid domestic labour to be acknowledged, redistributed and rewarded.

The root cause of gender inequality is patriarchy, and one manifestation of it is in the form of harmful gender norms and prejudices that are socially accepted and wrongly normalize and justify gender inequality.

Women are expected to be meek, submissive, docile and 'good' mothers and wives. Men are expected to be bold, aggressive, breadwinners, and 'primary decision-makers' and not engage in the so called feminine activities like childrearing or housework.

Idolising the 'homemaker' and 'motherhood' role of women, gives a social sanction to thrusting the majority of burden of unpaid household and other care work on them, while giving an escape to men from child-rearing and household chores, and undue 'power' to hold women to account. Gender inequality fosters unpaid care work and also sets the underlying tone for violence against women and girls.

Women's education and career takes a backseat while men get a social license to prioritise their education, career and not share domestic work and child rearing. Moreover, with no control over money matters and property/

childcare - are to be performed only by women. This gendered division of labour leaves women with little time to engage in paid work, making them further invisible. It also deprives girls and women of equal opportunities for

In many countries, women are overrepresented in self-employment, relative to men. High levels of self-employment among women indicate both a failure in job availability (a demand-side constraint) and a stronger preference for flexibility in working life (a supplyside constraint). Policymakers should prioritize job creation strategies that align with women's needs and consider the unique constraints they face.

Policy efforts that promote the growth of more flexible job arrangements and provide resources for self-employed women, such as access to financing and business development services, can mitigate demand-side

According to a policy brief by United Nations ESCAP the gendered division of unpaid care work determines the quantity and quality of women's paid employment and is one of the main reasons why women are outside the labour force. In Asia and the Pacific, around 400 million women belonging to the working age population stay out of the labour force and cite unpaid care responsibilities as one of the main reasons for staying out of the labour

Financial dependence and

inadequate income are key factors contributing to women's vulnerability to domestic violence too. The partner who holds control over resources is more likely to make decisions on spending, and feel entitled to control and dominate the other.

Women applying for high profile jobs are often asked 'if they have any plans for marriage', or 'if they have children' and 'how they will manage office and childcare/ housework'.

Has any man been asked these

questions? The employers fear that a female employee may not be able to manage her office duties well because of her dual responsibility (of managing work as well as household chores). This assumption is based on the socially accepted norm that male employees do not have to manage or take part

in any household chores It is high time to think differently and put a stop to the exploitation of our women force, whether they live in the cities or in the villages; whether they are part of the paid labour force or are engaged in doing unpaid and invisible domestic chores. Women are not to be treated like machines, but like human beings. On this Labour Day, let us salute them and show our appreciation not just by words but also by our deeds.

Shobha Shukla is the awardwinning founding Managing Editor and Executive Director of Citizen News Service and is a feminist, health and development justice advocate. She is a former senior Physics faculty of the prestigious Loreto Convent College and current Coordinator of Asia Pacific Regional Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media) and Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA). Follow her on Twitter @ shobha1shukla or read her writings here www.bit.ly/ShobhaShukla)

disadvantaged positions. Compared to their male counterparts, they tend to face more restricted access to productive resources and assets, financial services and social protection. Gender-biased social norms, laws and practices also limit women's involvement in gainful work and their participation in workers' and producers' organizations, especially in organized labour institutions such as trade unions. Addressing this bias is a key component of sustainable development strategies. Increasing rural women's access to decent employment opportunities is key to improving their productivity and earning power, which in turn raises family incomes and food security.

Value of invisible work done by women is USD 10.8 Trillion

One estimate, as per an analysis done by Oxfam, puts the "true economic value of this invisible work" at USD 10.8 trillion,. In other words, if all women aged 15 and over around the world received even minimum wages for

education, work force participation, as well as leisure activities...

Okra contains anti-

inflammatory compounds that may help reduce

inflammation and associat-

ed chronic diseases, such as

arthritis or heart disease.

9. Supports bone health

The vitamin C, calcium,

and magnesium in okra are

essential for maintaining

strong bones and prevent-

ing conditions like osteo-

HEALTH

10 Benefits Of Consuming Okra Regularly

lady's finger or gumbo, is a flowering plant native to Africa. It is popularly used in various cuisines around the world. including Indian, Middle Eastern, and Southern American cuisine. Okra pods are long and slender, typically green in colour, and contain small edible

Okra is considered a healthy vegetable due to its rich nutritional profile. It is low in calories, high in fiber, and a good source of vitamins A and C, as well as minerals like potassium and magnesium. It also contains antioxidants, including flavonoids and phenolic compounds, which have potential health benefits. Read on as we share some benefits of consuming okra and tips to help incorporate it into your diet.

10 Benefits of consuming

1. Rich in nutrients

Okra is packed with essential nutrients like vitamins A and C, magnesium, potassium, and calcium, which support overall health and vitality.

Ladyfinger helps in keeping kidney healthy and stones free

Okra can offer you several essential nutrients

2. Supports digestion Okra is high in fiber, aiding digestion and preventing constipation. It also supports a healthy gut by promoting the growth of



beneficial bacteria.

3. Lowers cholesterol levels

The fiber content in okra helps reduce cholesterol absorption, lowering the risk of heart disease and improving overall cardiovascular health

4. Manages blood sugar

Okra contains com-

pounds like polyphenols and fiber that help regulate blood sugar levels, making it beneficial for individuals with diabetes or at risk of developing diabetes.

Also read: Diabetes Diet: Can Okra (Lady Finger) Help You Control Blood Sugar Levels? Here's The

5. Boosts immune system

Okra is abundant in vitamin C, an antioxidant that strengthens the immune system and helps protect against illnesses and infec-

6. Supports weight loss Okra's high fiber content promotes feelings of fullness, prevents overeating, and aids in weight manage

7. Enhances vision

Okra is rich in vitamin A. which is essential for good vision. Consuming okra regularly may help prevent age-related macular degeneration and maintain healthy eyesight.

Okra can help boost eye

8. Anti-inflammatory

The antioxidants in okra,

including vitamins A and C, help combat free radicals, improve skin texture, and promote a healthy complexion. They may also aid in the prevention of premature ageing and wrinkles.

Also read: Skincare Tips: Should You Add Ghee To Your Skincare Routine? Here's Why & How

To add okra to your diet, here are a few ways you can prepare and consume it:

Cut the okra into small slices and cook it in a little oil with your choice of spices and seasonings. This method helps retain its nutrients.

Cut the okra lengthwise, toss it in olive oil, sprinkle some salt and pepper, and roast or grill until tender. This method enhances its natural flavours

Okra works well in curries and stews, adding a unique texture and flavour. It pairs well with various vegetables and proteins.

Okra can be pickled similarly to cucumbers or other vegetables. It can be enjoyed as a tangy and

crunchy snack. Add it to vegetable or meat-based soups to increase their nutritional

value. Remember to cook okra properly to retain its nutritional benefits. Overcook-

ing may make it slimy. Overall, incorporating okra into your diet can be a great way to enjoy a healthy and

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Several Bridges,
challenges faced by people.
Sajad Ahmad Naqeeb, Chief Engineer of R&B Kashmir, said there have been minor damages to bridges in Kupwara,

He, however, said that urbanization, unchecked encroachment and the flow of sewage have led to the pollution of the

with no major incidents reported else-

Jhelum River and other water bodies. Jhelum, which originates from Veerinag in south Kashmir and traverses through Srinagar before entering into Wular Lake in north Kashmir is an important source of irrigation, drinking water and hydro-power in the valley. It is now increasingly contaminated due to the unchecked dumping of garbage, plastic and sewage,

officials said. An official of the Pollution Control Board said that urbanisation and encroachment of the banks of Jhelum have led to tonnes of solid and liquid waste from home toilets into the water body. This not only deteriorates the water quality but also adversely impacts the

aquatic life of the river, he lamented. Another official said that slaughterhouse owners located on the banks of Jhelum are also draining the waste of slaughtered animals into it. "We do not have any holistic sewerage project even in Srinagar," he said.

Soon after the 2014 floods, the Flood Management Plan was announced which was divided into two phases. Phase 1 was funded under the Prime Minister's Development Package with a budget of Rs 399 crore, which included spot dredging as per requirement to increase the capacity of river Jhelum to minimise the damage if there were floods again.

Soon after the 2014 floods, the Government of India constituted a committee to suggest measures to prevent such calamities in the future. The committee in its report had recommended several long-term measures including additional supplementary flood spill channel, creation of storage facilities on tributaries of Jhelum, flood plain zoning and enhancing capacity of Wular Lake.

Officials said that with the completion of phase 1, the capacity of river Jhelum will be taken to 60,000 cusecs, which has already been taken to 40,000. "The deadline to complete Phase 2 is three years and hopefully, it will be completed on

The main work in Phase 2 will be the flood spill channel for re-sectioning so that if there will be more water coming, then it will go through these channels, they said, adding that part of it is to work on Hokarsar.

An official said that the resectioning of the flood spill channel, involving widening from 20 to 80 metres with a constant slope from Padshahi Bagh to Wullar, is currently underway, with an estimated cost of Rs 239 crore. This is aimed at enhancing the channel's capacity to mitigate flood risks effectively, he said, adding that efforts at Hokarsar are focused on maintaining wetlands to ensure an uninterrupted habitat for migratory birds, constituting a vital aspect of Phase 2 of the flood mitigation plan.

Regarding infrastructure improve-

ments at Wular Lake, the official said that while the gate width is currently 80 metres, the channel width is only 30 metres, necessitating widening to 80 metres to optimise water flow.

Meanwhile, various works on 21 major tributaries of the Jhelum have already commenced, including crate projection and other necessary measures

A senior official from the Irrigation & Flood Control Department said the Jhelum River's capacity needs to be enhanced to manage potential floods effectively. He said that Phase 2 of the flood management plan is ongoing, with a primary focus on augmenting the capacity of the Jhelum's tributaries and critical areas. Successful completion of both phases is expected to significantly mitigate flood-related damages in the Kashmir region, he added.

"The completion of Phase 2 will increase the Jhelum River's capacity to 60,000 cusecs, having already reached 40,000 cusecs in Phase 1," he stated. However, this capacity will still not suffice to manage the massive volume of water that breached the Jhelum at multiple locations during the devastating 2014 floods.

"If the Jhelum's capacity remains at 60,000 cusecs, it will not be sufficient to prevent embankment breaches in the event of a 2014-like flood. Although the damages may not be as severe as in 2014 when the Jhelum's capacity was around 30.000 cusecs," the engineer, who works on the Flood Management Plan, explained.

He said that there is a need to increase the capacity of river Jhelum to 120,000 cusecs for effective flood management

Jmu-Sgr NH
Heavy motor vehicles are not allowed to ply on the highway for the time being as the road clearance and widening operation is still on, a traffic department official said.

He said the LMVs were released on the highway from both sides around 9.30 am after debris were cleared at Mehar. Dalwas and Magerkote.

The opening of the 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, provided relief to hundreds of people, including tourists, who were stranded in the twin capital cities following its closure.

Multiple landslides, mudslides and shooting stones from the hillocks blocked the highway at nearly a dozen places between Nashri and Banihal tunnels during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, prompting suspension of the traffic, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the Mughal road -- an alternate road linking Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district -- remained closed for the fifth day on Tuesday owing to snowfall in Peer Ki Gali and adjoining areas, they said.

The traffic on the road usually remains closed during winter months due to snow accumulation. The road was recently cleared for one-way traffic but fresh snowfall between Friday and Monday

Search Operation
in a brief encounter with terrorists in remote Panara village in Chochru Gala heights early Sunday, following which a hunt was launched jointly by the police, army, and CRPF.

The search operation, which entered the fourth day on Wednesday, is ongoing in Basantgarh, Bani and Seoj areas of Udhampur and Kathua districts, officials said, adding there has been no fresh contact with the fleeing terrorists.

As per sources, the movement of one group has been reported in the upper reaches of Udhampur district while the other group is seen to have moved towards Bani, Daggar and Kindli areas of Kathua district.

The movement of one of the groups was picked up from Allo Top and Seoj high altitude dense forested areas in Udhampur, they said.

More security personnel have deployed in these areas to strengthen the cordon in the large high-altitude forest belt between Udhampur and Kathua, they said.

Apart from the use of choppers, UAVs, and drones for surveillance, additional forces have been moved into these areas to intensify the efforts to track down and neutralise the terrorists, they said

Several persons have been detained and are being questioned, they said.

On Monday, Additional Director General of Police (Jammu zone) Anand Jain said two groups of terrorists are believed to be present in the area after they recently infiltrated from across the border.

He said the strength of the two groups, as per preliminary investigation, is between four and six and the security forces are working on various inputs to

According to official sources, the terrorists had reached Basantgarh from adjoining Kathua district after managing to sneak into this side from across the border and were heading for Chenab Valley when they were confronted by the police and VDG members.

The Bani-Basantgarh route from Kathua used to be a well-defined route for terrorists to Doda and Kashmir after their infiltration along the International Border (IB) until two decades ago.

Properties Of 7 Terror EIMCO Act, 120 B, 121, 124 RPC, 19 UA

(P) Act of PS Boniyar, he said, adding that the property was identified belonging to absconders during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Police. The operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the terror activities, police said—(KNO)

Southern Gujarat

Mansukhlal Babawala, Chairman, Industrial Visit Committee were present during the interaction.

CS Reviews Progress

progress made, inter allia, in clearance of backlog driving licenses to be dispatched to the applicants.

Dulloo also asked about the initiatives being taken up by the department towards traffic management on roads. He took note of the action initiated by the officers against repeated offenders of traffic rules and called for stern action against habitual violators, including cancelation of Driving Licenses or Registration Certificates of their vehicles.

The Chief Secretary assessed implementation of Transport Subsidy Scheme and enquired about the response of transporters towards it. He had a detailed discussion on various novel initiatives aiming at reforming and transforming the transport sector in the UT. He enquired from the concerned officers about the progress made in ITMS based bookings meant for bringing respite to commuters, installation of Vehicle Location Tracking Platform (VLTP), ITMS for rural areas City Surveillance System and Integrated Road Safety Database for marking dark spots leading to accidents on roads.

Regarding framing of different policies for smooth functioning of the department, Dulloo sought status report on formulation of Registered Vehicles Scrapping Policy, Electric Vehicles Policy, Accident Victim Fund, implementation of recommendations of SC Committee on Road Safety and reconstitution of Road Safety Committees.

Reviewing working of JKRTC, the Chief Secretary asked about the impact of inclusion of new bus fleet for the travelling public, especially in unconnected rural areas. He enquired about the cost and earn-

ings of the running JKRTC Buses/Trucks. Secretary Transport, Neeraj Kumar, in his presentation, threw light on different aspects of working of the department. He informed the meeting about the performance of the department till date besides

highlighting different plans in pipeline. The meeting was also informed about the physical status of Transport Bhawan being raised at Bemina in Srinagar, 95 percent work of which is completed.

Regarding progress on the Institute of Driving, Training & Research (IDTR), Kot Bhalwal, Jammu and Inspection and Certification Centre (ICC) at Samba, it was revealed that the work is going on in full swing and likely to be completed within the stipulated time frame.

The meeting was further informed that the department is going to implement e-challans fully besides clearing pendency with regard to collection of fines. Besides, road safety measures with utilization of AI are also being planned for implementation in the UT.

Sajad Lone Files president Omar Abdullah, even as other

candidates like Fayaz Ahmad Mir (PDP) and Er. Rashid (independent) are in the frav—(KNO)

Challenges Mount For
The rates as well as the demand is likely to go up with the commencement in the near future," Ahmad said—(KNO)

NATIONAL

Good Morning Kashmir

Congress directionless and now leaderless: Yogi Adityanath



LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday that after Independence, the Congress became directionless and is now leaderless.

Addressing the media, he said that the adverse effect of this is that many Congress leaders have continuously made malicious attempts to curse, insult India's civilization and culture and defame Sanatan in

The same unfortunate situation was seen during the UPA government when a senior Congress leader and the then Union Home Minister made a malicious attempt to insult India's Sanatan culture and defame it in front of the world in the name of saffron terrorism. Everyone knows that the policies of Congress have been the cause of Naxalism and ter-

rorism within the country. The chief minister said that under the leadership of Modi, the problem of terrorism and Naxalism has been solved

"Extremism-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and anarchy in the North-East have also been curbed. During the UPA government, there were about 115-120 districts in 17 states which were in the grip of Naxalite violence. That government did not have the will to fight terrorism, Naxalism and extremism, that was the reason there was anarchy and disorder in the country but now Naxalism has been controlled. It has been limited to twothree districts of some states of the country. Very soon Naxalism will end from here

The chief minister further said that in the last 10 years, a better security environment has been created in the country.

"By completely abolishing Article 370, the root of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, under the leadership of PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Jammu and Kashmir was connected to the mainstream of development. By controlling the extremism and anarchy in the North-Eastern states, it was successful in connecting them with the mainstream of the nation. The Congress government used to insult and defame India's eternal civilization and culture, but under the leadership of Modi ji, it is gaining respect in the world. India's pride has now been restored,'

He said he believed that

Congress was playing with the security of the country by making malicious attempts to defame the Sanatanis, to steal from them and to divide them into caste camps.

Yogi Adityanath said that Congress' policy of Muslim appeasement had become the reason for the Partition of the country. "This shows that the Congress leadership had become puppets in the hands of those who were responsible for the Partition of the country by insulting and putting India's eternal culture and tradition in the dock. People, who have always cursed India and Indianness, have caused irreparable damage to it. Congress was continuously humiliating India while playing into their hands," he added.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH

12th-gen Chhatrapati fights with 2nd-gen MP for Kolhapur's 'raj-tilak'

KOLHAPUR: The erstwhile royal kingdom of Kolhapur is witnessing a war of political supremacy between Chhatrapati Shrimant Shahu Maharaj who is the MVA-Congress nominee for the Lok Sabha elections, and the ruling Mahayuti alliance partner Shiv Sena's MP, Professor Sanjay S Mandlik.

While Chhatrapati Shrimant Shahu Maharaj is the 12th direct descendent of the legendary Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Sanjay S Mandlik is the son of the four-time (undivided) NCP MP, the late Sadashivrao D Mandlik.

In the heat and dust of the campaign for the May 7 elections, Mandlik seemed to have lost his bearings momentarily when he questioned the 'credentials' of his illustrious rival's royal lineage.

Not surprisingly, Mandlik, 60, was greeted with howls of protests from all political parties and locals alike, with many demanding an apology for insulting the Chhatrapati, but the Shiv Sena nominee refused to oblige.

On his part, the softspoken Chhatrapati, 76, popular as 'Maharaj Saheb' among his constituents, gently raked up the issue of the 'legitimacy' of Mandlik's party, the Shiv Senaheaded by CM Eknath Shinde - which was enough to rattle the ruling Mahayuti alliance.

It may be recalled that in June 2022, Shinde had rebelled against the Shiv Sena founded (in 1966) by the late Balasaheb Thackeray, and in July 2023 ally NCP chief Ajit Pawar had broken up the party established by his uncle Sharad Pawar in 1999. The two splinters, part

of the Mahayuti government, were recognised as the 'real' parties this year, and the Chhatrapati's mild plea for 'a politicallystable Maharashtra' or fight against a totalitarian regime' or 'political reforms', etc. shook the powers-that-be.

Quivering under the Chhatrapati's feathertouch salvos, Mandlik attempted to salvage the situation by claiming how he sought votes based on his work, that the people are the real 'heirs' of Chhatrapati Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj and merely belonging to the family doesn't grant anybody the status, and the poll battle was for the dignity of the Kolhapur people.

Two months ago, when it became clear that Chhatrapati Shriman Shahu Maharaj would be contesting the Lok Sabha polls, his son, Yuvraj Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati quietly made a royal sacrifice and instantly opted out of the elections (IANS - March 6) as he wanted to fight from

the same seat. This mark of respect to his 'revered father' went down well with the Kolhapur masses

In one of those rare situations, Kolhapur witnessed a scenario in which a distinguished candidate was available, but he had no direct party affiliations, and the MVA allies Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) rushed to offer him a ticket.

Finally, they left it to the sagely Chhatrapati to pick the symbol he would prefer to contest on, and he chose the Congress' 'Hand' - with no heartburns among the MVA partners.

Mandlik had his share of woes, but given the

changed political equations after the Shiv Sena and NCP splits, the Mahayuti allies buried their differences and offered him a second chance.

Kolhapur comprises 6 Assembly segments of which 3 are with the Congress, 2 with NCP, and one with Shiv Sena.

They are, Kolhapur North (MLA Jayshri Jadhav), Kolhapur South (MLA Ruturaj Patil) and Karvir (PN Patil) – all from Congress; plus Kagal (MLA Hasan Mushrif) and Chandgad (MLA Rajesh Patil) both from NCP; and in Radhanagari it is Shiv Sena's Prakashrao Abitkar.

The influential and respected Chhatrapatis both from Kolhapur and Satara kingdoms – have entered the electoral fray several times both for Assembly and Parliament, on one or the other political party's ticket, while some were nominated to the Rajva Sabha.

From child artiste to BJP's newest member, Rupali's 'long journey'

SANYA PANDEY

her portrayal of soap characters such as 'Monisha Sarabhai' and 'Anupamaa', popular TV actress Rupali Ganguly became the latest entertainment world celebrity to take the plunge into politics

Daughter of a success ful filmmaker who started acting as a child artiste, the 47-year-old TV star's entry into the BJP on Wednesday is a new milestone in her crowded life.

Ganguly, who was born and raised in Mumbai, started her acting career with her father's 1985 film 'Saaheb'. The film featured Anil Kapoor, Amrita Singh and Raakhee in the lead

She made her TV debut with the show 'Sukanya', which was aired in the year 2000, but Ganguly got her big break when she played Dr Simran Chopra in the 2003 medical drama 'San-

jivani: A Medical Boon'. She then gained wider recognition with her portrayal of Monisha in the 2004 sitcom 'Sarabhai vs

Sarabhai' Thereafter, she has been cast in 'Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii', 'Kkavyanjali', 'Ek Packet Umeed', 'Sapna Babul Ka...Bidaai', and 'Baa Bahoo Aur Baby'. The actress also participated



controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss', which was won

in the Telugu film 'Premante Inte' and the Bengali

huge popularity today to the titular character in the long-running family drama 'Anupamaa', who she's been playing since 2020. The show, which is now in its episode No. 1,272, also stars Sudhanshu Pandey as Vanraj, Madalsa Sharma and Gaurav

Khanna. She is married to the insurance executiveturned-businessman and filmmaker Ashwin Verma, who moved from New York to become her life partner. The couple tied the knot in February 2013 and have a

son named Rudransh On Wednesday, after join-

ing the BJP in the presence by actor Rahul Roy. of the party's national gen-Ganguly has also acted eral secretary Vinod Tawde, Ganguly shared her excitement and said: "I cannot express how I am feeling movie 'Eti'. The soap star owes her sitting on this stage. I am feeling like it was destined to happen, and that's why l have taken that long jour-

> ney of art and came here.' She added: "We are fans of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I am grateful that I meet a lot of new people because of my acting career. I now want to move on the path of Mr Modi, and do service of the nation.'

Ganguly's fans will be watching her next moves closely, even as those in the entertainment world will be seeing what course 'Anupamaa', the soap, now **DOCTORED VIDEO CASE**

Telangana CM seeks time to respond to Delhi Police notice

NEW DELHI: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has sought time to respond to the notice in Home Minister Amit Shah's doctored video case. a source said on Wednesday.

His lawyer has sent an email to the IFSO unit of Delhi Police, the sources

Besides Reddy, four Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) members, including Shiva Kumar Ambala, Asma Tasleem, Satish Manne and Naveen Pettem, were also summoned under sections 91 and 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) to join the investigation today at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Recently, after the end of the second phase of Lok Sabha polls, a doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah went viral on social media, where his statement indicating a commitment to abolishing reservation quotas for Muslims in the state, was changed to make it seem that he was advocating scrapping of all

reservations. On Sunday, Delhi Police registered an FIR after two complaints were received by it, one from the BJP and



another from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The case has been registered under Sections 153, 153A, 465, 469, and 171G of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 66C of the Information Technol-

ogy (IT) Act. Meanwhile, the investigators are yet to receive any response from social media giants X and Meta in connection with a doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a source in the Delhi Police's Special Cell told IANS.

Three persons have been arrested by the police for circulating the fake video so far, two in Gujarat and one in Assam.

"We are trying to trace the origin of the doctored video. A reply from the social media giants is of utmost importance in this case. X, meanwhile, has deleted all the morphed videos from its platform. said a senior Delhi Police officer privy to the probe.

No cause for alarm, it seems to be a hoax call, says MHA

NEW DELHI: Hours after several schools in Delhi and its peripherals received bomb threats, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said that there is no cause for alarm.

"It seems to be a hoax call. Delhi Police and security agencies are following standard protocols and taking appropriate measures," said the MHA in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Crime Branch and IFSO unit of Delhi Police's Special Cell have been roped in to trace the origin of the emails and their IP addresses and nothing suspicious has been found after the searches in the school.

According to sources, a proxy address has been used to send the emails and it seems meticulously planned.

According to police, more than 15 schools received the email in the South district, eight in Shahdara, eight in Southwest Delhi, 7-8 in Dwarka, two in North and one in North East Delhi.

"Some schools of Delhi received e-mails regarding bomb threats. Delhi Police has conducted a thorough check of all such schools as per protocol. Nothing objec-

Major jolt to Congress in Delhi, Naseeb



'More than 40 schools have been searched by the teams and nothing suspicious has been found. Bomb squads are continuing the search. The mail was received in the early hours by schools," said a senior police official.

in a post on X.

Multiple schools in Delhi and Noida, including DPS Dwarka and Noida, Sanskriti School, Indian School, St Thomas School and Amity School in Pushp Vihar, faced a chilling bomb threat via email on Wednesday.

Following the bomb threat, some of the schools informed parents that the schools would be closed on Wednesday, while others sent children home after

receiving the email. "I would urge people not to create unnecessary panic and treat this situation as a mature adult. Schools in Delhi-NCR which received threats have been evacuated and the rest of the schools, including ours, are functioning normally. Nikita Tomar Mann, Princi pal at Indraprastha Global School (IPGS) in Noida, told

IANS. "We checked our emails, including spam, and no threat message was received," she added.

A senior police official said that in the preliminary inquiry, it appears that numerous emails have been sent since Tuesday following a similar pattern.

"The emails lack a dateline but include 'bcc', indicating they've been sent to multiple recipients. Currently, an investigation is underway," said the official

India's per capita GDP growing faster than peers

NEW DELHI: Apart from India taking the big leap from the fragile five to the world's top five economies based on GDP in the last 10 years of the Narendra Modi government, an analysis by experts based on IMF data shows that the country's relative performance compared with its peers has also turned better which was not the case earlier.

A higher per capita GDP growth also means that the standard of living of

the people is rising as each person has more money to

IMF data shows that in 2004, India's per capita GDP was \$635 which is 35 per cent of the average per capita GDP of \$1,790 for 150 countries listed as "emerging market and developing economies" by the multilateral financial institution. These peer countries include China, Russia, Brazil, and countries in South America, Africa, the Middle East as well as parts of Eastern

Experts point out that this figure of 35 per cent declined to 30 per cent by 2014 which shows that India became relatively poorer than these 150 countries which performed better. However, this ratio increased from 30 per cent in 2014, to 37

to IMF figures. India's per capita GDP in 2024 has shot up further to \$2,850 which works out to 42 per cent of the \$6,770 for its peer countries. This means that the gap has been narrowed with India's

per cent in 2019, according

economic performance being better than the other emerging economies in the last 10 years.

IMF data also shows that in 2004, India's economy was 37 per cent the size of the Chinese economy but by 2014, it had fallen to a mere 19 per cent as China was clocking a much higher rate of growth. However, with the Indian economy growing at a much faster growth rate than China, the tables are being turned and the relative size of the economy has gone up to 22

Singh, Neeraj Basoya quit party

NEW DELHI: In a major setback to the Congress party, two of its leaders and observers for two Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, Neerai Basova and Naseeb Singh have resigned from the party.

The two leaders in separate letters addressed to party president Mallikarjun Kharge have majorly blamed the Congress' AAP alliance for their quitting

Ñeeraj Basoya, former MLA and party Observer for the West Delhi Parliamentary Seat, has said, "I am addressing the present communication to you, being aggrieved by the alliance of the party with the AAP in Delhi, I have humbly submitted that the said alliance is bringing a great disrepute and embarrass-

ment to Delhi Congress

workers on a daily basis.

self-respecting party leader, I cannot be associated with the party anymore.

"I hereby tender my resignation from all Party Posts and the primary membership of the Party. I thank Smt Sonia Gandhi Ji for giving a common man like me, all the opportunities in the last 30 years," said Basoya in the letter dated May 1.

Naseeb Singh, former

MLA and party observer for North West Delhi has expressed his anguish over the appointment of Davinder Yadav as the Delhi Congress chief. He said in his letter,

'Davinder Yadav has up till now run a campaign in Puniab solely based on attacking Arvind Kejriwal's false agenda and today, he in Delhi will be mandated to praise and support AAP and its CM Arvind Kejriwal.'

Justice Tashi Rabstan reviews | CS takes stock of rural households facilities at Open Shelter Home for Girls, Phulwari



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In order to review functioning and operational protocols of Child Care Institutions, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, (Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority), Wednesday visited the Open Shelter Home for Girls and State Adoption Agency (Phulwari) at Sanatnagar, Srinagar.

Justice Tashi was accompanied by Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority and Muzamil Hayat Kabli, Under Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

Mukhtair Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer, Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Srinagar, Satinder Kour, Superintendent, Open Shelter Homeand, Ulfat, Inncharge Phulwari were present on the occasion.

During his visit, Justice Tashi Rabstan reviewed the facilities and protocols being followed by the State Adoption Agency (SAA) and the Open Shelter Home for

Girls. He took stock of every facility from kitchen to the counselling room and from recreation facilities to skill development programs.

Justice Tashi stressed on ensuring security measures including installation of CCTV cameras in and around the premises, for safety and wellbeing of the inmates. He emphasized the significance of providing a nurturing environment for the girls under the care of Phulwari besides ensuring transparent and efficient adoption

The staff of the Phul-

wari, during interaction with Justice Tashi, raised the issue of non-availability of Physiotherapist and speech therapist for the specially abled children.

Justice Tashi issued on the spot instructions to District Social Welfare Officer to engage these specialists for the inmates.

While expressing satisfaction regarding the facilities available at Phulwari, Justice Tashi appreciated the efforts of Social Welfare Department and the staff deputed at the Centre for taking due care of the children.

Labour Day celebrated DC Bandipora conducts across J&K extensive tour of Labour Commissioner participates



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Labour Day, celebrated to honour the invaluable contribution of workers, was marked with fervor and gratitude to

workers across J&K. A function was also organised at Akhnoor in Jammu where Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh graced the occasion.

The events, held across J&K_underscored commitment towards supporting the welfare and rights of workers and symbolized solidarity with the labour force, reaffirming the importance of their role

in nation-building. A diverse assembly of workers and members of the public gathered to com-

memorate the day. At Akhnoor, Labour

Commissioner, J&K interacted with members of the labour class, engaging in meaningful discussions about their challenges and

aspirations. Others who were present included ALC Central Renu Bala, officers and officials of the Labour department, prominent citizens, social workers, employer representatives and members of the gen-

eral public. Assistant Labour Commissioner, Jammu Rupali Jasrotia expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their active involvement

Meanwhile, the Labour Day was also celebrated in other parts of the J&K with active participation of all Assistant labour Commissioners in their respec-

Aloosa villages



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Wednesday conducted an extensive field tour of Aloosa block, including Kehnusa, Zurimanz and other adjoining low lying areas.

The DC assessed the impact of recent incessant rains and took firsthand appraisal of the post rainfall situation.

At Panchayat Ghar Kehnusa, which is also a polling station, the DC took stock of Assured Minimum Facilities including ramp, water supply, electricity and others for smooth conduct of Lok Sabha Election-2024 besides inspected ongoing work in Panchayat

During his visit to Zurimanz, the DC reviewed the on ground post rainfall

situation. While interacting with locals of Zurimanz, the DC patiently listened to their issues and concerns and assured them to resolve

their issues on priority. He asked concerned officers to devise a plan for a permanent solution of water logging in the lowlving Zurimanz area.

The DC also paid a visit to Middle School Zurimanz, interacted with staff and students besides directing the concerned officers to take fencing of school

premises on priority. Locals of Zurimanz expressed gratitude to the DC for visiting the area and listening to their issues.

Nabi Azad. Bhatt empha-

sized his commitment

to tackling the pressing

issue of drug abuse and

coverage under JJM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday reviewed progress on providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to the beneficiaries under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across the districts of J&K.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Mission Director, JJM, Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti Jammu/Kashmir besides other senior officers of the department.

The Chief Secretary enquired about the status of Panchayats fully covered under the mission and households certified as 'Nal se Jal' during the 3rd party evaluation. He took stock of work progress on different schemes and asked for completion within the given deadline of June, 2024.

Dulloo also enquired about the status of issues raised in the last meeting. He exhorted upon the Engi-

neers of the department to monitoring of water qualbe proactive in the field and ity of completed schemes closely monitor the qualbesides assessing the ity of works. He asked the feasibility of labs estab-Superintending Engineer

completion. The Chief Secretary had PHE division wise appraisal of allotted, under execution and completed works till date across all districts of the UT. He also enquired about the scheme wise per-

and Executive Engineers

to visit the sites for proper

supervision and timely

formance of the department. He asked about the

lished by the department for this purpose. He asked for imparting necessary training to the Pani Samities and those who would run these schemes in the villages as per guidelines

of the Mission. ACS Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, presented a detailed outline of the progress made in implementation of this mission in the UT. He revealed that till date the

Mission has achieved 78% of its target. He gave schemewise allotment for each division of the department.

Besides, the JJM authorities presented details about Har Ghar Jal certified Panchavats/villages. They also gave the status of testing done in their labs established across the districts. It was added that the testing is being done by the Schools, Anganwadi Centers and village women through use of Free Testing Kits (FTKs) made available to them by the Department.

DC Bandipora reviews functioning of SAKHI One-Stop Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman Wednesday conducted a comprehensive review of SAKHI One-Stop Centre in a meeting held at mini Secretariat to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of SAKHI-OSC in delivering its crucial services to women in distress.

Centre Administrator SAKHI - One Stop Centre, Ishrat Ayoub apprised the chair that OSC serves as a vital resource for individuals affected by various forms of violence, providing a range of services including medical aid, legal assistance, counseling, and temporary shelter.

It was revealed in the meeting that from January 2020 (Date of its Establishment in Bandipora) till date OSC registered 459 cases, out of which 350 cases were disposed-off at OSC and 43 were disposedoff at District Court Bandipora while 41 are under process at OSC.

The meeting was further informed that OSC conducted 306 awareness programs besides providing temporary shelter to 26



with the center's operations, DC commended the dedication of the staff and their commitment to empowering survivors.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between SAKHI-One Stop Center and different Departments including ICDS, Social Welfare and Health to effectively address genderbased violence.

The DC underscored the importance of prioritizing

initiatives that empower women and emphasized providing holistic support to women facing adversity,

besides stressed on skill

education for women to

empower women through

education and training. Among others, the meeting was attended by ADDC, Mohd Ashraf Bhat; Secretary District Legal Services Authority Bandipora, Nusrat Ali Hakak; CPO, Mohammad Magbool; District Social Welfare Officer, Staff of

OSC and other concerned.

Enforcement team seizes 12 quintal banned polythene in Doda

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: A joint team of JKPCC and Municipal Council seized huge quantity of banned polythene during an enforcement drive in Doda town.

The team seized around 12 quintal banned material from different locations including shops, fields and residential houses. The operation, which involved the presence of a Magistrate and police personnel, was conducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder

The team, comprising Divisional Officer, Gurpreet Singh from JKPCC; Naib Tehsildar Vidya Sagar and Executive Officer, Amit Sharma from MC Doda, besides officials from the Municipality, PCC and Police personnel coordinated to carry out the seizure.

The confiscated polythene had been unlawfully stored and concealed. prompting the authorities to take decisive action.

As a result of the operation, a fine of Rs 30,000 was imposed on the violators.

SMC clarifies on news item 'Despite relocation, vendor chaos prevails at CHB'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation Wednesday issued a clarification in response to the news item published by a local English daily titled, 'Despite relocation, vendor chaos prevails

at Children Hospital Bemina'. In an official statement issued here, it has been given out that there is no vending zone in the vicinity of Children Hospital Bemina. Regrettably, street vendors frequently encroach upon both the road and footpaths leading to the hospital, which significantly inconveniences patients and visitors alike.

Nevertheless, it's imperative to emphasize the proactive measures undertaken by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation's anti-encroachment team. Their timely interventions are instrumental in clearing these footpaths and roads, albeit the recurring nature of the issue, read the statement.

The handout further mentions that despite the persistent challenges, concerted efforts are underway to tackle this problem comprehensively. Ensuring unimpeded access to the hospital for all individuals in need of medical assistance remains a top priority. Collaboration among relevant authorities and stakeholders is indispensable to uphold orderliness and accessibility in the vicinity of the hospital.

DC Kupwara visits floodaffected areas of Handwara

flash floods, the Deputy

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather, accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

Kawari village, Jaggarpora, Chogal Bungam and Awathkula, and took stock of the damages caused by the recent flash floods in these areas.

with the flood affected residents and assured them of every possible support from the District Administration.

PM Modi hurls challenge at INDIA bloc on religionbased reservation



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hurled a challenge at the Congress and the INDIA bloc to declare that they would not push for religion-based reservations and said that they must promise and give this in writing because their intentions cannot be believed.

Addressing a public meeting in Gujarat's Banaskantha, PM Modi said: "It is my challenge to the Shehzada, Congress and their whole ecosystem to declare that they would not give reservations based on religion nor distort the Constitution.

He also said the INDIA bloc would never promise this because their intentions are not clear.

The Prime Minister further said that the BJP will always protect and preserve the basic nature of the Constitution, as given by BR Ambedkar. He further accused the

INDIA bloc and its ecosys tem of trying to snatch the rights of the SCs. STs and the tribal people by bringing the minorities -- Mus lims in particular, under OBC category. "They have done it ear-

lier in Andhra Pradesh and are now trying for same in Karnataka. They must give in writing that they won't give reservations based on religion," PM Modi said at the public rally.

Notably, the Congress manifesto has drawn huge criticism by the BJP because of its promise of a Constitutional amendment to raise the 50 per cent cap on reservations for SC, ST and OBCs. Also, the party's pitch

for caste-based census and re-distribution accordingly has invited ire from various political sections.

Azad ensured Justice; NC, PDP exploited people: DPAP **GMK NEWS NETWORK** which ultimately facilitating the youth, echoing the approach of Ghulam ed BJP's entry into Kash-

SHOPIAN: In a significant gathering in Kellar Shopian, leaders of the Democratic Party of Azad Kashmir (DPAP) came together to address the people. Among them were G.M. Saroori, Vice Chairman of DPAP, Lok Sabha candidate Amir Bhatt, and Chief Spokesperson

Salman Nizami. The leaders urged the people to cast their votes for the young and dynamic leader. Amir Bhatt. Saroori emphasized the importance of remembering those who have caused pain and suffering to Kashmiri youth through the

use of pellets and bullets,

mir. He urged everyone to stand against those who have brought destruction to the land. He said, 'NC and PDP

rule only witnessed killings, they blinded people, but Ghulam Nabi Azad ensured justice to the people. He did massive development. Both Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were in BJP govts. They will again go with them.' Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, reminded the public of Mehbooba Mufti's past actions and statements, underlining a pattern of behavior that undermined the interests and dignity of Kashmiris.



vowed to advocate for the youth's well-being in Parliament. He said, "I will plead your case in Parliament, and we will never let you down. It's imperative that we put an end to the drug menace in Kashmir, a problem that other parties have only exploited." against political figures Among others who were present on the occassion whose actions betray the trust of the people they were, Javid Hakim Secclaim to represent. Meanretary, Peer Bilal Zonal while Lok Sabha candidate President Qayoom Dar Amir Bhatt has pledged to Working President, Mujtaprioritise public concerns, ba Dewan, Waseem Yaqoob particularly those affectand others.(KNS)

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KUPWARA: After recent

Commissioner (DC) Kupwara. Avushi Sudan. Wednesday visited various flood affected areas of Handwara sub-division to take stock of the situation.

→ CMYK+

On the occasion, DC visited

The DC also interacted