

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

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Office of LG J&K



Chaired a meeting to review the functioning of Department of Culture. Emphasised on protection and promotion of diversity of architectural expressions and suggested improvement in existing policy framework.

Srinagar • Thursday 09, May 2024 • Vol: 15 • Issue No: 109 • Page: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

POONCH IAF CONVOY ATTACK

Search operation to track down terrorists enters 5th day



JAMMU: The cordon and search operation (CASO) to track down terrorists responsible for attacking an IAF convoy, which claimed the life of a corporal rank personnel. ● P-02



SEARCHES CONTINUE

NIA attaches 6 properties of JeM terrorist

SRINAGAR: In a major crackdown on terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has attached six immovable properties belonging to a top terrorist of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist outfit. The properties, which are located in Mirpora, Pulwama, were attached under Section 33 (1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. ● P-02



Third terrorist killed in Kulgam gunfight

UMAISAR GUL GANAIE

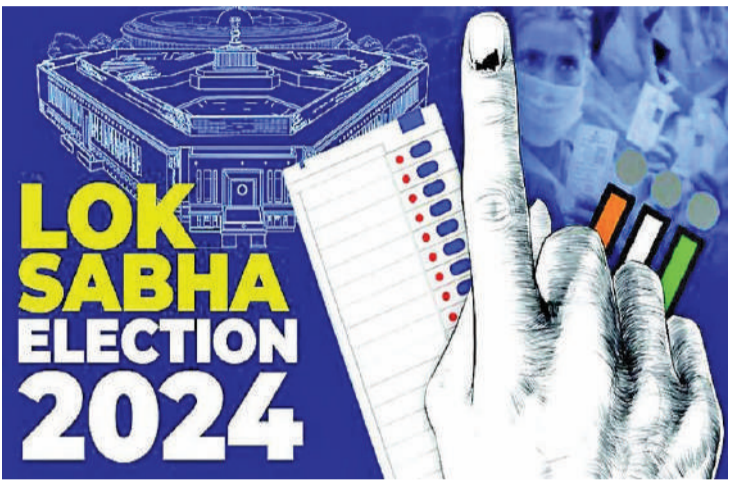
SRINAGAR: Third terrorist was killed in a gunfight that resumed after a lull of over 24 hours in Redwani area of Kulgam, officials said on Wednesday. The 45-hour-long gun battle in the hamlet continues as the search operation at the site is still going on. A top police official said that a third terrorist, who was holed up at the site of the encounter was killed this evening. He added that the gunfight resumed again after 24 hours today when the hiding terrorist fired upon the security forces, who were conducting a search operation after killing two terrorists including a top Lashkar-e-Toiba commander. Two LeT/TRF terrorists, including top commander Basit Dar who was carrying a bounty of Rs 10 lakh on his head, were killed in the encounter Tuesday at the same spot. The encounter broke out on Monday evening and continued for nearly 45 hours. Earlier, the officials said that two bodies have been retrieved from the encounter site while the search operation was going in the area. However, after the lull of over 24 hours, the gunfight resumed again a hiding terrorist fired upon forces when the debris was being cleared—(KNO)

SRINAGAR SHOWDOWN

Over 17 lakh voters to decide fate of 24 candidates on May 13

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: More than 17.4 lakh voters will decide on May 13 the fate of over two dozen candidates for the Srinagar parliamentary seat. As many as 24 candidates are in the fray for the Srinagar parliamentary elections, including National Conference's Agha Syed Ruhullah; People's Democratic Party's Waheed ur Rehman Parra; Apni Party's Mohd Ashraf Mir; Democratic Progressive Azad Party's Amir Ahmad and Gana Suraksha Party's Mohd Yousuf Bhat. J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) candidate Hakikat Singh, Rubina Akhter of the National Loktantrik Party, Younis Ahmad Mir of the Bharat Jodo Party, and 16 independent candidates. As per details obtained, over 1740015 voters are registered for the Srinagar parliamentary constituency. The segments of this seat include Srinagar, Ganderbal, Pulwama, and three areas of the Budgam district. Ganderbal district has two assembly segments, Kangan and Ganderbal. The total number of voters in Ganderbal is 2,04,041, 77,537 of whom are in Kangan and 1,26,504 in Ganderbal. In Kangan, there are over 39324 males, 38213 females, 1623 PwD (40% disability), 225 male senior citizens (85+), 213 female senior citizens (85+), and 438 total senior citizens (85+). In Ganderbal,



there are over 63093 males, 63410 females, 1211 PwD (40% disability), 397 male senior citizens (85+), 408 female senior citizens (85+), and 805 total senior citizens (85+). In Srinagar, there are over 8 assembly segments that include Hazratbal, Khanyar, Habbakadal, Lal Chowk, Channapora, Zadibal, Eidgah, and Central Shalteng, where the total number of voters is 748863. Of 7,48,863, 3,75,622 are male voters, 3,73,218 female voters, 1683 PwD (40% disability) voters, 4926 male senior citizens (85+), 4696 female senior citizens (85+), 23 transgenders and 9622 total senior citizens (85+). In Hazratbal, there are over 1,08,467 voters, including 54,380 male voters and 54,087 female voters. In the Khanyar segment, there are over 89,814 voters, including 44,897 male and 44,915 female voters. In Habbakadal, there are over 92,716 voters, including 46,301 male and 46,415 female voters. The Lal Chowk segment has over 1,03,784 voters, including 51,928 males and 51,854 females. In Channapora, there are over 81,266 voters, including 40,734 male and 40,531 female voters. In the Zadibal segment, there are over 1,08,938 voters, including 54,696 male and 54,238 female voters. Eidgah has over 59,994 voters, including 30,233 male and 29,759 female voters. In the Central Shalteng segment, there are over 1,03,884 voters, which include 52,453 males and 52,453 females. ● P-02

LG chairs review meeting of Social Welfare Deptt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Social Welfare Department. The meeting was attended by Sh. Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Ms Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments and senior officials. The Lt Governor took appraisal of the saturation of social welfare schemes. He directed the officials to make dedicated efforts to ensure 100% Aadhaar seeding of the beneficiaries under various schemes. While reviewing the performance of Poshan Abhiyaan, the Lt Governor directed to conduct a study to assess the impact of



the scheme on the ground. He also reviewed the performance of Anganwadi Centres and directed the officers to ensure that all Anganwadi Centres are fully functional with all the facilities in place. The Lt Governor emphasized the role of Anganwadi Centres as a hub for health, nutrition, early learning, responsive care, security and safety of children. He said the effective and efficient functioning of Anganwadi Centres is key to child development. ● P-02

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

ECI establishes 4 special polling booths for Kashmiri Migrants in Delhi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: To facilitate Kashmiri Migrants, residing in Delhi, to cast their votes in person on the polling days during Lok Sabha elections on the seats across Jammu and Kashmir, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established special polling booths for the community at different locations in the capital. These booths have been established at Kashmir Residency Commission, 5 PR Road New Delhi, Kashmir Kissan Ghar BR-2 Shalimar Bagh Delhi, Arwachin International Public School Pocket F Dilshad Garden, Delhi and GGSSS Paprawat Najafgarh, Delhi.



“The Election Commission of India, in a first, has instructed for providing free of cost to and fro transportation facility for the Kashmiri Migrants eligible to cast their ballot in these special booths”, reads a communication received here today by the office of AERO/ARO, Migrants, New Delhi. The transport service will be provided to KMs from the camps to their respective polling stations and back to camps. With an aim to extend requisite support and help to the Kashmiri migrant voters, the office of AERO/ARO, Migrants, ● P-02

CS reviews progress on vision document for accelerating employment



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday inaugurated a day long workshop on 'Yuva Udhyaam Vikas Abhiyaan (YUVA)' aiming at accelerating employment of youth through entrepreneurship in convergence with several other schemes already under implementation here in the Union Territory. The workshop was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Forests, Principal Secretary, Finance, Secretary, L&E, Secretary, Planning, DG, Planning, Director, IIM Jammu, representatives from Banks, Bill Foundation besides other concerned officers. Speaking on the occasion, Dulloo remarked that the vision document to be prepared would act as a bedrock of the initiatives to be taken in making useful interventions for providing gainful employment opportunities ● P-02

TEMP RISES

Kashmir parts record hottest day of season



OWAIS GUL

The sudden rise in the maximum temperature was recorded yesterday after the frequent wet spells in Jammu and Kashmir, which simultaneously led to the increase in the water level in all the water bodies, causing a flood like situation. However, on the second straight day, Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kokernag, Kupwara and Gulmarg among other areas recorded the season's hottest day today. In Qazigund the mercury settled at 29.2 degree Celsius ● P-02

Home voting continues in Srinagar for 2nd straight Day

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: Home voting for senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PwDs) continued for the second consecutive day in Srinagar, with polling teams facilitating 'Vote from Home' for eligible voters. As per the details available, a 96-year-old woman cast her vote at Fateh Kadal, marking another instance of civic participation in the electoral process. Senior citizens in Srinagar have expressed gratitude to the Election Commission of India for introducing the 'Vote from Home' facilitation, which has provided convenience and accessibility to voters aged 85 and above, as well as PwDs. In a video received, a 105-year-old man and an 85-year-old woman shared their appreciation for the initiative, highlighting the comfort and freedom from long queues experienced through ● P-02



Boat Capsizes In Awantipora; 7 Rescued, 2 Missing

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A boat carrying nine labourers capsized in river Jhelum at Hatiwara area of Awantipora in South Kashmir's Pulwama district following which seven persons were rescued while two others are missing. An official said that a boat having nine non-locals on board capsized ● P-02



INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

THE FALL GUY (ENGLISH)
12:00PM, 02:45PM (U/A)

BADE MIYAN CHOTE MIYAN 3D (HINDI)
03:30PM (U/A)

GHOSTBUSTERS FROZEN EMPIRE (ENG)
11:40AM (U/A)

MAIDAAN (HINDI)
05:15PM (U/A)

MOVIES Schedule

GODZILLA X KONG - 3D (ENG)
12:40PM (U/A)

CREW (HINDI)
02:15PM, 06:00PM (U/A)

Director NIFT calls on LG Sinha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Dr. Javid Ahmad Wani, Director, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

He briefed the Lt Governor on the functioning of NIFT campus at Ompora in Budgam District.

Subsequently, a delegation of J&K Employees Coordination Committee also met the Lt Governor at Raj Bhawan.



Div Com Jammu chairs Civil Military Liaison meeting



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar Thursday chaired the Civil Military Liaison meeting and discussed issues that need collective action and consensus among the stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Poonch, Rajouri, concerned Defense Estate Officers from Jammu and

Udhampur. The representatives from 16 Corps apprised the chair on the listed Agenda items.

The Agenda items included issues of requisition, de-requisition and land transfer issues. Detailed deliberations were held on each agenda item. District wise mutation, compensation and other important issues that require action from civil and Army authorities were also discussed.

The Div Com directed the Deputy Commissioners and Defense Estates Officers to resolve the issues that require action at their end at the earliest for early disposal of the issues.

He exhorted all the stakeholders to maintain seamless coordination and ensure timely sharing of information on all the concerned matters.

Representatives from University of Jammu were also present in the meeting.

World Red Cross Day observed at Udhampur



GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Like other parts of the country, World Red Cross Day was observed at District Head Quarter Udhampur.

An informative symposium centered on this year's theme "Keeping Humanity Alive" was held in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex with Deputy Commissioner, Saloni Rai was the chief guest.

As many as 10 students drawn from different educational institutions of the District Udhampur participated and threw light on the given topic.

While highlighting the role and functioning of red cross society in the district, the DC congratulated and motivated the participants to take part in all activities carried out by the District Red Cross Society from time to time for the betterment of needy people.

She urged the participants to volunteer themselves for the Red Cross which is a best platform for serving the needy people.

Sunil Kumar of Government Higher Secondary School, Garhi clinched first position and Sandeep Singh of Government Higher Secondary School

Boys bagged second position, while Meenakshi Devi of Government Girls Higher School Udhampur and Tanvi Verma of Government Girls High school Garhi shared the third position.

Vijay Kumar Senior Lecturer, Government Model Higher Secondary School Boys, Bodh Raj Senior Lecturer Govt Higher Secondary School Chirayi, Rinku Khanna, Teacher MS Gopal Mandir conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Later, the chief guest gave away mementoes and certificates to the participants.

Fast Food Stall Udyami training program concludes at SBI RSETI

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A Fast Food Stall Udyami Training Programme organised by SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (SBI-RSETI) Jammu concluded Wednesday here at Roop Nagar.

A batch of 34 candidates from different parts of Jammu District participated in the training course. Assessment of the batch was also carried out by the EDP Assessor Rajeev Mahajan and Domain Assessor Nishu Sood from National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR).

On this occasion, a



small but impressive function was organized in which certificates of participation were distributed

by Romesh Chander, Director SBI RSETI Jammu. The Director RSETI interacted with all the can-

DIPR hosts Symposium on Nasha Mukta Bharat at GBHSS Reasi



GMK NEWS NETWORK

REASI: Cultural Unit, Department of Information and Public Relations Jammu on Wednesday organized a Symposium on "Nasha Mukta Bharat" here in Government Higher Secondary School Boys Reasi.

The objective was to educate the next generation regarding the perils of Drug abuse and the role of individuals in eradicating this menace from society.

The students presented valuable information on

the topic and also presented a colorful Cultural programme. Students were judged on parameters of Pronunciation, Modulation of Voice, Factual Representation, confidence etc.

Vishawjeet Singh, Pritam Kumar & Anshu Mali acted as Judges for the day. Anita Rani Teacher of the school hosted the event. A total number of 10 students participated in the competition.

First position was bagged by Satvik, second position by Aditya Veer Singh and third position

was secured by Vishal Thakur.

Speaking on the occasion the school Principal Ashok Kernia educated the students regarding the topic and appreciated the Department of Information & Public Relations for organising such a meaningful event in the school. Among others present were Staff members of the school and a large number of students.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of Cultural Officer Nasir Ahmed Khan.

GDC Marh celebrates World Red Cross Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Red Ribbon Club of Government Degree College Marh celebrated World Red Cross Day by hosting an awareness event here on the college campus.

The College Principal Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, in his address, highlighted the importance of the day. "On this Day we pay tribute to the millions of volunteers and staff working alongside people in need of protection, assistance, healthcare, social aid and solidarity" she said.

Prof. Madhavi Parasher

(HOD Botany) briefed the students that the day is observed to highlight the humanitarian values and activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. "These associations play a crucial role in assisting and aiding people impacted by different natural disasters, armed conflicts, and different crises, everywhere," she added.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Shakun Sharma (HOD Sociology) The occasion was graced by Prof. Imitaz Shahid (HOD Zoology, Prof. Asha (HOD Geography), Dr. Balwinder Saini (HOD Chemistry) and Ravi (PTI).

NDMA expert team starts survey of Land Subsidence affected area



GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: A team of experts from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), deputed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has started a comprehensive on-site survey of Land Subsidence affected area Pernote in Ramban District.

Led by Chief Scientist Prof. D.P. Kanungo from CBRI, the technical expert committee, comprising Dipali Jindal and Ranu Chauhan from NDMA, Vivek Coelho from UNDP and Dr. Ravinder Singh from NIDM commenced its assessment from May 7, 2024.

The team is conducting

a thorough examination of the reasons behind the land subsidence and the future threats in the area.

Chief Scientist Prof. D.P. Kanungo highlighted that the committee would submit a comprehensive report to the ministry suggesting measures for the sustainable development of the area.

The team will propose precautions to prevent future losses caused by mudflow slides. Additionally, the team is evaluating the feasibility of habitation and agricultural activities in the future.

The experts advised against entering the affected area for agricultural or habitation purposes until it is declared safe and stabilized.

DEO assesses AMFs at polling stations across Baramulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In view of the Lok Sabha Elections in Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency on 20th May, District Election Officer (DEO), Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Wednesday conducted comprehensive inspection of various polling stations in the district.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) at polling stations in line with the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

The DEO meticulously assessed the infrastructure and amenities at various polling stations at Dangerpora,

Azad Gunj, Khanpora to ensure seamless and efficient voting experience for everyone.

The comprehensive inspection encompassed vital aspects like accessibility, ramps for voters with disabilities, proper sanitation facilities, availability of drinking water, electricity supply and other facilities for polling staff and voters.

The DEO also inspected Pink Polling Station with all-female staff and green polling station in 10-Baramulla, highlighting a commitment to gender inclusivity and environmental sustainability during Lok Sabha Elections.

Sports Activities in Full Bloom across Jammu Division

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, organized an Inter School Zonal Level Tournament for Boys Under/14&17 Years in the Sports Discipline of Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball, Chess, Badminton, Yoga, and Wrestling at GHSS of Sports Zone Chowki Choura here.

Under the supervision of ZPEO Chowki Choura Nirmal Manhas, the tournament was inaugurated by Principal GHSS Chowki Choura, Satpal Sharma in the presence of ZPEO Chowki Choura and all the field staff of the Zone. The chief guest encouraged the students towards the Games and welcomed all the participants in the Zonal level competition. About 400 students players from both Government and private institutions participated in the competitions. All the field staff of Zone Chowki Choura were present during the competitions.

Meanwhile, in the Bisnath Sports Zone of the district, Inter-school Tournament for Boys u/14 and u/17 years age group was organized by the Department of Y&S&S.



Activities were organized under the supervision of zonal physical Education officer Bishnah who interacted with the student/players of various institutions and encouraged them to take part in sports for their better future and great health. Nassem Bano Headmistress GHS Chak Murar after declaring various games open appreciated the efforts of YSS in channelizing sports talent

of the youth. More than six hundred Boys participated in the tourney.

In another sports zone Dansal, a grand sports zone Tournament for Boys of U/14 & U/17 years age group was organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports under the guidance of zonal physical Education officer Dansal. Principal GGMHSS K. Nagrota Sudha Kumari was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE SHEEP & WOOL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER BANDIPORA
(Gout Farm Arindardpora)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Advance Auction of fruits (Walnut/ Wild Apple) at Goat Farm Arindardpora.

It is to inform general public that this office had to conduct the advance auction of fruits at Gout Farm Arindardpora on 2nd of May 2024 (Thursday) at 11:30 am in presence of the designated committee framed for the said purpose, but was postponed due to poor response from the public. The auction shall now be conducted on 11th of May 2024 (Saturday) at 11:30am. The interested bidders are requested to remain present at Goat Farm Arindardpora on the said date/time. All other terms & conditions shall be communicated at the time of auction. The minimum reserve bid amount for the auction is Rupees Forty Four Thousand one Hundred (44100/-).

No.-SDO-GFA/Bpr/Store/2024-25/141-48
Dated:- 03/05/2024

DIPK-396-24
DT: 07/05/2024

Sheep and Wool Development Officer,
Bandipora

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE SRINAGAR

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S Emm Bee Aay Electrical Industries, IE Khunmoh Srinagar formally registered with this office under No.01/003/09308/PMT/MSME dated. 02-08-2019 for the activity of "Manufacture of iron and steel fabrication viz., GI/MS iron and iron angle iron fabrication, link sets, drop out fuse sets, gang operating switches, LTD clamps, pole colors, Earthing clamps, LT Mukhi clamps, F-tops, V-crosses guy rods with turn buckles, earthing rods HT/LT penal boxes, chemical earthing and solder less clamps" as proprietorship concern of Bilal Ahmad Senoo S/o Abdul Gani Senoo R/o Nund Resh Colony near Masjid Umer, Bemina Srinagar.

Now the proprietor of the unit intends to transfer the lease hold rights from "Bilal Ahmad Senoo S/o Abdul Gani Senoo R/o Nund Resh Colony near Masjid Umer, Bemina Srinagar" to "Abdul Rashid Wani S/o Ghulam Mohammad Wani R/o Surtang Rainawari Srinagar". Further the incoming promoter intends to establish a new unit under the name and style of M/S Fancy Oil Industries, with line of activity "Extraction of edible Oil" and subsequent de-registration of M/S Emm Bee Aay Electrical Industries. Any person having any objection, for above proposed change in favour of the unit shall report to General Manager DIC Srinagar within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

General Manager
District Industries Centre
Srinagar

DIPK-405-24
DT: 08-05-2024

Not me but Mehbooba responsible for breaking PAGD alliance: Omar Abdullah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on Wednesday claimed that it was not him but the PDP President Mehbooba Mufti who broke away from the PAGD alliance and questioned why the BJP fielded its candidates during the parliamentary polls of 2019 and not at present.

Omar while speaking to media during a campaign trail in Srinagar said that he was no way responsible for breaking the alliance with the PDP and that the alliance had already decided that the winning party will field the candidates on three Lok Sabha seats of Kashmir. "How could you blame me

for breaking the alliance. Farooq Abdullah decided the candidature. Mehbooba Ji had given authority



to NC President Dr Farooq Abdullah for choosing the candidates. I am witness to this. She said it during a meeting of INDIA Bloc in Mumbai that whatever

Farooq Abdullah decides about the candidates, it will be acceptable to her. How can she say I am respon-



sible," Omar said. He added that those who are fighting as BJP's proxies in Kashmir valley at present will do no good to people. "How can we expect any-

thing good from them. They are representatives of BJP in Kashmir. It is the BJP that has done everything wrong to us. How could they come as messiahs?," Omar asked.

The NC vice President also questioned why BJP has preferred not to field any candidates from three seats of Kashmir that too when the party claims to have ushered in a new era of peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir. "How come did the BJP field the candidates in 2019 LS polls and is reluctant to contest directly now. The BJP knows that whatever it

did to the people was wrong. The party knows that if it fields candidates in Kashmir, they will lose their security deposits as well," Omar claimed—(KNO)

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

"SUVIDHA" app embodies ECI's commitment towards transparency in polling process: CEO

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As a sequel to measures being initiated towards facilitating a smooth and transparent election process, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched "Suvidha" application, a platform designed to streamline the application process for various permissions required during election campaigns for candidates and political parties participating in the upcoming 2024 elections.

The portal serves as a one-stop solution, empowering the candidates and political parties to apply for and obtain permissions efficiently and conveniently. With a user-friendly interface and robust features, the App simplifies the process, ensuring that all necessary permissions are acquired in a timely

manner, thereby enabling seamless campaign activities.

The different permissions available on Suvidha platform included "Meetings: Candidates and political parties can request permissions for holding meetings with constituents, allowing them to engage with voters directly and discuss their vision and policies, Rallies: Permission for organizing rallies, a crucial aspect of election campaigns for reaching out to a wider audience and garnering support, can be easily sought through the Suvidha, Vehicles: The app facilitates the application process for permissions related to the use of vehicles during campaign activities, ensuring compliance with regulations governing vehicular movement, Temporary Election

Office: Candidates and political parties can apply for permissions to set up temporary election offices, providing them with a designated space to coordinate campaign efforts and interact with supporters, Loudspeakers: Permissions for the use of loudspeakers during campaign events can be obtained through the Suvidha, allowing candidates to amplify their message effectively while adhering to noise pollution regulations and Helipads: For candidates seeking to use aerial transportation for broader outreach, the Suvidha facilitates the application process for permissions pertaining to helicopters and helipads, ensuring safe and compliant operations".

The App embodies the commitment to foster

transparency, efficiency, and fairness in the electoral process. By digitizing and streamlining the permissions process, the aim is to empower candidates and political parties, while also facilitating smoother interactions between stakeholders and election authorities. This app has provided a uniform platform for all the candidates where permissions are given on first come first serve basis and equal opportunity is given to all the contesting candidates.

Further, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Pandurang K. Pole, has urged upon the candidates and political parties participating in the 2024 elections to utilize these services. For further information, the candidates and political parties can visit the portal at <https://suvidha.eci.gov.in>.

'World Red Cross Day-2024' celebrated across Kashmir



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu and Kashmir chapter and its District units Wednesday celebrated the 'World Red Cross Day-2024' to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of the Red Cross Movement, Sir Jean Henry Dunant.

The theme for this year's 'World Red Cross Day' was 'Keeping Humanity Alive'. In Kashmir Division, the main function was held at Red Cross House, Exchange Road, Srinagar.

G.A. Qureshi, Honorary Treasurer, IRCS-J&K was chief guest of the event which was attended by Members and Volunteers from districts of Kashmir Division, students of Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothi bagh and Tyndale-Biscoe and Mallinson School, Srinagar.

On the occasion, the importance of the role of Red Cross and humanitarian work for providing the timely help to the victims of natural or manmade

disasters across the globe in general and particularly across Jammu and Kashmir was highlighted.

On 8 May, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement celebrates the dedication, compassion, courage and impact of millions of volunteers and countless others who offer help, care, and life-saving services to people in their communities.

The chief guest in his address said that the theme for this year's World Red Cross Day reflects the need to spread the message of humanness as it is more important in the present-day environment of hardships. It is a matter of great satisfaction that thousands of volunteers of 'human-kind' particularly of the Red Cross, by their seen, unseen, small or big acts of kindness and helpfulness bring smiles and hope on the face of thousands of families.

He said IRCS did its bit to support needy, destitute, women and children by way of providing ration

kits, medicines, hygiene kits, blankets and stationery items to school going children. Today, we salute the selfless volunteers of IRCS and other NGOs who by their compassion and kindness alleviated the suffering of people. Apart from support in kind, the thousands of pints of blood donated by various individuals brought smiles to ailing and sick person.

Qureshi said that the Red Cross continues to make a profound and lasting impact on the lives of millions of people, keeping the flame of hope burning in even the darkest of times. Mohammad Rajab, District Executive Secretary, District Bandipora lauded the efforts of the Red Cross during disasters.

The Students from Govt. Girls Hr. Secondary School, Kothi Bagh and Tyndale-Biscoe and Mallinson spoke on the occasion and highlighted the need to care for each other during the times of normalcy and emergent situation.

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

RO Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency refutes allegations on EVMs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Returning Officer (RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency has strongly refuted the allegation on the functioning of EVMs levelled by a senior Political functionary while addressing a public meeting in Srinagar recently.

In a statement issued here, the RO said that use of EVMs and VVPATs in all the elections conducted by ECI including 2024 has been testified and verified by not only the ECI, general public but also the Supreme Court India.

He said that the literature available in the public domain on EVM including the latest updated FAQs (85 Questions) issued by ECI answers all reasonable and legitimate aspects of the use of EVMs adequately and comprehensively. He added the technical security features along with administrative safeguards defined by ECI, together make EVMs non temperable, leaving nothing to chance, whether in manufacturing, storage, transportation or during use in elections.

The RO said that various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India have examined EVM - related matters threadbare



and have concluded them by constantly reposing their faith on ECI EVMs. Even recently the Apex Court on 26th April, 2024 in its verdict have dismissed all the pleas seeking complete verification of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with the Voter-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips and has instead strengthened the integrity of the election process with two additional directions which are being adhered to.

The Apex Court, he asserted, has held that the microcontrollers separately programmed by manufacturers in EVMs are "agnostic," for they do not recognise political parties or candidates but only the buttons pressed by voters and if any unauthorised attempt to access the microcontroller or memory of the EVM is made, the Unauthorised Access Detection Mecha-

nism (UADM) disables it permanently.

Accordingly, all the writ petitions/pending applications, including the applications for intervention were disposed of in the above terms.

The RO further added that the Election Commission of India have addressed all queries and detailed material including updated FAQs, EVM Manual, Powerpoint presentation on EVM, Status paper on EVM, legal backing of the EVM ecosystem and the judicial validation through various judgments of Supreme Court and various High Courts are available over a period of last 40 years.

He appealed to all sections of society not to believe in such allegations on EVMs made time and again by anyone as these are always found devoid of merit, rationality and logic.

Minorities have equally benefited from PM's welfare schemes: Jitendra Singh



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KOLKATA: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said the minorities have equally benefited from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welfare schemes.

Addressing an election meeting at Uluberia Lok Sabha constituency, which has a considerable population of minority voters, he said that over the years a number of misgivings have been sought to be created by the Congress about the BJP.

"These are all motivated by the mischievous intention of the Congress leadership to keep the people away from the BJP and to manage their vote bank through divisive politics by provoking one religion against the other and by instigating the minority communities against the BJP by giving them the impression that BJP follows an anti-minority agenda, which was, however, far from truth," Singh said.

In the last 10 years, he said, Prime Minister Modi not only gave the country a decisive government but also brought in a series of reforms which were aimed at improving the lot of the minority communities. "Common masses have

now realised that Prime Minister Modi-led dispensation believes in providing justice to every needy person and to provide what is required regardless of any consideration of caste, creed or religion," said Singh, the minister of state for personnel.

He said there are a number of evidences to substantiate that while the Congress had always played the "minority card" but it did nothing to improve their lot, whereas it is the Modi government, which not only gave due attention to these communities but also provided equitable benefits of welfare schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for pucca houses, Ujjawala scheme for providing gas cylinders and household toilets for all without any discrimination on the basis of religion.

Singh appealed to the BJP karyakartas to make a conscious outreach to the members of the minority community and engage them in dialogue on the basis of facts and figures, and at the same time, also call the bluff of the Congress' propaganda.

Voting in Uluberia is scheduled to be held under the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections on May 20.

CEO calls for ramping up SVEEP activities in Srinagar PC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, Wednesday chaired a meeting here to oversee the readiness for smooth conduct of Lok Sabha Election-2024 in Srinagar district.

District Election Officer (DEO), Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Returning Officer (RO) for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, was present in the meeting among other participants.

The CEO stressed on ensuring highest voter turnout in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections in Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency (PC). He called for ramping up SVEEP activities in public places and at schools of the district to educate public about the significance and essence of casting their ballot. He laid stress on sending across message among women through Pink Polling Stations regarding the fact that they can efficiently manage any job. He emphasized on enhancing awareness among the masses with respect to special polling stations viz. Pink, PwD, Green and Urban, and directed the concerned to give wide publicity regarding facilities being



provided at these polling stations for encouragement of the general public to vote and register larger voter turnout in the district.

The CEO also directed for effective conduct of Election Commission of India's path-breaking home voting facility for citizens who are 85+ and Person with Disabilities (PwD) to send clear message to citizens about the decisive step towards facilitating a more equitable and representative democracy, where every

citizen's voice matters, regardless of physical limitations or age.

P. K Pole directed for wide publicity of all election related activities including SVEEP awareness activities for encouragement of the general public to vote and register highest voter turnout in the district. He underscored unwavering dedication towards fostering inclusivity and sustainability in the electoral process. He said that the ECI believes that every citizen should have equal

access to exercise their democratic right, and these polling stations represent a significant step towards achieving that goal.

Reviewing the status of commissioning of EVMs and training of designated staff, Pole stressed on ensuring comprehensive hands-on training aimed at familiarizing the poll staff with the operation and maintenance of EVMs. He also asked the AROs to ensure proper uploading of data on EMS.

The CEO also reviewed the status of complaints received on C-Vigil App, MCC violations, MCMC, Single Window System, Shadow register of Candidates, Assured Minimum Facilities and Distribution and Collection Centres. He assessed the Transportation plan for EVMs, and instructed that the same may be transported in container vehicles fitted with GPS. He instructed the concerned to ensure complete distribution of Voter Information Slips among the voters.

Earlier, District Election Officer, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, through a PowerPoint Presentation, presented the district profile and overall arrangements in place for free, fair and smooth conduct of elections in the district. He said that all ECI guidelines are being implemented in letter and spirit in the district and efforts are being made to ensure maximum participation of voters. He also briefed about the functioning of MCMC, deployment of SST, FST, VVT and teams, arrangements for senior citizens and PwDs voters in the district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by AROs, Nodal Officers, Deputy District Election Officer, AEROs and others concerned.

Gandbal footbridge work going at slow pace, allege locals

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: Following the tragedy after a boat capsized in Srinagar's Gandbal, Roads and Buildings department has resumed work on the footbridge with construction workers brought from Jammu's Udhampur.

Locals from Gandbal and Batwara said they are yet to see the work in full swing on the bridge as promised by the government after the boat capsized on April 16. Eight persons died with one body yet to be retrieved from river Jehlum.

They insist the tragedy would not have befallen them should the work on the bridge be completed in time. The bridge has been under construction for several years now.

They added that officials from concerned depart-

ments visited the bridge soon after the tragedy but now none visits them.

"They have left some three to four non-locals labourers here on the bridge, and they too have not been seen for the past two to three days," said Umer resident of Batwara.

Chief Engineer Roads and Buildings department Kashmir Sajad Ahmad Naqeeb said that some technical issues delayed the project but it is expected to be completed by June this year.

Executive Engineer, R&B Project Division Shuja Ahmad said that the work is going on at Gandbal bridge.

He added that workers are coming from Udhampur as the non-locals who were present before the tragedy now feel unsafe here—(KNO)

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

AstraZeneca Vaccine

Days after facing sharp criticism after admitting to some of the rare but severe life-threatening side-effects of its COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca has stopped supplies of its new batches of vaccines citing surplus production. This vaccine was made in India in partnership with Serum Institute of India and sold as Covishield. This has raised doubts, whether it has anything to do with the company's admission in a legal battle.

AstraZeneca was in the limelight when it admitted in court that its COVID-19 vaccine could cause adverse side effects in rare cases like blood clotting and low platelet counts. While the vaccine manufacturer has been very resolute in saying that the side effects are very rare but when one delves a little deeper one gets a feeler that the issue is much more serious than what we are made to believe. This definitely cannot be brushed aside as a small issue and needs to be thoroughly investigated. Almost 400 million people in India have been administered the same vaccine and the issue cannot be allowed to be brushed under the carpet.

An international court must carry out a thorough investigation to this end and reach to the bottom of it. This is certainly not a small issue. Day in and day out we were seeing videos on various social media networks about how people working in a gym certainly died while being all fit and dandy or for that matter middle-aged men having a casual walk in the park witnessing a certain pang in their hearts and crashing down on the ground the next moment. Healthy individuals with no previously recorded history of ailments are dying every day and when one hears of such testimonies given by pharma companies like AstraZeneca we know where the needle of suspicion should point.

AstraZeneca must have been very specific about the side effects of this vaccine and made them public long back. Certainly, if the governments knew then the same must have been broadcast through various media channels in every country where this vaccine was to be administered.

Now that millions of people have been administered this vaccine the pharma company cannot just hide away from the facts. It has to be held accountable to every sudden death due to one of the causes it enlists as its rare side effects. First and foremost every government can ask for its compensation for every death that was caused due to one of these side effects.



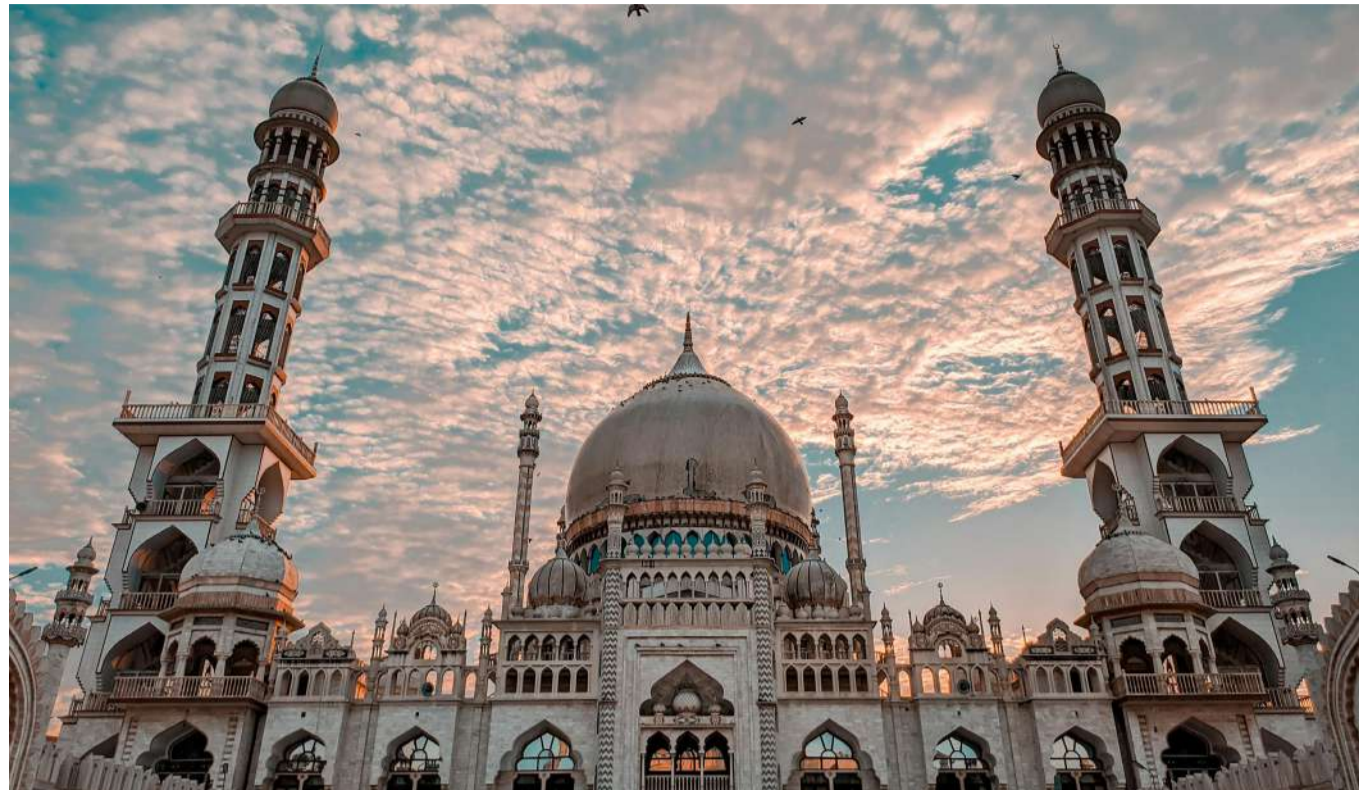
ZEESHAN RASOOL KHAN

The scholars of our glorious past were not just the fountainheads of knowledge and wisdom but were also pioneers of concord!

In the days of Deobandi scholar Molana Muhammad Qasim Nanotwi, a few of his students were conversing with each other. One of them expressed a will to offer prayers behind a particular cleric known for better Quranic recitation. Other students disapprove of his decision, as according to them, the cleric was a prominent critic of Molana Nanotwi and would consider him guilty of heresy. Molana Nanotwi became aware of this conversation.

He was perturbed, and the next morning he visited the cleric, his faultfinder and belittler, joined him in congregational dawn prayers along with his devotees, and said prayers behind him. After completing dawn prayers, they stayed in the mosque for hours. People unfamiliar with them were somehow surprised by this tiny group Molana Nanotwi was part of. Its presence in the mosque set the tongues wagging. The cleric sought to confirm the group's whereabouts.

Cleric inquires about the group—where are these people



from, what is the purpose of their visit, etc.?

Molana Qasim Nanotwi unhesitatingly introduced himself, leaving the cleric astounded. A wave of shock touched the cleric's face. He felt a lump in his throat. Then, in a low voice, he asked, 'did you really pray in our mosque and, moreover, under my leadership?' Molana Nanotwi replied in the affirmative. 'I am a known critic of yours. Even I have been calling you a disbeliever. I would dissuade people from joining your sermons, gatherings, and company,' the disoriented cleric said.

Molana Nanotwi responded with the deep acumen he was

known for, punctuating each word, and said, "You were told that I am blasphemer of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and you made it point to heap criticism on me. In a sense, you were right in slugging me off. It is a testament to the strength and intensity of your faith. I salute you for that". However, before adopting such an attitude and hardening your stance to such a level, if you had verified the veracity of what you had been fed with, it would have been fair enough.

He further said that, in reality, we also believe that one who speaks against Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alihi

Wasallam) can't be faithful. Prophet Muhammad's (Sallallahu Alihi Wasallam) reverence is an acid test of our imaan. Still, if you don't trust me, be a witness. I am refreshing my belief, and with this, Molana Qasim Nanotwi said 'Shahadah' and recited the creed, "There is no God but God, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God". Am I Muslim now? He asked the cleric. Do you accept me as a believer now?

All this had a huge sway over the cleric's heart and mind. He begged for pardon and changed his viewpoint forever.

This was the way of our predecessors to diffuse tense

situations, end controversies, and create an environment of peace, tranquility, and mutual respect. And this was the main reason why Ummah was not as divided as it is today.

Ganwa Di Hum Ne Jo Aslaf Se Meeras Payi Thi

Surreya Se Zameen Par Asman Ne Hum Ko De Mara

(We have despoiled the inheritance that we won from our fathers.

The heavens from the zenith have dashed us down)- Allama Iqbal

The writer is an educator, columnist, and co-author of book "#55: Stories".

NEET Journey - Learning, Failing, Thriving



AUBAID AHMAD AKHOON

In life's journey, mistakes often serve as unexpected detours that lead us down uncharted paths. Yet, it is through these detours that we discover hidden treasures of wisdom and resilience. Just as milk transforms into yogurt and cheese, and grape juice evolves into wine, our mistakes have the potential to metamorphose into invaluable experiences that enrich our lives and shape our destinies.

Consider the tale of Vincent van Gogh, whose early artistic endeavors were met with indifference and rejection. Despite facing numerous setbacks and self-doubt, he persisted in his passion for painting, ultimately creating some of the most revered masterpieces in art history. Van Gogh's story serves as a poignant reminder that setbacks and failures are not roadblocks but rather stepping stones toward greatness.

Moreover, the world of science is replete with examples of groundbreaking discoveries that emerged from mistakes. In 1928, Alexander Fleming's accidental contamination of a petri dish with mold led to the discovery of penicillin—a serendipitous breakthrough that revolutionized modern medicine. Fleming's willingness to embrace the unexpected transformed his error into a catalyst for innovation and progress.

Similarly, the story of Percy Spencer, an engineer working on radar technology during World War II, highlights the transformative power of mistakes. While conducting experiments with a magnetron, Spencer noticed that a chocolate bar in his pocket had melted. This observation ultimately led to the invention of the microwave oven—a ubiquitous household appliance that

has revolutionized cooking and food preparation.

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill

Stephen Hawking, renowned physicist and cosmologist, faced tremendous challenges due to his amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) diagnosis. Despite his physical limitations, he persevered in his scientific pursuits,

adapt, and grow. Each misstep serves as a valuable lesson, providing us with insights that guide us toward greater self-awareness and personal development. As American inventor Thomas Edison once remarked, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Edison's perseverance and resilience in the face of adversity epitomize the transformative potential of embracing mistakes.

and emerge stronger and more enlightened.

The poetry of Allama Iqbal beautifully captures the essence of ambition and perseverance. His couplet "Tu Shaheen Hai, Parwaz Hai Kaam Tera, Tere Aage Asmaan Aur Bhi Hain" (You are a falcon; flight is your vocation: You have other skies stretching out before you) symbolizes the boundless potential within each individual to

while some may settle for a mundane existence, the Shaheen aspires for grandeur.

In the journey towards excellence, embracing mistakes as avenues for growth and learning is paramount. Majrooh Sultanpuri beautifully captured this sentiment: "Girte hain shahsawar hi maidan-e-jung mein. Woh tiff kya gire jo gumto ke bal chale" (only the horseman falls on the battlefield; how will that child



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In the pursuit of excellence, it is essential to cultivate a mindset that embraces imperfection and values the lessons learned from setbacks. Rather than succumbing to fear of failure, we must view mistakes as integral components of the learning process. After all, it is not the absence of mistakes that defines success but rather the ability to rise above them

transcend mediocrity and strive for greatness.

Similarly, in another verse, Iqbal contrasts the falcon's ambition with the vulture's placidity: "Parwaz Hai Dono Ki Issi Aik Fiza Mein, Kargas Ka Jahan Aur Hai, Shaheen Ka Jahan Aur" (The vulture and the falcon soar in the same air, but in worlds apart). This analogy emphasizes that

fall who crawls on his knees). While setbacks are inevitable, it's our perseverance and resilience that enable us to transcend them and carve our way to success.

Bottom line: let us heed the wisdom of history and embrace our mistakes as opportunities for growth and self-discovery. Just as milk becomes yogurt and cheese, and grape juice transforms into wine, our mistakes have the potential to catalyze our evolution into beings of greater resilience, wisdom, and compassion. So, the next time you encounter a setback or stumble along the path of life, remember that within every mistake lies the seed of transformation and possibility.

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Embracing Sabr

The Pillar of Strength in Islamic Faith

RAMEEZ RASOOL MIR

Have patience. All things are difficult before they become easy. - Saadi

Islam's definition of "Sabr" is the quality of being patient, tenacious, and steady in the face of difficulties and trials in life while retaining faith and confidence in Allah (God). For Muslims, Sabr is one of the most important moral principles and values that they should strive to live by. The Islamic teachings and philosophy hold great relevance for this multidimensional concept. The significance of sabr in Islam is highlighted by the following important points:

Development of Spirit: Spiritual development and growth are seen to be possible through Sabr. Our trust in Sabr transforms our lives and strengthens our faith in Allah's power, assisting us in growing spiritually during trying times.

Adopting Allah's Plan: Sabr entails having faith in Allah's plan and acknowledging that life's ups and downs are a necessary component of His wisdom.

Maintaining Our Strength in Hard Times: Sabr assists us in overcoming life's obstacles with grace, be they be illness, bereavement, or financial hardships.

Maintaining Calm: Sabr teaches us to regulate our feelings, particularly when we're agitated or furious, so we can behave patiently rather than rashly.

Islam makes a huge promise of rewards for people who practice Sabr, both in this world and the next.

Learning from the Prophets: In difficult times, prophets like Job, Joseph, and Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) showed us how to be patient and persistent.

Developing Better Characteristics: Sabr helps us develop traits



like empathy, thankfulness, and resilience, which makes us better individuals.

Sabr, or patience, is mentioned 90 times in the Quran and discussed approximately 900 times in Hadith, indicating its importance as a favour from Allah. It's crucial to have patience when

things get hard and to have faith in Allah's direction. Regretfully, a lot of us lack patience and frequently turn to unethical methods in order to fulfil our ambitions for wealth and other things. A compelling example of patience can be seen in the life of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) in

Karbala, who refused to give in to blackmail in the face of many temptations. We Muslims tend to forget the teachings of our prophets and companions, like the amazing example of patience shown by Imam Hussain at Karbala in the face of hardship. Sabr is a precious gift from

Allah that is essential for overcoming obstacles in life. Without it, we strive and suffer in our attempts to be productive. Sabr fortifies our moral fibre and deepens our bond with Allah. When we approach our work with positivity and devotion, Allah will help us. Sabr maintains our spiritual nature, much like water does; without it, we become lifeless. Sabr imparts discipline, making life more purposeful. Allah's tests, material or social, can be met with Sabr, a divine instrument for perseverance.

Pee Ja Ayaam Ki Talkhee Ko Bhi Hans Kar Nasir Gham Ko Sahne Main Bhi Qudrat Ne Mazaa Rakha Hai

Drawing Strength from the Stories of Patience in Islam: Sabr involves maintaining a positive attitude while waiting. The optimal approach to practicing Sabr is to submit oneself to Allah and anticipate the good outcomes He has promised. Being a Muslim means being patient, especially during tough times like now. Patience means staying away from things that upset Allah and doing what He asks. Every day, we face challenges that test our patience, like praying on time, fasting when it's hot, or solving problems with family. But patience is really important, and Allah shows us examples of patient people in the Quran. Let's learn about five of them:

- **Hazrat Yaqoob (Peace Be Upon Him):** Jacob showed beautiful patience when his sons hurt him by harming his favourite son, Joseph. Instead of getting angry, he stayed patient and trusted Allah.
- **Maryam, Mother of Jesus:** Maryam was very patient when people accused her of doing something wrong.

She stayed quiet and let her actions speak for her, trusting in Allah.

- **Moses (Peace Be Upon Him):** Moses helped his people escape from a bad ruler, Pharaoh, even though they were often difficult to deal with. He stayed patient even when they complained and asked for things they didn't need.
- **Asiya:** Asiya was married to Pharaoh, a cruel ruler. She stayed patient and prayed to Allah for help, even when things were hard.
- **Ibrahim (Peace Be Upon Him):** Ibrahim had to leave his home and family because of his beliefs. He even had to leave his wife and son in the desert. But through it all, he stayed patient and trusted in Allah.

These stories show us how important patience is, even when things are really tough.

In conclusion, patience (Sabr) in Islam is not merely a virtue but a fundamental aspect of faith, essential for spiritual growth and resilience in facing life's challenges. Through stories of prophets and exemplary figures, Muslims are reminded of the power and significance of patience in trusting Allah's plan, maintaining composure in adversity, and nurturing a closer relationship with the divine. By embracing patience, Muslims can find strength, guidance, and ultimately, fulfillment in their journey towards spiritual excellence.

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Hope - Illuminating Lives Through Acts of Charity



IMRAN MAQBOOL WANI

And they give food despite love for it to the necessitous, the orphan, and the captive." - Quran

Although we may be different, there is one fact that we all have agreed on the wish to help our fellow people who are in trouble. That longing is a defining feature of our humanness, emerging from a wellspring of empathy and compassion. Be it in cities with soaring skyscrapers or small villages, people and communities suffer from poverty and many other problems. However, at the same time in the complicated fabric of humanity, there are thousands of different ways of doing good that can greatly help people in need.

To begin with, we can implement the essence of kindness in our lives by making charitable contributions. In Islam, the act of giving, or "Sadaqah" holds an extremely high esteem position. Our Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) said that their shade on judgment day would be their charity, thus underlining its bigger role. By handing out financial aid, food, clothes, and other essentials to charitable organizations, we are not only fulfilling our obligations but also brightening up the lives of people going through tough times.

Moreover education not only brings out the power to

break the chain of poverty, but it is a powerful instrument for it. In Islam, knowledge is highly ranked as one of the most significant sacred obligatory acts of a human being. As the Quran states: "Read in the name of your Lord who created you" Therefore, the power of education is highlighted. We do this by offering a free assortment of schooling,

he was also a living example of it: a true believer is the one who goes to bed full but with their hungry neighbor haunting their thoughts. Through the experience of listening to these people, we can help their statement that we can enhance their lives without imposing disgrace on them. The actual embodiment of the gestures of camaraderie through heart-

auctions, and other community-involving activities to ensure that we bring about much-needed social change. The way that these resources would work is through the provision of basics like healthcare, housing, and food aid for the needy.

The most important thing is knowledge which is a starting point for successfully remov-

Islam does not prohibit the use of technology; it only guides the use of technology for the benefit of all human beings. The Prophet Muhammad said, "True leaders are those who are most beneficial to others." Through the use of social media platforms, we can not only raise awareness but also address the needs of the poor and bring help and assistance

can create a ripple effect and inspire others to join us in the fight against poverty and oppression. Through these ways like community events, education workshops, or social media campaign generators, a collective spirit of mercy and compassion can be sparked.

from the fire of hell." It can be using money donating, moral support, or even only being a listener. Each time one does a good gesture; the act is like throwing a stone into water, and it keeps spreading as a ripple of compassion that touches several hearts and transforms the lives of people. Using a community approach to our work on the issues of poverty and destitution is the best way to help people improve their lives and become stronger. Islam gives significance to the factor of unanimity and mutual work on the realization of set objectives. The Quran declares: "And be strongly attached to Allah together and do not scatter away." The unity is created through organizations, community groups, or grassroots initiatives combined as a team to make a greater change. A campaign of advocacy, service, or outreach is a good way for us to do that. This allows us to stand together and care for others who are in need.

A closing remark, assisting the poor is not only a moral duty; it is also a part of humankind's common life and essence. The kind words that include giving relief, education, compassion, and solidarity among the community can change the situation of the needy. By portraying the goals of sympathy, cooperation, and fairness that are rooted in Islam, we can achieve the dream of a just world where everybody is treated equally. As the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) put it, "But the best of you is the one who is the best to humanity."

"We can be one too if we just reach out to the necessitous and strive towards the betterment of humanity and the human spirit."

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including vocational training, to the underprivileged to show them the way towards a brighter future. Providing people with skills in the aspect of agriculture or vocational training enables them to move on to bigger things and succeed through their efforts.

Not only personal change but also social change can be achieved by the creation of understanding and compassion. Doing good deeds like being kind to others is an important part of Islam for Muslims. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) did not only say this, but

related actions like donation of food and clothing are real seeds of hope and solidarity that we tend to give birth to a more compassionate society.

Another way to help is the fundraising channels offer a great way to bring people together to make a meaningful contribution towards achieving a particular goal. In Islam, communal work about this issue in particular is extensively recommended. Prophet Muhammad, (peace be upon him), once said: "The extension of God's hand is with the group." We join forces to conduct fundraiser campaigns,

ing the causes of poverty and inequality. Islam stresses that education and understanding everything in life is worth it. Besides, the Quran calls to those who have the message, when you do not know; thus, surfing social media insights can enlighten you about issues affecting the poor and marginalized so that you can advocate for systemic change and support for programs that aim to promote social justice and equality.

Also, Social media networks are a potent weapon for raising great awareness and bringing support to charity's objectives.

along. Either by fundraising campaigns, sharing informative content, or establishing online communities, social media can achieve concrete effects that would benefit underprivileged people.

Raising awareness is the first step toward thrilling action and cocooning a culture of kindness. Propagation of goodness and altruism is highly recommended in Islam. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), said, "Convey me even a verse, from me." That means, when we share our knowledge and experience with others, we



Gestures of an individual to anybody, that seems insignificant, can be a huge weight on someone. Islam shows how a small kind gesture as an act of kindness is also of great value to Allah. Muhammad (peace be upon him) stated, "Use one-half date fruit to save you from the fire of hell."

Gestures of an individual to anybody, that seems insignificant, can be a huge weight on someone. Islam shows how a small kind gesture as an act of kindness is also of great value to Allah. Muhammad (peace be upon him) stated, "Use one-half date fruit the same as charity to save you

Mega SVEEP programme held near First Polling Station in Teetwal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Mega SVEEP Awareness programme was Wednesday held near first Polling Station of India 'Seemari' at LoC Teetwal in Karnah sub division of district Kupwara.

The programme witnessed huge participation of School Children, first time voters, field functionaries, senior citizens and common people.

The programme witnessed scintillating performance of renowned singer Kabul Bukhari who sang back to back variety songs including Punjabi, Hindi, Pahari and Kashmiri which enthralled the audience. School children from various schools of Karnah Sub division also performed cultural variety programmes including folk songs/dance and Kashmiri Rowf.

On the occasion, General Observer, Bupinder Singh; Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; Expenditure Observer, Sita Raman; Police Observer, Ravi Shankar; SSP Kupwara, Shobit Saxena; ADC Kupwara, Mohammad Rouf Rehman; Brigadier, M. K Dass; SDM Karnah, Chief Education Officer, DYS&SO, Tehsildar, field functionaries and other concerned officers attended the programme.

Speaking at the occasion, the General Observer said that it was a great opportunity to listen to first time voters at the first Polling Station of India. He said that concerted security and other necessary arrangements have been put in place by the administration to ensure smooth



election on ground. He appealed to the people to come out in large numbers to cast their valuable votes on the polling day.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara in her address said that the aim of holding Mega SVEEP programme is to provide mass awareness to the people about their right to vote so that they will come out in large numbers to cast their precious votes on May 20th the polling day.

She said that all measures have been taken up

by the District Administration Kupwara to ensure smooth, fair and transparent conduct of the election in the district.

Expenditure Observer and Police Observer also spoke and appealed to the people to cast their vote for a positive change to strengthen the democratic setup.

On their arrival, the Dignitaries including General Observer, DC Kupwara, Expenditure Observer and Police Observer inspected stalls installed by different departments including

Agriculture, Horticulture, Health, ICDS, Animal Husbandry etc. They got feedback about the progress of schemes of the concerned departments.

Earlier, on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, ADC Kupwara, Mohd Rouf Rehman flagged-off a massive Tiranga Rally of school children at First Polling Station Seemari LoC. The rally went through the banks of river Kishanganga and culminated at Teetwal Stadium.

Postal Ballot Voting commences for Essential Service Employees in G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Postal ballot voting commenced today in Ganderbal segments under the Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, a pivotal initiative aimed at facilitating the participation of employees engaged in essential services during the Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

The District Administration has established a well-equipped Facilitation Centre within the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal, ensuring that the voting process is both efficient and accessible.

This setup underscores the district's commitment to uphold a free and fair electoral process, allowing those who will be on duty during the general election day to cast their votes with-



out any hindrance. Throughout the day, a significant number of employees from various

essential service departments participated enthusiastically, exercising their democratic right with ease

and convenience. The Facilitation Centre was established to provide a streamlined voting procedure, reinforcing the democratic pillars through inclusive participation.

The Election Commission of India's guidelines have been meticulously followed by the District Administration to ensure every eligible voter has the opportunity to participate in the electoral process.

It is pertinent to note that the Postal Voting Centre will also be operational tomorrow, allowing more employees to partake in this critical democratic exercise.

The District Administration Ganderbal remains dedicated to ensuring that every voter has a voice and encourages all eligible personnel to use the postal ballot facility to cast their vote.

Transport Secretary visits JKRTC Central Workshop in Pampore

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary Transport, Neeraj Kumar, Wednesday visited the Central Workshop JKRTC at Sempora, Pampore, to explore the possibility for establishment of high tech Driving Training Centres and Automated Testing Stations in Kashmir.

Transport Commissioner, Rajinder Singh Tara and Managing Director JKRTC, Rakesh Kumar Srangal accompa-

nied the Secretary.

Neeraj Kumar emphasized and explained the need of establishing technologically equipped Driving Training Centres and Automated Testing Stations for improving road safety and prevent loss of human lives in road accidents. The setting up of technologically advanced institutions would not only help to bring added efficiency in the work culture but will ensure enhanced

and accurate services to the public.

During on the spot inspection, the Secretary asked JKRTC to formulate a concrete proposal for establishment of integrated project for RTDC/ICC/ATS in consultation with the Transport Commissioner so that the transporters and general public of Kashmir could get the facility of Automated Driving Training and Certification Centre.

He asked the MD

JKRTC to initiate the process in the matter so that further steps could be taken in order to facilitate the general public in a shortest possible time.

Additional Transport Commissioner, Ajaz Abdullah Saraf, Additional Secretary, Transport Department, Rajeshwar Singh Charak, Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari besides other officers were present on the occasion.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Search operation

entered the fifth day on Wednesday, officials said. Security forces, including the Army, police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), have further intensified combing and search operation in nearly 20 square kilometres area in Surankote belt and over five kilometres of the area has been searched, the officials said.

Terrorists targeted an Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy in the Shaistar area of Poonch district, resulting in the killing of an IAF corporal and injuries to four others on Saturday.

Armed with surveillance equipment, including drones and sniffer dogs, the search operation is underway in Shashtar, Gursai, Sanai, Lasana, and Sheendara top in the Surankote belt and adjoining areas in Poonch district, the officials said.

The security forces are seeking identification of the terrorists, whose three to four pictures -- probably retrieved from the CCTV footage in the area -- are public now, the officials said.

Posters offering a cash reward of Rs 20 lakh for any information leading to the arrest of the two individuals, believed to be the prime suspects, have also been put up in Surankote, they said.

According to the officials, 26 persons have been detained for questioning and the authorities are reviewing some CCTV footage for leads.

The search operation by the security forces, launched on Tuesday, is also underway in Sada and Kandi areas of Rajouri district, they said.

NIA attaches

He said this is a significant action that targets the financial assets of terrorists and disrupts their support structures.

The case relates to the transportation of terrorists, infiltration into Kashmir from across the border, and the seizure of arms, explosives etc. from JeM terror operatives. NIA's investigations have exposed the conspiracy by the accused to provide safe shelter and logistical support to the infiltrated terrorists for carrying out attacks against security forces and the government.

This crackdown is part of the NIA's continued efforts to dismantle the terror infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. Till now, the agency has attached 109 properties in the union territory under the provisions of the UAPA. This demonstrates the government's strong resolve to choke the funding sources of terrorism and combat the menace effectively.

The attachment of these six properties belonging to the top JeM militant is an important victory in the fight against terrorism and will significantly impact the terror group's operational capabilities in the region he added. (KS)

Over 17 lakh

There are five segments in total, three of which fall in the Srinagar parliament seat and include Khan Sahib, Char-i-Sharif, and Chadoora.

In Khan Sahib, there are over 94,612 voters, including 48,140 male and 46,467 female voters. In the Char-i-Sharif segment, there are over 1,03,126 voters, including 52,288 male and 52,288 female voters. And in Chadoora, there

are over 89,068 voters, including 44,312 male and 44,754 female voters.

As far as the Shopian is concerned, the district has two segments, Zainpora and Shopian. Shopian area falls in the Srinagar parliament seat. In Shopian, there are over 98,933 voters, of which 50,003 are male and 48,925 female.

In Pulwama, there are over four segments: Pampore, Tral, Pulwama, and Rajpora, with a voting population of 4,03,192. Of these, 2,02,899 are female voters, 2,00,277 are male voters, 4113 have PwD (40% disability), 1595 are male senior citizens (85+), and 1820 are female senior citizens (85+).

In Pampore, there are over 99,239 voters, 50,090 of whom are male and 49,145 female. In Tral, there are over 97,477 voters, 48,350 of whom are male and 49,120 female. In Pulwama, there are over 98,713 voters, 48,989 of whom are male and 49,723 female. In Rajpora, there are over 1,07,763 voters, 53,793 of whom are male and 53,966 of whom are female—(KNO)

LG chairs

He also observed that villages and cities should be made malnutrition and anaemia free and to also focus on aadhaar seeding on Poshan tracker and widening the scope of corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Asserting that Poshan Maah and Poshan Pakhwada are two important components of Poshan Abhiyaan, the Lt Governor said that there is a need to further increase the IEC activities so that benefits reach all intended beneficiaries. He said the administration's focus should be on socially, educationally and economically marginalized sections of the society, empowerment of women and also discussed steps required to create an environment so they can realise their full potential.

The meeting further reviewed the performance of Nanhe Kadam, women assisted under Sankalp, One Stop Centre. He also called for collective efforts in the fight against drug menace.

ECl establishes

New Delhi, is efficiently functioning during the working hours at Pota Cabin 01 at JK House 5-Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi. The office has also established a help desk which has supported numerous stakeholders to file offline/online Form-M, Form 12-C and other requisite documents.

Besides, a series of camps and meetings have been organized to raise mass awareness at various places to increase the percentage of Kashmiri migrant voters in the capital. The BLOs are also visiting door to door for educating and helping the migrant voters. These camps, organized at various locations in Delhi and NCR, received tremendous response resulting in notable increase in enrollment of voters through Form-M and Form 12-C, so far, as compared to last parliamentary Lok Sabha Election.

As per the data given by the AERO/ARO office, about 169 voters have been registered besides receiving 65 Form M and 4 Form 12 C for the Baramulla PC, 480 voters have been registered besides receiving 183 Form-M and 8 Form 12-C for the Srinagar PC while 95 voters have been registered besides receiving 40 Form M for the Anantnag PC, till date.

The Kashmiri migrants are evincing keen interest to participate in the upcoming elections and it is expected

that there shall be a high voter turnout during these Lok Sabha election.

CS reviews

to our youth through entrepreneurship. He exhorted upon all the stakeholders to collaborate for preparation of version 1.0 of this document on the available date and their analysis. He maintained that once the document is ready, it would be easy to upgrade it with evolving situations and future challenges.

The Chief Secretary asked for identifying the gaps in successful implementation of different employment generation schemes here. He also called for taking in consideration the unique opportunities and strengths available here in the UT.

ACS, Forests, Dheeraj Gupta, stressed on studying the design and architecture of different ongoing schemes so that the necessary tweaking is done to increase their traction among youth. He asked for giving clear recommendations and actionable points for each initiative referred in the document.

Other stakeholders also gave their insights about making this document more effective and relevant. They also deliberated upon different policy matters mentioned in the first draft of this document depicted during this workshop.

The document as explained by Secretary, Labour & Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, has been prepared with the aim to provide conducive ecosystem for promoting business entrepreneurship across different sectors in J&K. He said that the document would be quite inclusive with identification of key sectors, skilling needs, resource gaps and future action plan for ushering in feasible climate for entrepreneurship for our youth.

The factors limiting the culture of entrepreneurship here were also deliberated upon alongwith the current skilling and education profile of youth here. The critical analysis of gaps and resource mobilization from different quarters was also made the point of discussion among the participants.

It was informed that over the years the service sector has emerged as a largest sector ahead of Industry and Agriculture here. It was further detailed in the document that overall the MSMEs are major focus areas as the employment potential identified here is more than that of in large enterprises. The document also enlisted current industrial set up and categories of units established in different districts, their annual turnover and employment generation by each of them here in J&K.

The other features of this vision document as explained included SWOT analysis of all the incumbent policies in Agriculture, IT, Tourism and Industry. It also envisions potential areas of investment here along with their allied sectors of entrepreneurship. Besides, the identified areas and emerging sectors discussed included Tourism, Healthcare, Agriculture & Food Processing, Textiles, Film Tourism, Skill Development, Handloom & Handicrafts, Information Technology along with others mentioned in the vision document.

Regarding the architecture of YUVA, it was appraised that besides having Nodal Department at the apex level it would be having a PMU for monitoring the overall functioning and achieving the outcomes at district, block down to panchayat level for counseling, guidance, capacity building and grievance redressal of aspiring candidates.

Kashmir parts

while in Pahalgam and Kokernag recorded the hottest day of the season at 25.7 degree Celsius and 27.4 degree Celsius respectively.

Kupwara has however, recorded the maximum temperature of 27.9 degree Celsius while in Gulmarg, the mercury also witnessed a sudden increase where a maximum temperature of 20.5 degree Celsius was recorded today.

Similarly, the other areas including Anantnag, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Baramulla and Sonamarg also recorded the hottest day of the season.

Bhaderwah station in Jammu division has also recorded the hottest day of the season at 31.6 degree Celsius.

Meanwhile, the officials in the Meteorological department informed KNO that the weather would remain hot and dry till May 10 in Jammu & Kashmir.

They added that the plains as well as the higher reaches of Jammu & Kashmir would record a temperature above normal 4-5 degree Celsius. In Jammu division, the temperature would settle in between 30-40 degrees Celsius everywhere, they said.

However, they said that a light to moderate widespread rain and thunderstorm is expected in between May 11-13 in Jammu & Kashmir, adding that the weather would improve from May 13 afternoon and there will be dry weather conditions till May 18.

The MeT officials also advised farmers to suspend the farm activities from May 11 to May 13 in wake of the fresh wet spell—(KNO)

Home voting

home voting. "We feel comfortable voting at home. We are thankful to the government for such an initiative," they said.

The RO Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency said that the Home Voting facility offered a convenient option for many senior citizens and individuals with disabilities to cast their votes via postal ballots in the Lok Sabha Election-2024, thereby reducing the challenges associated with traveling to polling stations.

He stated that the facility has been instrumental in promoting equal opportunities for all stakeholders, ensuring that no one is left behind in the electoral process.

He further added that eighteen polling teams, each comprising a polling officer, a polling official, a micro-observer, a videographer, and a team of security personnel visited the homes of willing voters (who have provided consent to the District Election Office) since Tuesday morning. The visits are scheduled to continue on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of May, 2024.

The voting for this constituency is scheduled for May 13, which marks the fourth round of the seven-phase general elections. (KNO)

Boat Capsizes

at Hatiwara while with the efforts of locals, seven persons were rescued while two others are still missing.

He said that the SDRF teams, police and locals have started the operation to rescue the two missing persons—(KNO)

Congress wants to snatch reservation from backward classes: PM Modi

IAN S

WARANGAL: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday alleged that the Congress wants to bring a legislation to snatch reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Backward Classes (BCs) and give them to Muslims.

Addressing a public meeting in support of BJP's Lok Sabha candidates in Warangal, the Prime Minister also alleged that the Constitution has no meaning for the Congress.

"Ambedkar had said that there should be no reservation based on religion, but in Karnataka, Congress cut into reservations for backward classes and gave them to Muslims. They made a similar attempt in united Andhra Pradesh, but the high court had stayed it," PM Modi said.

He also alleged that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) betrayed SCs, STs, and backward classes for appeasement politics, recalling that the party had promised a Dalit CM in 2014 which it failed to fulfil.

"In the name of Dalit Bandhu, the BRS broke your trust. The same BRS had talked of setting up a Muslim IT park to carry forward its appeasement politics," he said.

According to the Prime Minister, after the third phase of Lok Sabha elections, it has become clear that people are taking forward the 'Vijay Rath' of the NDA at a brisk pace, while the INDI Alliance is



searching for seats with a magnifying glass.

In the fourth phase, they will need a microscope to search their seats, PM Modi said.

Stating that there is instability, unrest, and crisis everywhere in the world, he asked if, in such a situation, the reins of this country could be given into the wrong hands.

"Nobody can forget the sins of the Congress which was in power 10 years ago. There used to be a new scam of thousands of crores every few days and serial bomb blasts used to occur in big cities," he said.

The Prime Minister also claimed that this time the INDI Alliance has come up with a formula of 'five years, five PMs'.

"Imagine what they will do to this country if they come to power. Every year, there will be a new PM. Can they do any good

to this country," he asked the gathering.

"The Congress had promised pensions for the martyrs' families in Telangana, 250 square yards of land, and Rs 2,500 per month for every woman, but none of these promises have been fulfilled," he said.

Alleging that power cuts have made people's lives miserable in Telangana, the Prime Minister said, "Ever since the Congress came to power, development of Telangana has come to a standstill while the public treasury has emptied.

"People's money is being looted in the name of 'RR' tax in Telangana. There are talks that a share of this 'RR' tax is meant for the first 'R' in Hyderabad, while another share is sent to Delhi for the other 'R'."

He also alleged that wherever the Congress and the INDI Alliance

come to power, that state becomes their ATM.

Referring to the recovery of heaps of currency notes in Jharkhand recently, the Prime Minister said, "When Modi takes action against black money and corruption, Congress abuses Modi."

Appealing to the people to vote for the BJP candidates in Warangal and Mahabubabad Lok Sabha constituencies, the Prime Minister said that Warangal is special for him and the BJP.

He recalled that 40 years ago when the BJP had just two MPs, one of them was from Hanamkonda.

"The BJP will not forget your blessing and love. The people of Warangal have always supported the BJP whenever it faced difficulties. The BJP will leave no stone unturned to free the people from the clutches of the BRS and Congress," he said.

FM Sitharaman takes Rahul Gandhi to task over HAL

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday took senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to task over what she called his "malicious attack" on public sector giant Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The Finance Minister said that contrary to Rahul Gandhi's claims of HAL not performing well, its market valuation, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, has skyrocketed by 1,370 per cent in merely four years, rising from Rs 17,398 crore in 2020 to Rs 2.5 lakh crore as of May 7.

"HAL on March 31 announced its highest-ever revenue of more than Rs 29,810 crore for FY 2023-24 and has a robust order book of over Rs 94,000 crore. These figures hardly suggest a "weakening" institution but rather one experiencing significant fortification," she pointed out.

Contrary to Rahul Gandhi's claim, it was the Congress party that left India crippled, relying heavily on imports rather than empowering our institutions like HAL, the Finance Minister added.

"PSUs that were previ-



ously neglected under the UPA Government, such as HAL, have seen a resurgence under the Modi government," she added.

"Historically, Congress has shown a lack of faith in our nation's scientists and engineers, fostering a dependence on imports that branded India as the world's largest arms importer for many years. It is only under PM Modi that we see a significant shift - turning India from an import-dependent country to one that's now proudly stepping into the role of an arms exporter," she added.

The Finance Minister said the increased defence spending and aim of achieving 'Atmanirbharta' in Defence has fuelled the growth of PSUs like BEL, HAL, Mazagon Dock, etc. In FY 2023-24 alone, India has reported arms exports

worth Rs 21,000 crore.

"This achievement showcases our government's robust confidence in our scientists and engineers, a stark contrast to the Congress' approach," she remarked.

The Union Minister cited the example of Air India backed with figures to highlight her point that the Modi-led government had revived airline which had plunged into heavy losses during the UPA tenure.

She lashed out at Rahul Gandhi for what she said were false claims with respect to people losing jobs after disinvestment.

"Let's take Air India, for an example. It was a pre-condition of the government to the buyer that there would be no removal or retrenchment of employees for one year. Also, even

after one year, there will be a voluntary retirement offer before retrenchment on terms no less favourable than maximum benefits. PF and gratuity benefits were also offered as per laws. After a transparent disinvestment, there has been a notable improvement in operations," the Finance Minister said.

She pointed out that Air India has seen significant growth in employment opportunities, with over 7,500 new employees (both flying and ground staff) having joined the company since privatization. So, far from losing jobs, thousands have joined the company.

"Air India is set to acquire 470 aircraft from Boeing and Airbus for its fleet expansion at an estimated cost of \$70 billion. A similar turnaround has happened in NINL (Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd) post-privatisation. There has been a perceptible turnaround in the operations of the plant. With disinvestment, the unpaid employee dues of Rs 387.08 crore were paid to them," she added.

"So, all claims of the Congress and Rahul Gandhi concerning PSUs fall flat, as they are baseless," she remarked.

Embarrassed Congress distances itself from Sam Pitroda's remarks

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Hours after Congress leader Sam Pitroda's remark on the 'colour of citizens' stirred a major controversy and left the party red-faced, the latter got into a damage control mode and issued a clarification.

Congress General Secretary and Communications in-charge Jairam Ramesh took to his X account and said that the party does not support his views and described it as "unfortunate and unacceptable".

Taking to his X account, Jairam Ramesh wrote, "The analogies drawn by Sam Pitroda in a podcast to illustrate India's diversity are most unfortunate and unacceptable."

"The Indian National Congress completely dissociates itself from such analogies," he added.

Pitroda speaking exclusively to The Statesman made the 'racist' remarks while attempting to describe the diversity of the country.

"A diverse country, where people on the East

look like Chinese, people on the West look like Arab, people on the North look like maybe White, and people in the South look like Africa," Pitroda said.

The remarks by Sam Pitroda are drawing him flak from all political quarters, particularly from the BJP, which has accused him of showing the country in poor light.

Many BJP leaders took potshots at Sam Pitroda while some poked fun at him for bringing embarrassment to his party with a string of controversial statements.

Notably, this is not the first incident of the Congress leader sparking a row with his controversial statements.

His recent assertions on the Inheritance Tax also had drawn him severe flak from the BJP leadership.

Taking a cue from his Inheritance tax theory, the BJP brass had accused Congress of planning to impose high taxes on the common man and thereby usurping a major chunk of their wealth, after death.

VIKSIT BHARAT AMBASSADOR

Saina Nehwal, Rajkumar Rao add vigour to initiative at DU event

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Viksit Bharat Ambassador event marked a welcome change from University auditoriums and townhalls to a mini-marathon at DU's North Campus on Wednesday and saw the participation of celebrity guests from different fields, besides hundreds of teachers and students.

Acclaimed badminton player Saina Nehwal and actor Rajkumar Rao participated in the 'Run for Viksit Bharat event' at Delhi University, with an aim to spread the message of how they can turn 'ambassadors' and contribute to the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Saina Nehwal said that India is realising its own potential and the citizens must not see themselves as lesser than anyone. Citing an example of badminton, she said "Earlier China and Korea used to dominate the game but today, Indian players have given them a run

for their money."

Rajkumar Rao termed the Viksit Bharat event as a path-breaking initiative and said that the combined effort of countrymen will help achieve this target with ease.

The actor, having graduated from Delhi University, also expressed happiness over returning to the campus after a long gap and urged everyone to fulfil their responsibility by casting their vote.

Over the past few months, the Viksit Bharat Ambassador event has made a conscious effort to connect and inspire citizens from every sphere of life pertaining to students, working class and spirituality, corresponding with the multifarious growth and development in various sectors. The Run event at Delhi University has given fresh vigour to the organisers as well as 'Ambassadors' to break new grounds and add new 'agents of change' for making India a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Corruption, appeasement politics link Cong, BRS: PM Modi

IAN S

KARIMNAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday termed Congress and BRS as the two sides of the same coin, saying corruption, appeasement politics and zero governance model link the two parties.

Alleging that Congress and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) are part of the same corruption syndicate, the Prime Minister said they are covering up each other's scams.

He was addressing a public meeting here in support of the BJP candidates for Karimnagar, Peddapalli and Adilabad Lok Sabha constituencies.

He said that corruption is a common characteristic of both parties. "They accused each other of corruption but from the backdoor, they are part of the same corruption syndicate," he said and mentioned that when BRS was in power it did not investigate cash for vote allegations and now the Congress government is silent on the corruption in Kaleshwaram project.

Claiming that BJP always follows the principle of nation first, he alleged that Congress and BRS work on the principle of family first. "By the family, for the family, of the family is their gameplan," he said and called on people to save Telangana from this alliance.

PM Modi said when Telangana was formed, people reposed their faith in TRS (now BRS) but by working only for one family, it shattered the dreams of all families. He alleged that Congress has the same history as people had big hopes from the party after Independence.

He also alleged that the appeasement bond is strong between Congress and BRS. He remarked that the two parties had given Hyderabad on lease to MIM.

"For the first time, BJP has challenged MIM. MIM is worried over this but Congress and BRS look more worried than MIM. Both the parties are trying for MIM's win," he said.

PM Modi reiterated the allegation of 'RR tax' in Telangana. "One R loots

Telangana and sends it to another R in Delhi. This RR game will destroy Telangana," he said.

He also remarked that the collection of 'RR' has surpassed the collection of the Telugu blockbuster 'RRR'.

Taking a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said every day he used to talk of '5 businessmen' and later he converted it into Ambani and Adani. As soon as the elections came, he stopped naming them. The prince should publicly tell people how much money he has taken from both in this election, he said.

He also alleged that the Congress wants to snatch reservations of SCs, STs and BCs and give them to Muslims. He reiterated that there is no scope in the Constitution for religion-based reservation.

He also reiterated the allegation that the Congress was conspiring to lock Ram temple and overturn the court verdict in the case.

PM Modi invoked former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in his

home district of Karimnagar. He alleged that Congress insulted him even after his death by not allowing his body to be brought into Congress office.

Stating BJP and NDA conferred Bharat Ratna on Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister said he was happy to meet the entire family of the former Prime Minister in Hyderabad Tuesday night and felt proud to learn about his works.

He remarked that in the third phase of the Lok Saha elections, the third fuse of the Congress and the INDI alliance was also burnt. He exuded confidence that the BJP and NDA will march ahead in the remaining four phases.

He claimed that in Karimnagar people have already declared victory of BJP MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

He said that the Congress party was sure to lose as it could hardly convince somebody to contest from here. He remarked that BRS is nowhere to be seen.

Byju's pays April salary in full, except to sales employees

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Embattled edtech platform Byju's has paid full salary for April to employees in all functions, except sales staff, even as the company is facing a liquidity crisis.

According to sources, the edtech firm managed to pay the full amount to employees on Friday after two months of partial payment.

Byju's has yet to pay the remaining part of the

salaries for February and March.

Salaries had earlier been delayed for both months, with only part of the payments being paid to employees later in the respective months.

As per the sources, the salaries were paid from revenue generated and debt raised by the founders earlier.

This comes after the edtech firm rolled out a new policy linking sales employees' salaries to the

revenue they generate every week.

According to an internal company document, the new company policy is currently applicable to sales teams, including the Inside Sales (IS) and Byju's Exam Prep (BEP) teams.

The new policy, which is applicable for a period of four weeks till May 21, will ensure the disbursement of a percentage of the weekly revenue generated by sales staff, as per the document.

High possibility of 8 pc GDP growth for India in 2023-24: CEA Nageswaran

IAN S

NEW DELHI: There is a high possibility of India's economic growth touching 8 per cent in 2023-24, government's Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran said on Wednesday.

Speaking at an event here, the CEA said that he expected a 7 per cent GDP growth rate for 2024-25 and it was important to maintain it. He also said that infla-

tion was expected to remain under control and the country was in a position to pursue a stable "non-inflationary" growth path.

"We don't see, at the moment, scope for nasty upside surprises on inflation. There can always be scenarios in geopolitics that can cause inflation to be more than we expect, but at this point the baseline scenario is that inflation gradually converges to



the mid-point of the target range," Nageswaran said.

He was referring to the 4 per cent mid-point target range set by the Monetary Policy Committee before the central bank starts to

reduce key interest rates to spur growth.

The inflation rate came down to a five-month low of 4.85 per cent in March. However, the RBI is still focused on controlling inflation before it goes in for a cut in interest rates.

India's GDP growth for 2024-25 is projected at 7 per cent while the forecast for inflation for the year has been retained at 4.5 per cent, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said recently.

The RBI Governor said,

"Headline inflation has eased to 5.1 per cent during both January and February, and this has come down to 5.1 per cent in these two months from the earlier peak of 5.7 per cent in the month of December. Looking ahead, robust growth prospects provide the policy space to remain focused on inflation and ensure its descent to the target of 4 per cent."

Apple growers in Kashmir 'stop' cold storage packing as prices witness downfall

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: In a concerning turn of events for apple growers, the persistently plummeting rates of their produce have prompted many to abandon packing operations for their stored produce.

As per the details available, the growers and traders have stopped packing their produce as rates have gone further down, thereby creating financial strain for growers and traders.

Employees working in cold storage units said that with cold storage units brimming with apples yet to be packed, growers and traders aren't in position to pack their produce as they are facing tough choices amid the market downturn.

They said that most of the growers and traders have suspended packing operations that underscores the severity of the situation, with growers grappling to mitigate losses in the face of dwindling profits.

Experts believe that



there are many reasons behind the down markets and one of the main reasons is the import of apples from different countries including Africa, Iran.

They emphasized the need for strategic interventions to support apple growers during this critical period who have been suffering heavy losses.

They said that there is a need for market stabilization measures and concerted efforts are essential to

safeguarding the livelihoods of growers and traders.

Shahid Ahmad an employee of a Cold storage unit said that traders purchased produce in the main season at good rates but currently they aren't getting even what they spent on it like rent, labour and other charges.

He said that rates in the last two weeks have dipped further and apples are being sold at around Rs 600-650 per box that

was around 1200-1500 in the main season.

Growers who have kept their produce in CA stores said that they have been facing huge losses and if the government won't intervene, they will lose trust in this vital sector.

They have sought the attention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the concerned authorities to take steps to save growers and traders at this critical stage—(KNO)

LG chairs high-level meeting to review functioning of Culture Deptt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of Department of Culture.

The Lt Governor discussed the matters related to promotion of glorious culture and heritage of J&K UT and took stock of the measures taken for protection and preservation of cultural heritage. The Lt Governor emphasised on protection and promotion of diversity of architectural expressions and suggested improvement in existing policy framework. The Lt Governor



also enquired about the response of public towards the libraries established by the department. He took note of the facilities extended to book lovers and called for broader outreach to younger generations through digital platforms. The meeting discussed

various other issues related to the promotion and popularization of Museums and the digitization of archival material in possession of the department. The Lt Governor called for extending all the necessary facilities to the visitors at museums and libraries for elevated intellectual and

cultural experiences. Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Culture department; HoDs and concerned senior officials attended the meeting.

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

GDC G'bl organises inter-college Seminar on 'My First Vote'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: An inter-college seminar was organised by the Debates Committee of Government Degree College (GDC) Ganderbal on the topic 'My First Vote: My First Step to Nation's Success and Progress'.

Various Colleges like GCET Safapora, GDC Kangan and Government Polytechnic College Ganderbal participated in the seminar.

The seminar was aimed at inspiring and encouraging ideas, vision and views among youth regarding the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Principal of the college, Prof Fouzia Fatima expressed her views regarding the importance of voting.

Earlier, Dr. Wasia, Convener Debates Committee introduced the topic and

welcomed the audience.

The program started with the student speakers from GDC Kangan which was followed by speakers from other colleges.

The judges for the seminar were Prof. Nazneen Qureshi (head Dept of political science), Dr. Wasia (Convener, Debates and Seminar Committee) and Dr. Jamsheeda (Head, Dept of Urdu).

Mania Shakeel, student from GCET Safapora secured the first position, Shakeel Ahmad, student from GDC Ganderbal secured the second position and Bushra Zehgeer, student from GCET Safapora secured the third position.

The winners were felicitated by the Principal and the senior faculty members of the college. All the students were awarded the certificates of participation.

Notorious drug smuggler booked under PIT-NDPS in Sopore



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Acting tough against drug peddlers, smugglers, Jammu & Kashmir Police on Wednesday booked a notorious drug smuggler under PIT NDPS Act in Sopore after obtaining formal detention orders from competent authority.

"Sopore Police has booked a notorious drug smuggler namely Suhail Ahmad Zargar @Lala son of Bashir Ahmad Zargar resident of Behrampora Rafiabad under PIT-NDPS after obtaining formal detention orders from competent authority. The booked drug smuggler has

been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jammu," a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

Pertinently, many cases are registered against said drug smuggler and was still involved in drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to the local youth of the Police District Sopore and other areas of the district.

"The general public of Sopore appreciated the role played by the Police in taking action against drug peddlers/smugglers. Police is committed to take strict actions against such criminals as per the law," police said—(KNO)

DLSA Kupwara conducts Awareness programme under JJA



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: As per the strategic Action Plan 2024 of JK Legal Services Authority, an awareness programme regarding Juvenile, Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Prevention of Child Exploitation was Wednesday held at S.M City Hall, Kupwara.

The programme was conducted by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Board Kupwara under the supervision of Chairperson, DLSA (Pr. District & Session Judge) Kupwara, Shazia Tabsum and under the guidance of Secretary DLSA/Sub-Judge, Kupwara, Manzoor Ahmad Khan.

The programme was aimed at generating awareness among the participants about various Constitutional Provisions specific

to children and their rights besides develop a conceptual understanding of various rights of children and child protection policies and procedures, and gain an in-depth understanding of the psychosocial context of children in need of care and protection (CNCP) including legal frameworks.

Resource Person, Imtiyaz Ahmad empanelled Lawyer with DLSA Kupwara, gave an insight on the history behind enactment of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and also highlighted the prevention of child exploitation and to combat the alarming issues of child abuse and trafficking. He also stressed on the trauma faced by the child victim and the importance of their mental health and sought the intervention of the Support Persons to mitigate the survivors from being re-traumatized. He emphasised the sig-

nificance of understanding the constitutional framework of child rights and child protection. He also provided valuable insights into the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act and urged the attendees to gain a comprehensive understanding of its provisions.

Para Legal Volunteer, Irfan Ahmad Shah touched on the various provisions contained in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. PLVs were also apprised that while acting as Support Persons, they have to provide pre-trial counseling and to accompany the child victim for recording of the statement and also to familiarize the child victim with the Court and its environment.

The programme was attended by Staff Members of JJB Kupwara, Angan Wadi Workers, Para legal Volunteers, DLSA Kupwara, and other participants.

Three erring medical shops closed down in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: As many as three medical shops were closed down for non-observance of conditions of licenses and improper sale records maintenance in Kulgam district Wednesday.

The action against the erring was taken during an inspection of around 25 medicine establishments in Buchroo, Tarigam, Bolsoo, Yaripora, Hangalbuch and other adjoining areas where 03 shops were closed down on spot for violating conditions of licenses and non installation of CBS.

In pursuance to NCORD directives, continuous efforts are on by Drug Control Authorities in Kulgam dist. to plug gaps to achieve a robust system of sale purchase record maintenance by chemists and wholesale dealers.

Awareness cum training session was also conducted with Yaripora chemists to sensitize them with CBS and its advantages for inventory management. Many shop owners installed the CBS system on spot for raising digital invoices.

SVEEP programme engages Pulwama Youth in Democratic Participation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The District Election Office, Pulwama, in collaboration with the Cultural Education Wing, Wednesday successfully hosted a vibrant SVEEP programme at Baghi Sangerwani.

The event, aimed at fostering democratic engagement among Pulwama youth, witnessed enthusiastic participation from various segments of the community.

The day-long event showcased a rich tapestry of cultural expressions, including mesmerizing Gojri performances, insightful skits and creative painting exhibitions. One of the highlights of the



programme was the mock polling exercise, providing an immersive experience in the electoral process for new voters and school students alike.

Chief Education Officer Pulwama, gracing the

responsibility among the younger generation.

Speaking about the event, DEO Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom said: "By fostering a culture of active citizenship and electoral participation, we empower the next generation to become informed and responsible stewards of our democracy."

The event served as a platform for cultural exchange besides also as a catalyst for nurturing a robust democratic ethos within the community.

Participants left the event inspired and equipped with the knowledge and enthusiasm to play an active role in shaping the future of Pulwama and beyond.

Workshop cum awareness camp organized for industrial unit holders in G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: District Industries Centre (DIC) Ganderbal, under the direction of Director Industries & Commerce, Kashmir, organized a Workshop cum Awareness Camp aimed at fortifying the business ecosystem in the region. The camp, spearheaded by General Manager (GM), DIC Ganderbal, witnessed active participation from unit holders, including Presidents of Industrial Associations.

The primary objective of the camp was to disseminate knowledge about the incentive schemes offered by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, with a specific focus on the Department of Industry & Internal Trade's (DPIIT's) New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS-2021) for industrial development



of J&K. A resource person from DPIIT PIU team Kashmir elucidated the benefits of the scheme, catering to new units, existing units, and those undergoing expansion. These incentives encompass

a range of benefits, including 30/50% Capital Investment Incentive (CII), 6% Capital Interest Subvention (CIS), 100% GST Linked Incentive (GSTLI), and 5% Working Capital Interest Subvention

(WCIS). Furthermore, participants were briefed on the requisite documents for registration and the application process for availing the incentives.

A detailed question

and answer session fostered meaningful dialogue between DIC officials and unit holders, providing a platform for unit holders to voice their suggestions and address issues at the apex level. The GM, attentively listening to the grievances of the unit holders, pledged unwavering support to ensure the efficient functioning of each unit. Unit holders were encouraged to view DIC as their one-stop solution for all business-related matters, fostering a conducive business environment in Jammu and Kashmir.

The camp culminated with a vote of thanks, and on-the-spot registrations for NCSS were facilitated for units with prepared documents, streamlining the process and empowering industrial unit holders to avail the benefits of the scheme promptly.

SVEEP

Chairman DLSA Srinagar flags-off 'Run for Democracy' marathon

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar in association with District Election Office, Srinagar Wednesday organized an awareness programme as part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign to educate the general masses about the importance of casting their vote.

The programme was held under the chairmanship and guidance of Jawad Ahmed, Chairman DLSA Srinagar.

The awareness programme began with a marathon 'Run for Democracy' from ADR Centre, District Court Srinagar to Tangpora Batmaloo area, which was flagged-off by Jawad

Ahmed, Chairman DLSA Srinagar.

The marathon witnessed the enthusiastic participation of Jahangir Ahmed Bakshi, Secretary DLSA Srinagar, Molvi Muzaffar Hussain C.A.O of District Court Srinagar, Members of Legal Aid Defense Councils, Panel Lawyers, Officials and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar, officials of Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

The event was aimed to sensitize the citizens about their fundamental right to vote and the significance of participating in the democratic process.

Chairman DLSA Srinagar emphasized the importance of voter participation and the rights of voters. He emphasized

that exercising one's right to vote is essential for shaping the future of the country and ensuring that the voices of the people are heard.

Secretary, DLSA Srinagar also stressed the need for active participation of citizens in the electoral process. He highlighted the role of the DLSA in promoting awareness about the electoral process and encouraging citizens to exercise their franchise.

The main objective of the SVEEP campaign is to increase voter turnout and promote electoral participation among the citizens of Srinagar.

The event was a huge success, with hundreds of people participating in the marathon and awareness programme.