

# Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication



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## Naqvi Slams Cong-NC Alliance For J&K Polls



**IAN S**

**NEW DELHI:** Former Union Minister and senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, on Saturday, rebuked West Bengal government's method of seeking justice for the doctor, whose rape and murder at a state-run hospital there left the nation enraged.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, in conversation with IANS, said that Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee should focus more on healing the wounds of the people rather than writing letters or holding protest marches. He also came down heavily on the Congress-National Conference (NC) alliance for the upcoming elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

IANS: West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has written a letter to the Central government asking for justice in the rape and murder case at R.G. Kar Medical College. What is your opinion on this?

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi: It would be better for Mamata Ji to address the wounds and anger of the people there rather than writing letters or holding protest marches. Your letters, protests, or attempts to cover things up will not succeed in quelling the anger and distress caused by such a heinous crime. If she thinks that these superficial measures will absolve her of responsibility, she is mistaken.

IANS: The Congress and NC are once again allying. What are your thoughts on this?

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi: The Congress is

## Quadrilateral Contest Between INC, BJP, Two Independents

**AMIR TANTRAY**

**CONSTITUENCY PROFILE: Inderwal-48 AC**

**JAMMU:** Inderwal Assembly constituency, the biggest constituency of Kishtwar district in terms of area, is one of the most difficult seats of Chenab valley where the fight will be quadrilateral and the pendulum can swing to any side depending upon the campaigning and issues raised.

The constituency spreads from Marwah-Warwan in the north to Bonjwah in the south and touches different areas like Chatroo, Mughal Maidan and others.

After the delimitation of Assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, this constituency also got a new shape. Marwah and Warwan were earlier part of Kishtwar constituency whereas Drabshala and adjoining areas were part of Inderwal constituency. Now, Marwah-Warwan are part of Inderwal whereas Drabshala and adjoining areas are part of Kishtwar constituency.

The total number of votes, as per the data available with Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Jammu and Kashmir, in this constituency is 64101 which include 33189 male, 30911 female and one third gender voter. These electorates are eligible to vote during upcoming Assembly elections on this seat which will go for polls on September 18 in the first phase of Assembly elections.

At present nine candidates are contesting on this seat which include Muhammad Zafarullah of Indian National Congress (INC), Taraq Hussain Keen of Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), three-time Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Ghulam Muhammad Saroori who is contesting as an independent candidate, National Conference (NC) rebel Pyare Lal Sharma, who is also contesting as an independent candidate.

**THE CONSTITUENCY SPREADS FROM MARWAH-Warwan in the north to Bonjwah in the south and touches different areas like Chatroo, Mughal Maidan and others.**

## Pak Supporters Seeking Votes In Name Of Unity: BJP



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Those who have been supporting Pakistan and have always tried to divide people, are now seeking votes in the name of unity, BJP's national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Saturday said, hitting out at NC chief Farooq Abdullah.

Chugh said Abdullah's remarks on unity in the country was a "filmy drama" and that he was "shedding crocodile tears" at the time of elections.

Earlier in the day, National Conference (NC) president Abdullah said India is known for unity in diversity and governments must protect every religion. The remark came a day after the Assam Assembly scrapped a two-hour 'namaz' break provided to Muslim legislators on Fridays.

"This country is known for unity in diversity. We have every religion and every language, be it Tamil Nadu, Kashmir, Bengal or

## Top Army Officer Reviews Security Situation In Chenab Valley



**AGENCIES**

**JAMMU:** A top Army officer on Saturday reviewed the security situation in the Doda and Kishtwar districts of Chenab valley, which is going to polls along with south Kashmir districts in the first phase on September 18, officials said.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Jammu-based White Knight Corps Lt General Navin Sachdeva also assessed the annual three-day Kailash Kund Yatra which commenced from Dudu-Basantgarh in the Udhampur district on Friday amid heightened vigil and aerial surveillance.

## Poll Body Reschedules Date Of Counting To Oct 8 In J&K, Haryana

**AGENCIES**

**SRINAGAR:** The Election Commission of India on Saturday rescheduled the date of counting for Jammu and Kashmir polls following change in date of polling for Haryana to October 5.

According to an order, the poll body rescheduled the date of counting from October 4 to October 8.

The EC in a statement said that the rescheduling had been done to honour both the voting rights and the traditions of the community, which has upheld a 300-year-old practice in remembrance of their Guru Jambheshwar.

Voting for J&K Assembly elections will be conducted in three phases, with the first phase on September 18, the second phase on September 25 and the third and final phase on October 1.

The decision has been taken after several representations were received by the poll body to reschedule election in Haryana, which was due to be held on October 1. Now assembly election in Haryana will be held on October 5 and counting of votes for Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana will now take place on October 8, the polity body said.

## CS Reviews Implementation Of Jal Shakti Abhiyan In J&K



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Saturday chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan-Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR) campaign in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretaries of Jal Shakti and Forest, Ecology & Environment Departments; Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production; Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission; Deputy Commissioners and other senior officers of JSD.

An overview of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan was provided and the progress made so far was reviewed for different districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

Discussions were

## Kashmir's Fruit Industry Resumes Apple Exports To Bangladesh



**JAHANGIR SIFI**

**SRINAGAR:** With the political situation in Bangladesh showing signs of stabilisation, Kashmir's fruit industry has cautiously resumed its apple exports to the country, particularly the American Apple variety.

The development comes after weeks of uncertainty when unrest in Bangladesh had severely impacted trade, leading to concerns among Kashmiri fruit growers and dealers.

Shahid Choudhary, a senior member of the fruit growers body in Kashmir said the resumption of apple exports to Bangladesh is a much-needed respite not only for him but for all the growers who work entire year to ensure a quality produce for foreign markets.

"It is a much-needed relief for both dealers and growers. The recent unrest in Bangladesh created uncertainty among all of us. We were unsure of any orders this year," he said.

Choudhary said the fresh resumption of the apple export trade was a welcome development and has spread happiness among the growers and dealers.

Bashir Ahmad Bashir, the president of the apex fruit body representing Kashmir's fruit growers, told KNO that in recent days, shipments of the American Apple varieties have started reaching Bangladeshi markets.

He, however, noted that while the export market has not yet fully recovered, there was optimism among growers. "We are hopeful that in the coming days, the volume of orders from Bangladeshi buyers will increase," Bashir said.

Notably, during the harvest season in Kashmir, several apple traders from Bangladesh camp in Kashmir to buy and meet the demand for Kashmiri apples in their homeland.

According to Choudhary, Bangladesh is an important market for varieties of apples from Kashmir, especially American Apples.

"We export over 70 percent American apple variety produce to Bangladeshi markets," he said.

It is pertinent to

## Expecting Huge Participation Of Youth, Others In Polls: CEO



**UMAI SER GUL**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Pandurang K Pole Saturday said that all the preparations for the elections have been completed and that he was expecting large participation of youth and others in the democratic process.

"Elections belong to everyone, be it tribals or urban, youth or women, elderly or first time voters. It is a festival of democracy. All arrangements are in place and election teams are on way to their polling booths," he said.

Pole said that campaigning will pick up now as the date of filing nomination papers and withdrawal of papers is over.

"We urge people to participate in large numbers. We will ensure free and fair polls," he said while talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function at Altam Memorial College Kilam, Kulgam district—(KNO)

### INOX SRINAGAR

## Sunday Movies Schedule

01 SEPTEMBER

TICKETS AT: [www.bookmyshow.com](http://www.bookmyshow.com) | [www.inoxmovies.com](http://www.inoxmovies.com)  
Paytm, Inox App or Directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

**REHNA HAI TERRE DIL MEIN (RE-RELEASE) (HINDI) (U) 05:00PM**

**LAILA MAJNU (RE-RELEASE) (HINDI) (U/A) 02:00PM, 04:10PM**

9541613868 For assistance with tickets

**AFRAID (ENGLISH) (U/A) 11:20AM, 07:00PM**

**VAAZHA-BIOPIC OF A BILLION BOYS (MALAYALAM) (U/A) 01:20PM**

**STREE 2 SARKATE KA AATAANK (HINDI ATMOS) (U/A) 12:30PM, 03:30PM, 06:30PM (HINDI) 11:00AM**

**ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS-2024**

# CEO visits Kulgam, reviews poll preparedness

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**KULGAM:** Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K, Pandurang K Pole, Saturday visited Kulgam district to review the arrangements for the General Assembly Elections 2024.

He chaired a comprehensive meeting here at mini-secretariat to discuss and review the election preparations in all three Assembly Constituencies; 38-D.H.Pora, 39-Kulgam and 40-Devsar of the District.

The meeting was attended by District Election Officer Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan; SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal; Returning Officers (ROs), Additional Deputy Commissioner, Deputy District Election Officers (Dy-DEO), Nodal Officers, and other stakeholders.

Discussions covered key aspects of election management, including manpower deployment, EVM transportation, polling staff arrangements, Strong room, security protocols, functioning of Control Room and other arrangements for smooth conduct of elections.

The District Election Officer Kulgam provided an overview of the district's election management plans and informed the chair that the first randomization of EVMs has been done.

ROs also briefed the chair about the preparations in their Assembly



constituencies.

The CEO was also informed that a 24x7 control room is operational in the district with ongoing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities are also going on as per devised calendar.

CEO emphasized on the continuation of SVEEP initiatives to educate and engage voters effectively, and urged for mega planta-

tion drives at all green polling stations.

Security arrangements were also reviewed during the meeting, with the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) briefed on the measures in place to ensure a safe election environment.

The CEO stressed the importance of providing adequate facilities at polling stations, including clean washrooms, drinking water,

first aid, and proper electricity supply for polling staff and security personnel.

The CEO also inspected Distribution cum Collection centre set up at GDC Kulgam to assess the safety, surveillance, and security measures for the election materials and machinery.

He also took round of control room, media Centre and took stock of their functioning.

In a separate event,

the CEO presided over a Mega SVEEP Programme at Altar Memorial GDC Kilam, aimed at raising awareness about the importance of voting.

The program witnessed a variety of activities, including folk music and sports activities, all designed to foster voter awareness.

During the program, students and newly eligible voters actively engaged in a variety of activities, all of which aimed to instill a sense of civic duty and enthusiasm among participants and raise awareness about the significance of voting.

Addressing on the occasion CEO said that SVEEP, is the flagship initiative focused on voter education, raising voter awareness, and promoting voter literacy.

He urged voters to come out in large number and every eligible voter to exercise their right to vote on September 18th 2024.

Speaking on the occasion the DEO Kulgam said that all necessary arrangements are in place to conduct free fair and smooth elections in the district.

He also appealed voters to use their right to vote on 18th of September 2024.

Earlier, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, DEO Kulgam, SSP and DPO ICDS kick-started a special plantation drive at Mini Secretariat under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam".

# Toyota Kirloskar Motor Partners with Union Bank of India



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Union Bank of India to offer comprehensive and accessible vehicle financing options. The partnership aims to provide innovative and attractive financing solutions to meet the evolving needs of customers, making Toyota vehicles more accessible than ever. Under this partnership,

customers will enjoy up to 90% financing on the on-road price of Toyota vehicles for private use, with no foreclosure or part-payment charges. Additionally, customers will have access to flexible financing options with competitive interest rates, including tenures of up to 84 months for private vehicles and up to 60 months for commercial vehicles.

This collaboration is a significant step towards enhancing customer experience and making Toyota vehicles more affordable for a wider audience. With Union Bank's extensive network and Toyota's commitment to customer satisfaction, this partnership is poised to make a significant impact in the automotive finance sector.

The partnership will also enable Toyota to expand its reach in rural and semi-urban areas, where access to financing options is often limited. (KNT)

**ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

# DEO G'bal inspects RO Office Kangan, reviews arrangements

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**GANDERBAL:** The District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir Saturday conducted a thorough inspection of the Returning Officer (RO) office for 17-Kangan Assembly Constituency and Distribution cum Receipt Centre (DRCR), ensuring that all preparations are in place for the upcoming Assembly elections.

During the visit, the DEO emphasized the importance of strict adherence to the guidelines laid down by the Election Commission of India (ECI), particularly in relation to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). He directed the officials at the RO office established in the office of SDM Kangan to ensure that every guideline is meticulously followed and that any violations shall be reported without delay.

He directed the SDM Kangan, Bilal Mukhtar who is also the RO for Kangan Assembly Con-



stituency to ensure all arrangements like Signage, help desk and Control room are fully functional to ensure seamless nomination process in the sub-division.

The DEO maintained that the election process is paramount and is our responsibility to ensure that the process is conducted in a fair and transparent manner, with strict adherence to the rules set by the ECI. He said that any breach of the Model Code of Conduct will be dealt with seriously, and urged all officials to remain

vigilant.

He also reviewed the arrangements made for the smooth functioning of the Distribution and Receipt Centre established within the Degree College Kangan, ensuring that all necessary resources are in place to facilitate a seamless election process.

The DEOs visit reflects the district administration's commitment to maintaining a high standard of electoral integrity and ensuring that the democratic process is upheld with the utmost transparency.

**UNDERWEIGHT CYLINDERS**

# LMD Srinagar slaps fine of Rs. 1.5 lacs upon LPG Dealer

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SRINAGAR:** The Enforcement unit of Legal Metrology Department (LMD) Srinagar which is entrusted with the mandate of ensuring accurate quantity of goods and services to Consumers Saturday realized a fine of Rs. 1.5 Lacs from LPG distributor for selling underweight Cylinders to Consumers.

The LPG Cylinders which were earlier found underweight by 400 grams against the declared quantity of 14.2 Kg were seized by the department from Srinagar after which the matter was raised with the supplier of these Cylinders who pleaded for compounding of this offence at departmental level.

Acting in terms of the provisions of Legal Metrology Act 2009, the office of

Legal Metrology Enforcement Srinagar imposed and realized Rs. 1.5 Lacs as fine after an undertaking was submitted by the offender that he will abide by the provisions of Legal Metrology Act in letter and spirit.

It is pertinent to mention that during the Current Financial year (2024-25), the Legal Metrology Department J&K has acted tough upon the erring LPG distributors by way of imposing the penalty of Rs. 7.14 Lacs so far.

Along with the fine, the LPG suppliers and agencies are being apprised about the issue of sale of underweight cylinders and have been instructed to ensure that customers are provided gas delivery as per the amount they have contracted for and any lapse in this regard

will be strictly dealt with in terms of the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and LPG Regulation (Supply and Distribution Order) 2000.

It is worth mentioning that it is the duty of every LPG Agency to ensure the weight of LPG Cylinders in presence of the Consumer before delivering it to them. The weight needs to be conducted only by using the weighing scale which is duly verified by the Legal Metrology Department.

The Consumers have also been repeatedly requested to check the price of the LPG which keeps changing every month by the Oil Marketing Companies and in case of any overcharging or underweight they may lodge their complaint before the Legal Metrology Department in this regard.

**ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

# Youth in B'la join hands to form Human Chain to encourage Voter Participation



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**BARAMULLA:** To encourage maximum voter participation ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, the District Administration Baramulla Saturday organized a grand SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) program in the main town of Baramulla.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of hundreds of new voters who came together and joined hands to form a human chain, symbolizing unity and commitment towards a vibrant democratic process.

The rally, which commenced from Govt Boys' Higher Secondary School, Baramulla, proceeded through the main town, with participants carrying banners and placards,

highlighting the importance of voting and the power of individual voices in shaping the future of the region.

The human chain, formed by the energetic new voters, not only aimed to inspire the first-time voters but also to remind the broader community of the importance of exercising their voting rights.

The event also saw the participation of the Returning Officer for 10-Baramulla, Arshad Ahmad Khan, Nodal Officer for SVEEP in Baramulla, along with other officers and officials of district administration.

Following the rally, a signature campaign was organized at Kariapa Park where the new voters and other citizens pledged their commitment to participate in the forthcoming elections.

**Assembly Elections**

# Vibrant Voter Awareness program held in Pattan

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**BARAMULLA:** In view of the Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir, a comprehensive voter awareness program was held in Pattan Saturday under SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) aimed to educate and engage the electorate, about the importance of voting and the electoral process.

The SVEEP programme was organized under the overall guidance of Returning Officer

for 13-Pattan, Gulzar Ahmad Rather, who also participated in the event.

The event commenced with a vibrant new-voter rally in which hundreds of first-time voters participated, marching through various localities of the town, effectively spreading the message of voter awareness.

Throughout the course of the SVEEP program, various engaging cultural activities were held to inspire and educate the public about the democratic process.

# DIPR Jammu bids adieu to retiring officials



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**JAMMU:** Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu bid a warm farewell to Information Assistant Neel Kamal and PAS Operator Ashok Kumar who attained superannuation Saturday.

Neel Kamal Information Assistant served in the department for over 33 years whereas PAS Operator Ashok Kumar served for 28 years. An impressive function was organized in the Auditorium of DIPR to bid farewell to the officials.

Joint Director Information, Atul Gupta; Deputy Director (PR) Jammu,

Ankush Hans; Deputy Director (HQ), Virender Gupta; Field Publicity Officer, Mukesh Kumar, Youth Information Officer, Monika Sambyal; Information Officers, Sachin Bali, Ashu Kumari besides other officers and officials of the department and family members of retiring officials attended the function.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director Information hailed the services rendered by the retiring officials in DIPR and congratulated them on their retirement. He extended his best wishes to the officials for their post-retirement life and opined that

post-retirement life could be dedicated to the betterment of society.

Other officers and colleagues also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the contribution of the retiring officials in the department. The officers and officials of DIPR also appreciated retiring officials for their dedicated service career in the department and congratulated them on their superannuation.

On the occasion, a colourful cultural programme was presented by the artists of culture unit of the department which were highly appreciated by the audience.

Email: Exenlangate11@gmail.com  
Office Address: Langate Near Boys Higher Secondary - 193302

**Government of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir**

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION LANGATE

**M/S Javaid Ahmad Sheikh  
S/O Haji Mohammad Subhan Sheikh  
R/O Lawoosa Nowgam**

### FINAL NOTICE

**Subject: Construction of Road from Gamander Banjer via Hajam Mohalla under NABARD XXV.**

**Reference: Allotment Nose/BLA/ 10631-33 Dated: 07-10-2021.**

- Whereas you were allotted the above-mentioned work vide allotment No: SE/BLA/10631-33 Dated. 07-10-2021.
- Whereas the work is scheduled to be completed within 03 years from the date of issuance of allotment.
- Whereas, several notices were issued to you from Sub-divisional level as well as Divisional level, wherein you were asked to accelerate the progress of the work and ensure its completion well within the stipulated time.
- Whereas recently the notices vide this office no. EE/RnB/985-87 Dated. 09.07.2024 and EE/RnB/1101-03 Dated. 12.07.2024 were issued to you, wherein you were apprehended with the facts about the project and you were directed to increase the pace of execution keeping in view the time left for completion of the project as per the allotment. However, you have wasted almost two more months without taking any concrete step for completion of the work
- Whereas, as per the allotment, only 1 month is left with you to complete the balance 50% of the project which seems impossible keeping in view your pace of work as well as performance during last 2 years and 11 months.
- Whereas, as per the terms and conditions laid down in the NIT/Allotment and Agreement duly signed by you, you are entitled to penalty up to 10% of the total value of the work, besides, forfeiture of your CDR, debarment from participation in tendering process in future and inviting of fresh tenders on your risk and cost.

Now, you are hereby given a final chance to mobilize/ make necessary arrangements for starting the macadamization work and other items of work (yet to be executed) within 7 days from the publication of this notice through print media and ensure its completion within the stipulated time failing which the action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against you.

NO: EE/RnB/L/1709-16  
Dated: 31-08-2024DIPK-5273-24  
DT: 31/08/2024Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Langate

# JKJA organises two day sensitization programme on POCSO, POSH Act

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), guidance of Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and Members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, JKJA organized Two days Sensitization Programme on "POCSO Act and POSH Act with Special Reference to SAMVAD's Training Manual and Combating Gender Stereotypes; A Handbook released by the Supreme Court of India" for Judicial Officers, Trainee Civil Judges(Jr. Division), SPPs, Medical Officers, officers of Forensic Science laboratory, Officers of Police Department, members of Sexual Harassment Probe Committees, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and members of Gender Sensitization Internal Committees from all the districts of Kashmir province at J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar.

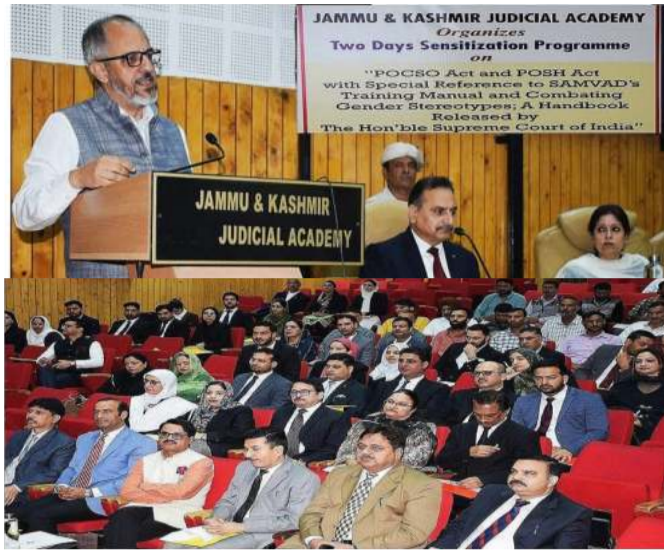
The sensitization programme was inaugurated by Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Member of the Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy in the august

presence of Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Chairperson, Sexual Harassment Probe Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Srinagar Wing) and Member of the Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy.

In his inaugural address, Justice Rahul Bharti in his inimitable and eloquent style underlined that bodily integrity and dignity of a female are something which have to be respected at all costs. He emphasised that with the emerging dangers, it was significant to introduce a special legislation which could provide a reliable system for mitigating the number of such offences and punishing the perpetrators.

Justice Bharti highlighted that sincerity, seriousness, sensitivity and sensibility are the four key words that need to be kept in mind 24x7 by all for avoiding the victimisation of the women at any level.

Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi in her special address highlighted the importance of good parenting including the importance of teaching our sons the way they should look at a girl rather than dictating what the girl should wear. She stressed upon the need to sensitize the males in our society to have the correct mind-set towards their female counterparts. Justice Kazmi underlined



that Gender discrimination based on gender biases and attitudes are a reality for many women and can occur at the workplace in n-number of ways.

Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi also underscored that importance of spreading awareness among the women so that they are sensitized about the actions that could be taken against the perpetrators of unlawful advancements.

Yash Paul Bournay, Director, JKJA welcomed the dignitar-

ies, resource persons including the participants and delivered the introductory remarks. He traced the tapestry of law from the Vishaka vs. State of Rajasthan judgment reported in AIR 1997 SC 3011 to the enactment of POSH Act.

He said that crimes against children have been on the rise since the past decade or more despite all laws. As against the increasing incidents of such diabolic crimes, there has been a corresponding decrease in the

conviction rate in such gruesome offences. He remarked that the incidents of sexual harassment are persistent in our society as highlighted by the recent Kolkata Rape and Murder Case of a trainee doctor. He accentuated that we all owe a sense of responsibility and obligation towards the creation of a safe and secure atmosphere at workplace for our woman colleagues and employees.

The first session of the day-1 was chaired by Justice Sonia G. Gokani, first woman Chief Justice (Retired), High Court of Gujarat who explained the objective, nature and contours of the POCSO Act. Her ladyship said that when we deal with child victim, we are dealing with the future of the nation and we need to try relentlessly to protect them.

Justice Gokani focused on the salient features of POCSO Act and underlined that Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 makes provisions for avoiding further re-victimisation of the child in the name of the judicial process.

In the second session, Justice Gokani gave a detailed overview on rehabilitation and compensation for Child Victims of Sexual Offences. The learned resource person reiterated that POCSO Act and related frameworks underscore the importance of addressing both the legal and emotional needs of the child.

She also underlined that by focusing on the parameters for determining compensation, balancing justice with child welfare, providing legal and medical aid, and ensuring access to counseling services, the legal system aims to create an environment where child victims can heal, regain their sense of self-esteem and pursue their dreams.

The third session of the programme was conducted by one of the most respected members of the Bar, Z.A. Shah, Sr. Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh. He said that the language of judicial discourse should not reflect antiquated or incorrect ideas about women which inhibits the transformative project of the law

and the Constitution scheme of gender justice striving to secure equal rights to all persons, irrespective of their gender.

He further said that language is critical to the life of the law and words are the vehicle through which the values of the law are communicated. He discussed that the Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes contains a glossary of gender-unjust terms and suggests alternative words or phrases which may be used while drafting pleadings as well as orders and judgments.

Z.A. Shah stated that government has recently introduced the Protection of Child against Sexual Offences Rules 2020 which takes care of the implementations of the amendments brought in the Act. He underlined that these latest changes bridge the gap and strengthens the interplay between JJ Act and POCSO by utilizing the appropriate authorities cited in Juvenile Justice Act.

All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the Learned resource persons.

## CS terms DM, MCH the bedrock of Super Specialty Healthcare

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Saturday chaired a meeting of Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department to review the functioning of Medical Colleges of the UT here.

Besides Secretary H&ME, the meeting was attended by Director, SKIMS; Principal GMC Srinagar/Jammu; Director Health Jammu/Kashmir and Principals of New Medical Colleges.

During meeting, the Chief Secretary observed that the aim of establishing new medical colleges is to bring tertiary healthcare nearer to people in peripheral areas. He made out that the introduction of DM/MCH/DNB in Medical Colleges is the benchmark of ascertaining their super specialty healthcare.

Dulloo also urged upon the Principals of these colleges to make efforts for introduction of these courses in all kinds of specialities where it has not been introduced yet. He advised them to proportionately enhance the seats in already available



courses.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the New Medical Colleges to strive for introduction of MD/MS courses. He enjoined upon them to make best use of the available infrastructure and human resources to make these colleges the hub of medical education in their respective districts.

Dulloo also took this occasion to imply upon the Department to constitute a team of experts to assess the tertiary care services in all the newly established Medical Colleges here.

He made out that a roadmap should be framed for all of these colleges to upgrade services there with specific timelines

for each of the suggested upgradation.

He remarked that such recommendations should be made in consultation with the respective college administrations who would be solely responsible to take the necessary steps in a time-bound manner.

The Secretary, H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah gave a detailed outline of the courses and tertiary care services, diagnostic facilities available in the Associated Hospitals of new Medical Colleges.

He also apprised the meeting about the proportion of high-end procedures/cases dealt by each Department in these colleges. He also laid out the

future programs of these colleges to upgrade or introduce the new services there.

The Principals of these colleges also highlighted the work performed during the past months. They gave insights about the position of faculty, infrastructure, machinery and equipments available with them and that in pipeline to be secured through JKMSCL.

The meeting also had elaborate discussions about bringing improvement in quality of services in these medical colleges along with that the Dental Colleges and of Unani/Ayurvedic Medical colleges found in various districts of J&K.

PULWAMA ASSEMBLY SEAT

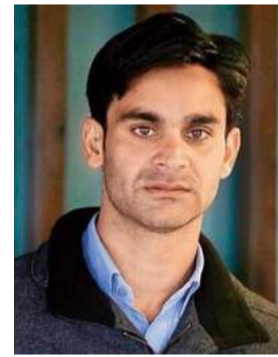
## Khalil Bhand, Waheed Para in tight contest as first phase of elections draws near

JAHANGEER GANAIE

**PULWAMA:** As the first phase of the assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir draws near, the Pulwama assembly segment in south Kashmir is set to witness a closely contested race. This seat is expected to see a tight battle between the National Conference's (NC) Mohammad Khalil Bhand, who has previously won this seat three times on a People's Democratic Party ticket, and Waheed Para, the youth leader of the PDP.

Bhand, a former minister in both PDP-led governments, secured the Pulwama seat in 2002, 2008, and 2014. However, he recently switched allegiance to the NC, and it remains to be seen how this move will affect his chances of winning.

Political analysts said that Bhand's work during his first tenure as Roads and Buildings (R&B) Minister in the 2002-2008 PDP-Congress government helped him maintain a stronghold on the seat. However, his performance from 2008-2014, when he was in opposition, and



after 2014, was perceived as less effective, especially with several infrastructure projects left incomplete.

They said that during his third term as MLA, Khalil experienced internal conflicts within the PDP. Although initially given charge of the Agriculture Department, he was not appointed to a ministerial position, which led to disagreements, and he eventually shifted to the NC after the government collapsed.

The PDP has nominated Waheed Para, who garnered huge support in the parliamentary elections for the Srinagar seat, with around 200,000 votes. Para received leads in both the



Pulwama and Rajpora assembly segments during those elections and is anticipated to provide a strong challenge to Bhand in the upcoming contest.

Notably, after delimitation, Para's native area, previously part of the Rajpora constituency, has now been included in the Pulwama constituency, while Litter Tehsil, where Bhand traditionally had a strong voter base, has moved to Rajpora.

Both Bhand and Para have been actively campaigning to attract voters, and political analysts suggest that Syed Bari Andrabi, the District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson of Pulwama who

recently resigned from the PDP, could play a decisive role in the election. Andrabi's endorsement could influence around 1,000 to 2,000 votes and impact the election outcome.

Talat Majeed Wani, a former member of Jamaat-e-Islami who is contesting as an independent after being associated with the Apni Party, might also attract a substantial number of votes that could sway the results, analysts believe.

Historically, the Pulwama seat has seen various representatives, including Master Sanaullah Sheikh in 1962, Sonaullah Dar of Congress in 1967 and 1972, Mohammad Ibrahim Dar of NC in 1977 and 1983, and Bashir Ahmad Nengro of NC in 1987 and 1996. Since then, Khalil Bhand has held the seat for the PDP.

The Pulwama Assembly segment, AC 34, consists of 99,555 voters, including 49,423 males, 50,130 females, and 2 transgender individuals. To ensure a smooth electoral process, 112 polling stations have been designated for this constituency—(KNO)

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

## CEO office J&K conducts conference to boost voter participation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** With a mission to boost maximum participation of electorates in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections commencing from 18th of September, 2024, the Chief Electoral Office (CEO) J&K on Saturday conducted a conference of UT/Districts ICONS through Online Mode.

The conference was held under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K, Rahul Sharma at Nirvachan Bhawan, Jammu, in presence of Akther Hussain Qazi, Nodal Officer SVEEP and Sapna Kotwal, Nodal Officer for Media.

The UT ICONS and influencers along with District Level Social Media ICONS coming from various fields of achievements including singing, music, sports, literature, technology, social work and others participated in the conference virtually.

The aim of the conference was to create awareness among the masses in



connection with upcoming J&K Assembly Elections 2024 to be held in 3 phases across the 90 Assembly Constituencies commencing from 18 September, 2024 and especially those who are the first time voters.

During the conference, the UT ICONS were urged to educate and influence the voters to participate the biggest democratic exercise of the J&K UT by using their skills and experience.

Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Rahul Sharma exhorted the ICONS to target Young Voters, PwDs, Tribals, slum dwellers, women, weaker sections and old age voters to ensure their maximum participation in the elections.

On the occasion, Nodal

Officer SVEEP gave some tips to the participants in creating video and audio messages for the masses and their publicity over the social platforms.

The messages should be completely neutral to achieve the target and not favour or disregard to any political party or candidate, he maintained.

The UT ICONS who attended this conference included, S. Chanddeep Singh, Sandhya Dhar, Ankush Sabharwal, Shivani Arora, Zodi, Imran Khan, Shwetima Jamwal, Sargam Koushal, Parvez Rasool, Faisal Ali Dar, Sonali Dogra, Mahfooz Elahi, Kabul Bukhari, Nazir Ahmed Lone, Bilkis Maqbool, Ashok Hans, Shazia Bashir, Aabha Hanjura and Sadia Tariq.

## Alliance with NC forged under national compulsion: Karra

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** Days after the pre-poll alliance and seat sharing was finalized between National Conference and Indian National Congress (INC), the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president, Tariq Hameed Karra on Saturday said that the alliance forged under the national compulsion and for the betterment of the people here.

Furthermore, the JKPCC Chief also confirmed the visit of All India Congress Committee (AICC) leader, Rahul Gandhi to Jammu and Kashmir on September 04.

Karra while speaking to the reporters during the joining of Irfan Hafiz Lone and former Kokernag MLA Abdul Rahim Rather in the partyfold, said that the party will become stronger in the future, but this time the alliance was forged under the national compulsion and for the betterment of people in Jammu and Kashmir.

Karra further informed the reporters that Rahul

Gandhi is scheduled to visit Jammu and Kashmir on September 4 to address the gathering in Banihal and Dooru constituencies.

From Banihal, the INC has fielded former PCC president Vikar Rasool Wani while from Dooru

lowing his earlier visit with AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge on August 22.

During that visit, Gandhi announced a strategic alliance with the National Conference (NC), affirming that Congress's interests would be



safeguarded within the coalition.

Both the parties have joined hands for the 90-seat J&K Assembly elections, though they will compete for five seats.

On August 30, NC Vice President Omar Abdullah commented on the difficulties of forming the alliance, acknowledging the necessary compromises but underscoring the importance of a united front against the BJP in the upcoming elections—(KNO)

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

## CEO visits Anantnag, reviews preparations for Assembly Elections



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K, PK Pole Saturday visited Anantnag and reviewed preparations for the upcoming General Elections to Legislative Assembly J&K 2024.

As part of his programme, the CEO visited Verinag where a colourful SVEEP programme consisting of cultural skits, singing programmes, Voter's pledge was organised. The CEO also presented awards for best Booth Awareness Groups on the occasion.

The Chief Electoral Officer in his speech exhorted the masses to vote enthusiastically in the upcoming

elections without fear or favour of inducements. He congratulated the people of Anantnag on their historic turnout in the Lok Sabha polls held earlier this year.

The CEO also flagged off Bike Rally to ensure that every eligible voter is informed, motivated, and ready to cast their vote in the upcoming elections.

Later, the CEO also held a review meeting with the election team of Anantnag headed by the District Election Officer, Fakhrudin Hamid, Nodal Officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers among others. He issued directions to all concerned to ensure free, fair, effective and error free elections.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

# Charlatans Galore

In a recent video which went viral over social media a man in Kashmir's countryside is administering snake healing to people. The way of administering the therapy is by wrapping the snake around the affected part of the body and demanding money from the affected patients for unwrapping the snake from their bodies. In the video it can be clearly seen that the man insists that he is not going to unwrap the snake unless the treated patient pays a hefty sum. From the ongoing chatter one can gather that this was the second of such snakes that this gentleman had caught in about a week's time and was using it to treat the patients. The gullible people are ready to pay any price to get treated. This man is preying on their gullibility and in the process bringing unbearable pain to the snake. In the infamous video the snake can be seen writhing in pain as it is tied around the head and shoulders of the person seeking snake therapy. There are many clauses of the law through which this person can be sent to jail for using wildlife for healing purposes without permission from the relevant authorities. The charlatans of such nature using the eagle's claws, tail of Mongoose and feathers of certain birds to treat different ailments are found roaming in the length and breadth of Kashmir valley. Sometimes the authorities do not see them and sometimes they conveniently look the other way. Using wildlife for healing of any kind has to be vetted by the government authorities. Using an alive wildlife species without any scientific body validating is pure quackery. The people doing this must face the strictest provisions of the law. An appeal must go out to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to personally look into the matter. Harming wildlife should be considered a serious offence. The offender should receive the strictest possible punishment.

# Rape Culture: The Jig Is Up!

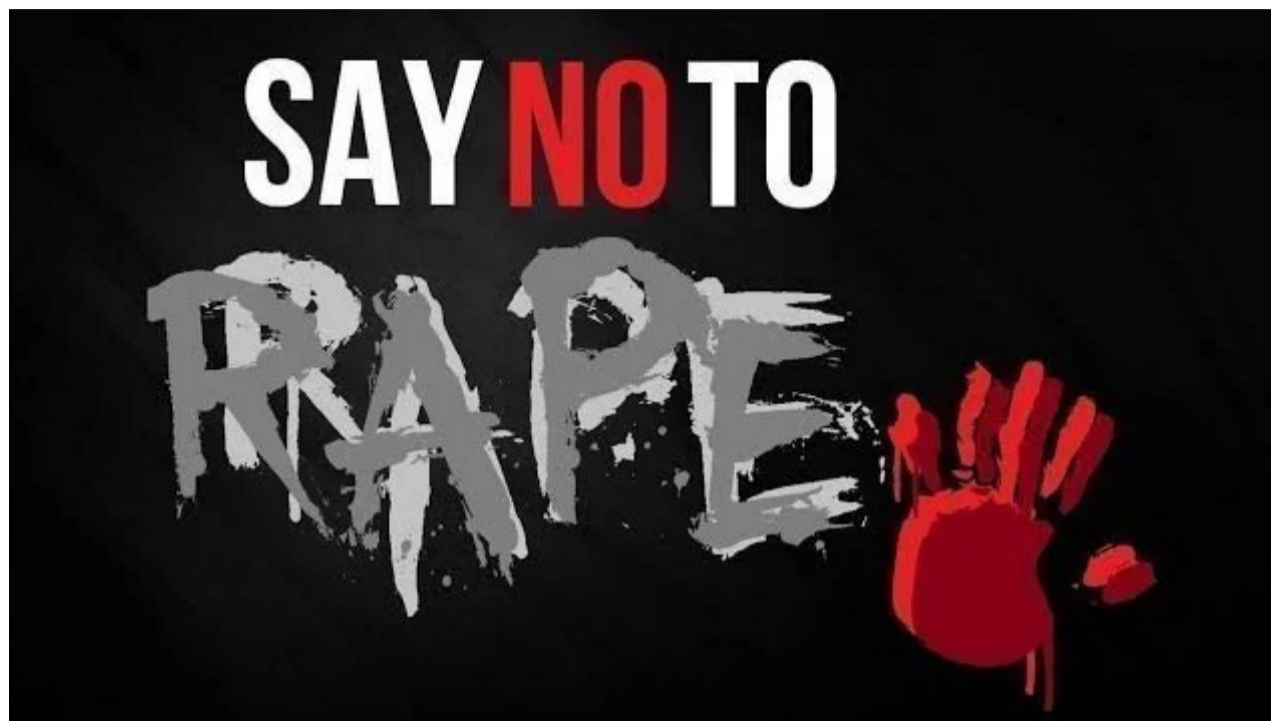
SWATI SHIKHA

Each year millions of Indians celebrate the killing of an Asura King by Hindu Goddess Durga for ten days. The Hindu festival, set in casteist narratives has us convinced that the evil is an outsider. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data records that every 16 minutes, a rape occurs in some nook, someplace in the country. 96% of the rapes are committed by someone known to the survivor or victim. As of now, the streets echo with demands of justice for 31-year-old resident doctor, who was raped and killed on duty.

The India Today Open Source Investigation (OSINT) team recently found a plethora of links and multimedia files offering purported videos of the victim's "sex" and "porn," being hosted and shared across multiple platforms, including some big tech companies. The purported rape footage is among top searches in India as well as in Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and UAE. Google Trends data suggests that search volume spiked on August 16. Bengal CM, Mamata Banerjee, has demanded for the perpetrator of the crime to be hanged by the end of the month. In 2012, when news of the Park Street rape case hit, Banerjee attacked the survivor Suzette Jordan by calling the gang rape a "fabricated incident" (shajano ghotona).

In 2022, police found 27-year-old Shraddha Walkar's body. The young woman was strangled, cut into 35 pieces and stored in a refrigerator by her live-in partner before he disposed of them in the forest. The limited times, our collective conscience as a society has been enraged enough to hit the streets demanding justice, it is notable that the victims were dead. The ones who live are not believed. The MeToo movement in India is living proof of the same, where one by one, all named perpetrators have been reinstated. While, Priya Raman's win against MJ Akbar held a torch of hope, it is nothing short of an anomaly.

Fixation on retributive justice imposes all the blame on the perpetrators and thus, our society that is equally culpable to the crime never gets challenged. According to Deloitte's 2024 Women @ Work report, nearly half of the women are concerned about their safety at work



or while travelling to work. Though the number of women who have experienced non-inclusive behaviours like harassment or microaggressions has decreased, 43% admit to experiencing such behaviours in the last year. The total POSH complaints filed have increased from 1,807 in FY22-23 to 2,325 in FY23-24 (a 29% Y-o-Y increase). The total pending resolution of complaints have also increased from 260 in FY 22-23 to 435 in FY 23-24 (67% Y-o-Y increase). Sexual violence continues to be treated as an outside issue. The refusal to criminalise marital rapes, lack of strong laws to protect young people in casual and/or live-in relationships, state and social impunity to perpetrators loomed around us only emboldened the perpetrators around us. We shut our windows and homes when a man next door beats his wife and children blue. We cover our girls just as we cover the crimes committed by our sons, husbands and partners. Resistance against making sex education compulsory shows our commitment to rape culture and its gross prevalence. It is ironic to state that the children of "mother India" grow up to learn slangs pertaining to one's mother and

sister, while they are taught to respect women only when it's their mothers or sisters. Objectification of women on screen, homophobic jokes and violence against trans people in Indian media have also risen to new horizons. Recent blockbuster movies uphold and glorify the tenets of abusive relationships and Hindutva masculinity. Films such as Arjun Reddy, Animal, Kabir Singh, etc, provide evidence of how the plot and their success rely on deeply ingrained ideas of stalking, violence, rape, trauma, aggressive attitudes and possessiveness as justified and grand gestures of love. During a media interview, filmmaker Sandeep Vanga Reddy was quoted saying, "If you can't slap, kiss, touch a woman wherever you want, can't use cuss words, I don't see emotions there. Then it's all margins and papers, red pen blue pen all that. There is nothing unconditional about it, it's all conditions." The rape culture emboldens the control on women's bodies and their autonomy. It translates human bodies into sites of violence. Children, adolescents and women are not safe anywhere, including their households.

Anyone who does not ascribe to the masculine ideals and boundaries of our society is threatened with sexual violence. In the Brahmanical patriarchy, those who defy the binaries, Dalits, Muslims and adivasis and women will forever be at the receiving end of this violence. Stronger laws alone cannot change the age old culture of rape and victim shaming mentality as our entire justice system is in a dire need for change. There are no evils on the outside, as we are breeding, raising and protecting generations after generations of offenders. State and familial impunity to predators can only end if we initiate change in our homes, communities and workplaces. Our continued tolerance and acceptance of wife beaters and sexual offenders within families, friends and workplaces provides enough evidence for the fact that the jig is up. We are all equally part of the problem. (C-Counter Currents)

Swati Shikha is a journalist and development practitioner based in Jharkhand. She has previously written for the Times of India, Outlook India and TCN.

# Wayanad Landslide: Slopes Do Matter

JOSEPH BENNY

On Aug. 4, CR went near the Chempra Peak, bearing the colonial and post-colonial political and socio-cultural yoke in the mountainous northern district in the southern Indian state after the triple landslides caught three villages napping in the wee hours of July 30, claiming over 300 lives — some of them with mutilated bodies — and nearly 200 declared missing.

CR was in Mundakkai and its nearby villages of Punjirimatom, Chooralmala, and Attamala which were ravaged by consecutive landslides that hit an estimated 5,000 people. He knew many of them as a Kerala forest department staffer.

In the Meppadi forest range under the Kalpetta forest division he started his career way back in 2001. Hailing from a coastal district in central Kerala, it was a matter of time for CR to fall in love with the Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage site with steep seaward slopes. Located nearly 7,000 ft above sea level, wild animals like elephants and tigers have made the Chempra Peak a fertile ground, said CR about the highest peak in the Wayanad hills.

The peak's steep slopes were once vital sources of water as they recharged surface water apart from supplying drinking water to forest dwellers and providing habitat to plant and animal life.

At the end of the Chempra Peak, there is the Ezuthachan Para (mountain) where the land survey details are inscribed on a rock by British colonial rulers.

"All beginnings have their end," said CR while standing over the massive debris of the natural devastation.

Colonial Britain converted a large tract of forests for water-guzzling monoculture plantations during its occupation of India. Wayanad got its first plantation estate in the 1830s where (slave) workers toiled and lived in paddies (colonies) in the high altitude in the Ghats. Forests of northern Kerala



were extensively tapped by Britain to supply wooden rails, platforms and wagons for the Indian Railways which was taking shape under its colonial stewardship to ship raw materials to the UK shores.

Teak wood trees from Nilambur, a major town on the banks of the Chaliyar River that originates in the Ghats, were axed in large numbers to make ships and vessels for the British Navy after they were found superior and aided in the victory when the UK pitted against arch-rival France under Napoleon Bonaparte.

Though Britain left India in 1947, they saw to it that much damage was done to the slope stability of the Western Ghats to benefit the British throne, located far away.

Backed by state support, large-scale neo-Christian migration from the southern parts of the state took place to the forests in the northern parts that include a picturesque Wayanad whose mountain ranges were brought down to house cash crops after World War I.

The trend continued after World War II when Christians in the princely state of Travancore were encouraged to

migrate to the northern parts, which were then part of the British Madras province.

In their efforts to make a living out of forest lands, much ground was leveled on the Western Ghats, further denting the slope stability of the formidable mountain range, which is older than the Himalayas.

After gaining independence from an extractive Britain, India's new rulers did not bother to look after forests as it is a state subject. Wayanad was not an exception to this undeclared state policy.

Besides, the government of India had already its fingers burnt while initiating social forestry in the evergreen forests of Wayanad under the 20-point program of the Indira Gandhi government.

With the state government, Wayanad got its worst phase. In 2006, the Kerala government widened the Thamarassery mountain pass. This expansion resulted in the loss of significant slopes with no point of return.

"This was the game changer," observed CR.

With the spectacular rise in vehicular traffic through the mountain pass, wealthy planta-

tions sensed the potential for tourism and they wasted no time to seize the government-given opportunity.

Influential people, including film stars and jewelers, flocked to Wayanad to own plantations. Water in the Ghats was diverted for tourism in the ecologically sensitive district to add up to the fortunes of wealthy people.

"Till 2006, there was noolmazha throughout the year except for a few days", recalled CR, referring to the continuous rainfall that resembled threads.

Cardamom, coffee and tea are cultivated in Wayanad by plantations that need a constant supply of water. Coffee and cardamom need more water but less sunlight compared with tea estates. So, they occupy the top slot in the mountainous terrain.

There are more than 15 plantations operating in the Mundakkai forest station under the Meppadi forest range that are always on the lookout for fresh sources of water. Their location in the high altitude saves them from public scrutiny.

Though their encroachment has been brought to the atten-

tion of the concerned departments, the plantations have not bothered to return the ill-gotten land to the government, which is not keen on getting its due back.

Again, much slope was lost in the Western Ghats as the plantations are answerable to none and politicians and governments do not ask them to mend their ways as they give employment to many people.

As Wayanad witnessed a boom in real estate and tourism, locals began to play an unstinting host to visitors, including people from neighboring states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

"The demography in Wayanad changed forever with the economic boom," said CR.

The locals dreamt of a life away from plantations. In their endeavor to be modern, they built upward mobility amenities and social institutions brick by brick, further denting the slope stability.

The Western Ghats is home to over 300 globally threatened flora and fauna species and harbors more than 30 percent of all plant, fish, bird, and mammal species found in the vast South Asian nation. The slopes hold together the Ghats.

The Malabar region in northern Kerala that includes Wayanad is the prime beneficiary of the "Gulf boom" in the state. Many skyscrapers and unmindful construction activities are taking place in the region as the petrodollar still holds sway in the global market.

Mining quarries, with the nod from the government, are doing brisk business by catering to the needs of the real estate market. Less surprisingly, the fragile Wayanad district is home to many quarries.

At the Mundakkai forest station, a stone's throw away from the place where the massive landslide occurred, a mining quarry operated, with the green light from the state government, but was forced to abandon it due to stiff opposition from the locals nearly 10 years ago. However, the damage was done. (C-Counter Currents)

Joseph Benny is a journalist from Kerala

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# Wider Lessons Of The Debt Crisis Of Pakistan



**BHARAT DOGRA**

**A**PTI report in The Times of India published on August 24, 2024 stated that Pakistan is in talks with banks in the Middle-East to borrow approximately USD 4 billion to meet its external financial commitments for the current fiscal year. For the current fiscal year, Pakistan has pitched about USD 20 billion in foreign borrowings in the budget, besides another USD 3 billion rollover from UAE that was reported separately in the balance of payments. The IMF indefinitely postponed the approval of a USD 7 billion Extended Fund Facility this week, the report said. Pakistan has now increased efforts to secure loans from foreign commercial banks, although high financing costs and a low credit rating remain two big problems.

Earlier a more comprehensive understanding of the debt crisis in Pakistan was provided in a report titled 'Pakistan's Existential Economic Crisis' published on April 6, 2023 by the US Institute for Peace (USIP) and written by a senior Pakistani journalist Shahbaz Rana. This report stated that as of December 2022, Pakistan's external debts and liabilities amounted to \$126 billion.

This report also provided a break-up of to whom this external debt was owed.

Among multilateral institutions, \$18 billion was owed to the World Bank, \$15 billion to the Asian Development Bank and \$7.6 billion to the IMF.

The so-called 'Paris Club Debt' of \$8.5 billion was owed to about 22 countries, the leading ones being Japan, Germany, France and the USA.

Thirdly, private debt such as in the form of private bonds amounted to \$7.8 billion while foreign commercial loans (mostly to China), generally with higher interest rate and payback within 1 to 3 years, amounted to about 7 billion dollars.

Fourthly, Chinese bilateral debt amounted to \$27 billion.

The USIP report pointed out that in the new fiscal year debt repayment would amount to \$25 billion. From April 2023 to June 2026, a period of a little more than three years, the external debt payment was projected at \$77.5 billion.

At the same time the total exports earnings and remittances during the last three years had amounted to \$164 billion while imports of goods had



amounted to \$170 billion.

This USIP report issued a clear warning, "There is a real danger that nuclear armed Pakistan with a population of 230 million people may be unable to meet its external debt obligations which will trigger a sovereign default."

Nearly 10 months after this report was published, another report by an Islamabad based think-tank Tabadlab in February 2024 described the debt crisis of the country as 'intense blaze' (report in the Economic Times on February 19, 2024 titled 'Pakistan debt unsustainable, headed for inevitable default').

An even more recent report by 'The Bretton Woods Project' titled 'Pakistan's debt crisis fueled by more IMF loans' questioned whether the lender of last resort was becoming a primary lender in Pakistan. The report stated that the external debt situation in Pakistan was very serious, next only to Sri Lanka, Ghana and Nigeria. This report stated, "If secured, the new loan (from the IMF) would be the 24th IMF loan for Pakistan with the country already owing the IMF \$7 billion, further illustrating the failure of IMF reforms to address Pakistan's long-term economic issues, while subjecting the country to additional surcharge penalties for over-relying on IMF funding."

One reason why the debt crisis has kept getting worse is that a big share of the loans taken was not spent in productive ways. To give one example of wasteful or even harmful external

loan-based spending, there was a massive, very expensive national drainage project in the early years of this century which was very poorly conceived and implemented, leading to worsening of problems in some places. In this and other cases, large-scale corruption also contributed to failure as well as wastage of funds.

More generally, the luxury consumption of the elite class is often sought to be defended even in very difficult times, and this consumption invariably has a high import content.

A surprising part of the debt crisis of Pakistan is that it has been increasing despite Pakistan having enjoyed very good relations with the richest countries for very considerable periods of time—with countries that are supposed to have the most ability to provide easy funds.

Although Pakistan had military dictatorships that were notorious for trampling democracy and for being extremely corrupt, the USA and its allies generally supported them. General Yahya Khan was supported despite being guilty of even genocidal actions. General Zia's long reign saw massive funds inflow from the USA and Saudi Arabia, related to Pakistan's strong role in mobilizing mujahideen resistance to the Russian army and Russia-supported regime in Afghanistan.

When the USA is generous to a country, western allies are also expected to be generous, and the international financial institutions dominated by them are also expected

to be generous. So it has been in the context of Pakistan too.

Not just Saudi Arabia, other oil rich middle-east countries too have been on very good terms generally with Pakistan and can be expected to be generous to Pakistan.

China has been extremely friendly towards Pakistan and has been eager to provide funds for many big-budget projects in Pakistan.

Hence we must face the strange fact that despite all the big fund providers having good relations with Pakistan and expected to be generous to Pakistan, Pakistan has been experiencing a very serious and steadily worsening debt crisis.

The big lesson emerging from this is that instead of relying too much on the generosity of rich friends, or even agreeing to play very dangerous games for them—as Pakistan did when it became the regional platform for the USA's aggression against Russia—it would be much more prudent to just concentrate on managing your economy carefully.

In fact the false over-confidence arising from the exceptionally close relationship of dictatorships with the richest countries led successive regimes to postpone, or altogether avoid, making essential economic reforms, while at the same time taking up dangerous activities, including support of several terror and fanatic groups, which later proved self-destructive for the country.

At the same time as the debt crisis worsened, the country was forced

to follow IMF conditions as well as conditions imposed by other lenders which led to austerity and anti-poor measures such as withdrawal of subsidies. This made the life of the bottom half of the population more and more difficult and this in turn led to mass protests by people which had to be suppressed and so the military kept looking for pliant political partners who could do the needful. All this made the emergence and continuation of genuine democracy difficult in Pakistan and so when military dictators were not ruling directly, a partnership of military leadership and civilian, elected political leaders had to be created, with the latter apparently running the government but the military exercising remote control (often not so remote).

Looking ahead, as the possibility of debt payment default continues to exist, this may lead to the non-availability of essential imports and all the problems related to this.

However, the solutions cannot be found in the narrow framework of IMF's or others' conditions. Pakistan must plan for a wider framework of reforms relating to equality, justice, better economic planning, democracy, moving away from terror-politics and improving relations with neighbors, particularly India. (C-CC)

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

# World Of Children With Special Abilities

**HARISMITHA TC**

**P**enning down my experience teaching visually impaired people and physically/mentally challenged people. The first day had arrived, and I saw the students playing cricket on the ground. They would make sounds to let their respective teammates know where they were while doing fielding or while batting. I feel they have so much inside them; they can play football, basketball, cricket, and so many other games. They are very creative; they also play lovely music; they have their own ecosystem divided into groups; sometimes they fight, and sometimes they play joyfully united.

I got to teach the students as a part of an NGO, and it was indeed a very pleasant experience. To express how I feel, my gratitude towards the students is priceless. I learned teamwork and courage from them.

I taught 12th, 7th, and 8th standard students.

While taking a reading session for students of 8th standard. A very bright child, Kevin, told us a story about a rabbit—the famous story about the rabbit and tortoise. Well, he made his own version, which was brilliant. In my sessions, I usually take the subjects of the children's choice; I teach what they choose. So after the reading session, we had an art session. He also drew a rocket on one side of the paper, and on the other side, he drew a leopard and a lion. His



friend Anish liked participating in the session without interacting too much.

In also reference to the movie about Srikanth Bolla, a philanthropist and industrialist who has contributed to the social sector by establishing

schools for blind and paper recycling centers.

The potential in a human being is so much. As another reference, there is a documentary called "Ship of Thesis." It was a brilliant work about how if

one sensory organ is taken away from us, it takes a toll on our lives. Imagine being born without it. The students for whom I took reading sessions, art lessons, and subjects of their choice had a basic understanding of every-

thing. A structured environment is what they do not favor; they favor a less structured environment. In a less structured environment, children with different abilities and talents get a space to grow. Grow in all ways.

# Common Myths About Asthma You Should Look Out For

**A**sthma is a chronic respiratory condition characterised by inflammation and narrowing of the airways, leading to difficulty breathing, wheezing, coughing, and shortness of breath. It can vary in severity and frequency among individuals. Despite its prevalence, there are numerous myths surrounding asthma. These misconceptions can hinder proper understanding and management of asthma. Dispelling these myths with factual information is essential for effective treatment and improving the quality of life for those affected. Keep reading as we share a list of myths about asthma you should look out for.

Here are ten common myths about asthma

**Myth 1:** Asthma is just a childhood disease

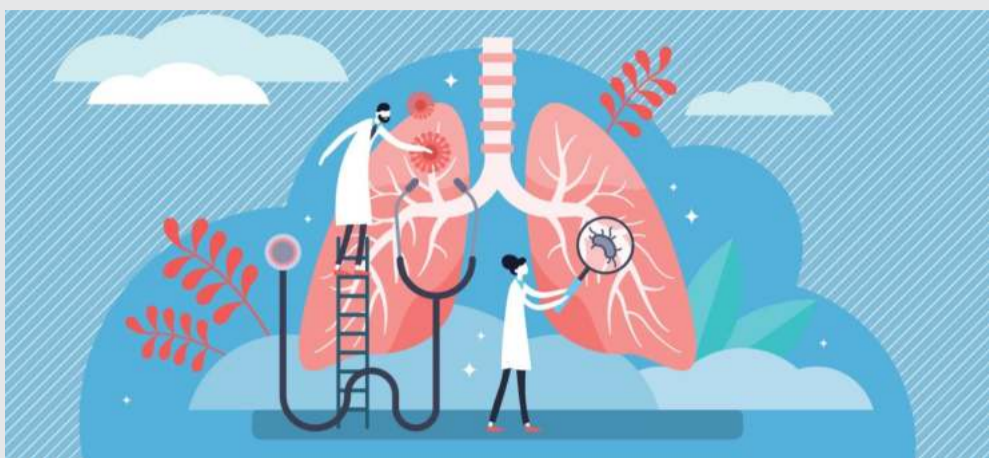
While asthma often begins in childhood, it can develop at any age. Many adults are

diagnosed with asthma later in life, and it is not uncommon for individuals to experience symptoms for the first time as adults. It's important for everyone, regardless of age, to be aware of the symptoms and seek medical advice if they suspect asthma.

**Myth 2:** Asthma is contagious  
Asthma is not contagious. It is a chronic condition caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. It cannot be transmitted from person to person. Understanding this can help reduce stigma and misinformation about the condition.

**Myth 3:** People with asthma should avoid exercise

While exercise can trigger asthma symptoms in some people, regular physical activity is beneficial for overall health and can help improve lung function. With proper management and pre-exercise medication, many people with



asthma can safely engage in various forms of exercise.

**Myth 4:** Asthma is a psychological condition

Asthma is a physical condition that affects the airways. While stress and anxiety can exacerbate symptoms, they are not the cause of asthma. Effective management involves

understanding and treating the physical aspects of the disease.

**Myth 5:** You can outgrow asthma

Asthma symptoms can change over time, and some children may experience fewer symptoms as they grow older. However, asthma is a chronic condition that can persist into

adulthood. Regular monitoring and management are crucial, even if symptoms appear to improve.

**Myth 6:** All asthma medications are addictive

Asthma medications, such as inhaled corticosteroids and bronchodilators, are not addictive. They are essential for man-

aging symptoms and preventing asthma attacks. Concerns about dependency should not prevent individuals from using their prescribed medications.

**Myth 7:** Asthma is not a serious disease

Asthma can be life-threatening if not properly managed. Severe asthma attacks can lead to respiratory failure and death. It is essential to follow a treatment plan and seek medical attention if symptoms worsen.

**Myth 8:** Inhalers are only needed during an asthma attack

Many people with asthma use maintenance inhalers daily to control inflammation and prevent symptoms. Rescue inhalers are used for quick relief during an attack. Both types of inhalers play crucial roles in managing asthma.

**Myth 9:** Moving to a different climate can cure asthma

While climate changes might temporarily relieve symptoms for some individu-

als, asthma is not cured by relocation. Environmental triggers vary, and managing asthma requires ongoing care regardless of location.

**Myth 10:** Asthma can be cured with alternative treatments

There is no cure for asthma, though it can be effectively managed with conventional medical treatments. Some alternative treatments might provide symptom relief for some individuals, but they should not replace evidence-based medical care. Always consult a healthcare provider before trying new treatments.

Understanding these myths and the facts about asthma is crucial for effective management and improving the quality of life for those affected by the condition. If you suspect you have asthma or your symptoms are changing, consult a healthcare professional for accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

### Naqvi Slams

once again entering the electoral field in J&K with an alliance. Those who have formed this alliance have, for decades, claimed to be the guardians of the Muslim community, especially in Kashmir, without taking responsibility for their development. These people, who have monopolised Muslim votes, have failed to contribute to development. They misused Article 370 and secularism as distractions, leaving J&K, particularly the people of Kashmir, in a dire state. Now is the time for the people to give their mandate, which will be for development and trust.

**IANS:** What is your stance on the proposal to include non-Muslims in Waqf Board?

**Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi:** The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is currently discussing matters related to the Waqf Board. I am confident that this discussion will result in positive outcomes for all stakeholders. It's important to note that not only Muslims but a large number of Hindus are also stakeholders. During the Partition, many Hindus who left their homes in Pakistan and came to India were given houses, shops, or land by the administration of that time. However, they are still not the legal owners of these properties and are treated as illegal occupants. The JPC will make the right decision to protect and secure the interests of all stakeholders.

**IANS:** BJP MP Kangana Ranaut's controversial statement has sparked anger, and even BJP has distanced itself from it.

**Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi:** Kangana is an excellent speaker. She doesn't need a spokesperson; someone as great a speaker as Kangana doesn't need anyone to speak for her.

**IANS:** Yesterday, the Assam Chief Minister said in the Assembly that the two-hour break previously given for Namaz will no longer be allowed. What is your opinion on this?

**Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi:** Our country is a secular nation, and it operates on Constitutional values. In our country, no government institution or system grants breaks for religious practices, including Namaz. So those who are questioning this are contradicting themselves. On one hand, they claim to protect secularism and the Constitution, but on the other, they want to uphold something that goes against these principles. This is not right.

### Quadrilateral

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Sheikh Nasir Hussain, J&K Apni Party candidate Ashiq Hussain, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidate Salman Nisar, Independent candidates Salman Rabbani and Imtiyaz Bashir.

On records there is alliance between INC and NC on this seat and Muhammad Zafarullah of INC is their joint candidate but NC rebel Pyare Lal Sharma didn't agree to that and filed his nomination papers as an independent candidate. Before the announcement of Assembly elections NC president Farooq Abdullah recently attended a marriage ceremony of Sharma's son.

After the final day of withdrawal of nomination papers, a total of nine candidates are in the fray but the contest will be between INC, BJP and two independents including Saroori and Sharma. All of them are considered strong and can fetch votes from all corners of the constituency.

**INC candidate Muhammad Zafarullah** is from Marwah area and currently represents the area as District Development Councilor (DDC) and has a strong base in Marwah and Waran areas. His major stakes are in his native area but being a candidate of INC, he has a good chance to fetch party votes from other areas of the constituency as well. During parliamentary elections, INC candidate Choudhary Lal Singh was able to fetch the highest number of votes from this segment when he got 16832 votes.

**BJP candidate Taraq Hussain Keen** in 2014 lost the elections on this seat to the then INC candidate G M Saroori but during the recently held parliamentary elections BJP candidate Dr. Jitendra Singh performed well on this segment and got 11671 votes. He remained at the second position.

**Saroori**, who left the INC in 2022 to join Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Progres-

sive Azad Party (DPAP), is the three-time MLA from this constituency. He never lost the elections from Inderwal since 2002 but after joining DPAP he contested the Lok Sabha elections from Uthampur parliamentary constituency. From his native segment he remained at the third position with 10373 votes and INC and BJP remained the two top vote getters.

Another independent candidate **Pyare Lal Sharma** is known all over and through his social work he enjoys a good reputation among people. Banking on his work done in the past and a person helping every needy person, Sharma, whose parent party is NC, is another strong candidate and can swallow a good number of votes.

Other candidates either don't have much following or are new to politics and they will require time to emerge as strong force—(KNO)

### Chenab Valley Set

and Congress might be more of a "friendly match," allowing both parties to demonstrate their strength in the region while still challenging the BJP. This is particularly relevant given the results of the 2014 elections, where the BJP emerged victorious in Kishtwar, Doda, and Bhaderwah with margins of 4-6 percent.

The stakes are even higher now, as NC and Congress aim to disrupt the BJP's dominance in these areas. The contest in Chenab Valley has been further complicated by the entry of Ghulam Nabi Azad's party, the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), which could fragment the vote bank further. GM Saroori, who won the Indrawal seat for Congress in 2014, has since defected to DPAP, leaving Congress in a vulnerable position.

As the nomination process for the first phase of the assembly elections concludes, a direct contest is anticipated between the BJP, Congress, People's Democratic Party (PDP), and NC across the six seats of Chenab Valley—Doda, Doda West, Bhaderwah, Kishtwar, Pader Nagseni, and Indrawal. The recent delimitation has also introduced two new seats, Doda West and Pader Nagseni, where elections will be held for the first time.

In Doda, NC has nominated **Khalid Najeeb Sohrawardy**, despite his previous three losses, while the BJP has fielded **Gajay Singh Rana**. Congress is banking on DDC member **Nadeem Sharif** to secure the Bhaderwah seat, where NC has nominated **Mehboob Iqbal**, and the BJP has put forward former MLA **Dilip Parihar**.

Kishtwar will see a multi-cornered contest, with NC's **Sajjad Kichulu**, PDP's **Firdous Tak**, and BJP's new face, **Shagun Parihar**, fighting for the seat. The absence of a Congress candidate here indicates strategic decision-making, focusing resources where they believe they have a stronger chance.

The elections in Chenab Valley will be closely watched, as they could significantly influence the overall political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. With both established and new faces in the fray, the region is set for an electoral showdown that promises to be as unpredictable as it is decisive—(KNO)

### Pak Supporters

Maharashtra," any state, every state has a different culture and that is why India is a federal structure and we have to protect every religion," the NC president said.

**Chugh**, however, said the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister's talk of unity was nothing but political drama.

"He (Abdullah) has been raising his voice as the polls are happening. He is shedding crocodile tears," the BJP's in-charge for J-K, said during a press conference here.

Sharpening his attack on the NC president, **Chugh** said, "When Kashmiri Pandits were forced to leave from Kashmir, you were the chief minister, it was your duty to stop the fight among the brothers who were living together for centuries. This is nothing but a filmy drama."

The BJP leader said those who used the Jammu and Kashmir assembly just for talking about autonomy are "now talking about unity" and asked, "How dual faced is this?"

"Those who have been supporting Pakistan and have always tried to create a division among people, are now seeking votes in the name of unity," he added.

**Chugh** said while the BJP talks of development of J-K, the NC is "trying to push J-K back to stone-pelting and violence".

"They (NC leaders) want to push back J-K to the dark era by replacing laptops and mobiles with stones. They want to turn Kashmir which is now a tourism capital back to terrorism capital," he added.

He, however, claimed that the NC will get a befitting reply from the people of J-K.

The BJP leader also accused the NC of trying to snatch reservation rights from Gujjars, Bakarwals and Paharis.

He said the NC's manifesto for the assembly polls is a "tale of lies".

"On one hand, **Omar Abdullah** is saying he will restore Articles 370 and 35A, but on the other, his father is saying it will take 100 years. What is this?" he added.

On Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha **Rahul Gandhi's** visit to J-K for election campaign, **Chugh** said "political tourism" is taking place only because there is peace in the region.

"He (Gandhi) did not come to J-K for 50 years, but now, both he and his sister are playing snowballs here. It is only because of the peace ensured by Modi government. This is a certificate for the good work," he said.

"He takes photos while relishing ice cream. **Rahul ji**, this is the same **Lal Chowk** where you had created stone-pelters. Today Modi has handed computers to those youth. They are building their own future as well as the future of the country," he added.

The BJP leader said the party will contest the assembly polls with its full might without any alliance.

Elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will be held in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1 and the results declared on October 4.

### Top Army Officer

the officials said. In a post on X, the White Knight Corps said Lt General **Sachdeva** along with GOC, counter-insurgency force Delta, conducted a security review of the operational preparedness in the Suigarh and Patnazi sectors of Doda-Kishtwar.

"During the visit, he (Lt Gen Sachdeva) complimented the troops for their steadfastness and the professional conduct demonstrated during operations. GOC also assessed the Kailash Kund yatra. Security forces are maintaining a heightened vigil and aerial platforms are being utilised to provide over-watch," the Army said.

Eight Assembly segments spread across Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts in the Chenab valley region along with 16 seats in the south Kashmir districts of Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam are going to polls in the first phase on September 18.

The three-day **Kailash Kund Yatra** commenced from **Dudu-Basantgarh** in the Udhampur district on Friday and after a night halt at **Seoj Dhar**, the pilgrims proceeded towards **Kailash Kund** in the Doda district on Saturday morning.

Security forces have been deployed all along the high-altitude route to ensure the safety of the pilgrims in view of the recent terror attacks in the area that left a village defence guard and a CRPF inspector dead.

### Poll Body

Commission has a history of adjusting election dates to respect community sentiments.

In the 2022 Punjab Assembly Elections, polling was postponed by a week to allow devotees to travel to Varanasi for **Guru Ravidas Jayanti**.

During the 2022 Manipur Assembly elections, polling dates were changed to respect the Christian community's Sunday prayers.

In the 2023 Rajasthan Assembly elections, the Commission rescheduled the polling date that initially coincided with **Devuthani Ekadashi**, a significant day for mass weddings.

In the 2012 Uttar Pradesh Assembly Elections, the poll date was changed due to **Barawafat**.

### CS Reviews

held on the roles and responsibilities of various departments in effectively implementing the JSA-CTR program.

Chief Secretary **Atal Dulloo** emphasized the importance of a comprehensive water conservation policy review. He directed the concerned to digitize all relevant data to ensure better management and accessibility.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the need for district-level coordination and activation of **Jal Shakti Kendras** to enhance grassroots participation and effectiveness.

The meeting included detailed discussions on several key initiatives under the JSA-CTR.

CS **Dulloo** urged all Deputy Commissioners to review their district-wise plans and ensure that standard operating procedures (SOPs) are strictly followed for the successful execution of the campaign.

He highlighted the importance of using modern technologies such as remote sensing for studies on groundwater levels and to monitor water table data effectively.

Additionally, the Chief Secretary instructed the concerned officials to coordinate with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) for geo-tagging of data that has already been collected, which would facilitate better tracking and management of water resources.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the government's commitment of promoting sustainable water conservation practices and ensuring the effective implementation of the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan-Catch the Rain** campaign across Jammu & Kashmir.

He called on all stakeholders to work collaboratively towards achieving the goals of the initiative and to enhance water security in the region.

### Kashmir's Fruit

mention here that after the Union finance ministry ordered the lifting of additional duties on apples, almonds, chickpeas and walnuts in September last year, the Kashmir apple industry is facing an unprecedented crisis and grappling with low demand due to the influx of foreign apples in the Indian markets.

Several mainstream politicians in the region have urged the government to reconsider the decision, saying it impacts the growers in Kashmir.

As apple revenue has been one of the key GDP contributors in J&K, fruit dealers have been urging the government for a long time to slash the export duty on apples, so that they can export the fruit to various countries—(KNO)

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# Second JPC meet on Waqf Bill witnesses heated arguments

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** The second meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) held to discuss the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 witnessed heated arguments on Friday between the BJP members and MPs from the Opposition camp, while the Muslim bodies invited to present their opinion submitted their reservations to the proposed amendments.

The first round of the JPC meeting on the Waqf Bill was held on August 22. The next two meetings will be held on September 5 and 6.

During the marathon meeting on Friday, at one point the Opposition MPs also staged a walkout in the course of voicing their disagreements to the proposed Bill.

According to sources, the BJP parliamentarians were frequently interrupted by the Opposition MPs during the discussions on the Waqf Bill.

When the BJP MPs complained about not being allowed to present their views properly, the Opposition MPs accused their counterparts of not following 'democratic norms', and resorting to making personal remarks.

In the course of the debate, heated arguments also took place between BJP's Dilip Saikia and AAP's Sanjay Singh. Singh, attacking the



BJP, said the party neither understands the meaning of the Constitution nor follows it. The AAP Rajya Sabha MP also said that the BJP is busy "grabbing power".

He also spoke on the issues pertaining to Delhi, where the AAP is in power, while mentioning the arrest of his party leaders, and the proposal to empower District Collectors to decide on the ownership of a disputed Waqf property, as well as including non-Muslims as members in the Waqf boards.

'Waqf by User' was also one of the key subjects during the second JPC meeting which was debated by several MPs.

Opposing the Waqf Bill, AIMIM MP from Hyderabad Asaduddin Owaisi submitted a written note to the head of the JPC, Jagdambika Pal.

It has been learnt that the Hyderabad MP was also involved in a heated argument with BJP's Abhijit Gangopadhyay. Owaisi apparently found

a remark made by Gangopadhyay "insulting" which he protested.

The boiling point at the meeting was witnessed when the Opposition MPs staged a walkout after the representative of a Muslim body was not allowed to speak for the second time.

Owaisi, A. Raja, Imran Masood, Mohammad Abdulla, and Arvind Sawant left the meeting midway but returned after a while.

Amid all the heated discussions, a light-hearted moment came as a breather for the MPs who were sternly engaged in debates.

In a gaffe, an official misspelt 'Agakhani' community (in Muslims) as 'Afghani' while listing the benefits of the proposed Bill. It was being underlined that backward Muslim communities, Bohra and Agakhani, would benefit from the amendments proposed in the Waqf Bill.

Poking fun at the goof up, the Opposition MPs wondered "Is this Bill for India or 'Akhand Bharat?'"

Meanwhile, the All India Sunni Jamiat-e-Ulama representing the Muslim bodies submitting its reservations over the Waqf Bill, saying that the proposed amendments were not acceptable.

"The subject of Waqf pertains to Muslims and the government should not interfere in this," it said.

Besides, the Indian Muslim for Civil Rights also said that it differs with the amendments proposed in the Bill. Its president, former MP Mohammad Adeb, described the Bill as "illegal", and also accused the government of interfering in the religious matters of Muslims.

Notably, at the first meeting of the JPC on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, several opposition members of the panel claimed that the provisions violate the laws of freedom of expression, religious freedom, and equality.

The opposition members also raised questions over various clauses mentioned in the Bill.

## CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

# Many tough laws in India, need to make them more active: PM Modi

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** While the anger and outrage over a woman doctor's rape and murder at a Kolkata government hospital continues to keep the medical fraternity as well as citizens agitated nationwide, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reiterated the need and urgency to ensure safety of women, particularly at the workplace.

PM Modi said that the atrocities against women are a matter of grave concern and there is a need to ensure faster justice in such cases.

"Today, atrocities against women, safety of children are matters of serious concern for society. Many strict laws have been made in the country for the safety of women, but we need to make it more active," PM Modi said.

"The faster the deci-



sions are taken in cases related to atrocities against women, the greater assurance of safety half the population will get," said PM Modi, addressing an event in Delhi on the 75 years of the Supreme Court.

Notably, the Prime Minister, in the last few days, has repeatedly spoken about safeguarding women and also asked state governments to accord top priority on cases pertaining to girls.

PM Modi's remarks come a day after West Bengal Chief Minister's second letter to the Centre, demanding a central legislation and exemplary punishment for heinous crimes like rape and murder.

The Trinamool supremo also alleged that her previous letter to the PM went "unanswered" on such a "sensitive issue."

The Centre, replying to the Bengal CM's letter,

highlighted that the existing laws are strong enough to deal with such crimes.

BJP leaders called out the state government over slow and tardy progress in the case and asked it to act swiftly, rather than playing to the gallery.

PM Modi's call for swift justice in crimes against women came while addressing the inaugural event of the 2-day National Conference of District Judiciary, at Bharat Mandapam on Saturday.

The Supreme Court has organised a two-day national conference of the District Judiciary from August 31 to September 1.

The two-day conference will have five working sessions that will discuss wide-ranging issues pertaining to the district judiciary including infrastructure, human resource, judicial security, judicial training and more.

# Uttarakhand: Chopper airlifted by M-17 helicopter crashes in Rudraprayag, video emerges

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** A chopper, being transported to the Gauchar airstrip by an Indian Air Force MI-17 helicopter for repairs, crashed in Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag on Saturday morning.

The chopper, operated by Crystal Aviation Company, had previously made an emergency landing near the Kedarnath helipad on May 24, 2024, due to a technical fault.

The MI-17 had lifted the helicopter, suspending it

beneath, for the journey. However, during the flight, the MI-17 started to lose balance due to the weight of the helicopter and the effects of the wind and crashed near the Mandakini River in Lincholi.

Sensing the growing danger, the MI-17 pilot made the decision to release the helicopter into a valley after identifying an empty area. The helicopter subsequently fell near the Mandakini River in Lincholi. The accident was caught on camera.

According to a district

tourism official, there were no passengers or luggage aboard the helicopter at the time of the incident.

The helicopter had previously been safely landed by the pilot on May 24, 2024, after a technical fault was detected during its approach to the Kedarnath helipad. All passengers were safely evacuated at that time.

District tourism official Rahul Chaubey stated, "The plan was to transport the Crystal Aviation helicopter to the Gauchar air-

strip for repairs this morning. The MI-17 helicopter had taken off around 7 a.m. with the helicopter suspended underneath. However, as it neared Tharu Camp, the MI-17 began to lose balance due to the weight and wind conditions, forcing the pilot to release the helicopter."

Rescue teams arrived at the crash site promptly after receiving the information and are currently assessing the situation. Further investigations into the incident are underway.

# 31 Indian startups secured over \$466 million this week, 75 pc jump

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** At least 31 homegrown startups raised more than \$466 million in 22 deals this week, a significant 75 per cent rise from last week.

Quick e-commerce platform Zepto raised \$340 million in a follow-on financing round, taking the company's valuation to \$5 billion. General Catalyst led the round, with Dragon Fund, and Epiq Capital joining as new investors.

Among other key fundraises, specialty coffee retailer Blue Tokai Coffee secured \$35 million followed by lending firm Yubi (\$30 million), agri-inputs platform AGRIM (\$17.3 million) and post-sales service firm Servify (\$10 million), among others. Swiggy also raised undisclosed funding this week from Amitabh Bachchan's Family Office.

Bengaluru-based startups led with eight deals, followed by Mumbai and Delhi-NCR.

According to a latest report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Z47 (fka Matrix Partners India),

having generated over \$100 billion in value over the last decade, the Indian fintech ecosystem is in its "middle journey". The ecosystem is poised for further exponential growth, as seen with incumbents that have created over \$600 billion in value over the past 3-5 decades.

The number of fintechs in the country has quadrupled in the last four years - a three-time increase in unicorns and soonicorns in the same period.

The government has recognised 1,40,803 entities as startups (as of June 30). More than 55 regulatory reforms have been undertaken by the government since 2016 to enhance ease of doing business, ease of raising capital and reduce compliance burden for the startup ecosystem.

Meanwhile, the Centre approved four startups in the field of technical textiles with a grant of Rs 50 lakh each, along with new courses in various applications. The approved startup projects are focused on key strategic areas of composites, sustainable textiles and smart textiles.

# New suburban corridor among 12 rail projects underway in Mumbai

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** As many as 12 rail projects, including a new suburban corridor, are underway in the Mumbai Division of the Central Railway, Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a social media post late Friday.

According to Minister Vaishnaw, Phase 1 of the new fifth and sixth line between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and Kurla is expected to be completed by the end of next year. The construction will "enhance local train services by segregating local and mail/express train movements".

In a post on X, he said that the sixth rail line between Mumbai Central and Borivali is underway. "8.9 km Khar-Goregaon stretch already completed and commissioned. Work on the remaining Goregaon-Borivali stretch is progressing rapidly," he said.

The extension of the Harbour Line from Goregaon-Borivali will help decongest the Andheri-Borivali section, Minister Vaishnaw said, adding that the land acquisition for the project



is currently underway.

Similarly, the utility shifting work for the fifth and sixth rail lines between Borivali-Virar is currently in progress. The rail lines are expected to relieve stress on the Borivali-Palghar fast corridor, which will be left exclusively for suburban trains.

Earthwork and bridge construction are currently underway for the quadrupling of the Virar-Dahanu Road section. It is a "crucial infrastructure project that will greatly enhance rail connectivity and alleviate congestion in the region", he said.

Tunnelling and bridge construction are currently in progress for the Panvel-Karjat rail line. With the completion of the project, Mumbai is set to get a new suburban

train services.

Utility shifting, earthwork and bridge construction are currently underway for the third and fourth rail line between Kalyan-Badlapur, Minister Vaishnaw said, adding that the project will "speed up the train service and increase the number of local trains, meeting growing demand in this section".

Phase 1, from Asangaon to Kasara, of the Kalyan-Kasara third line is expected to be completed by next year. The completion of the project "will reduce congestion of busy Kalyan-Kasara Suburban and mail express route and will improve mobility of the trains", he said.

A Naigaon-Juichandra double chord line is being constructed to avoid engine reversals at Vasai for the trains originating from Mumbai Central, Dadar or Bandra Terminus of the Konkan Railway and southern India.

A 5-km-long chord line is also being constructed between Nilaje and Kopar. The project will cut train travel between Vasai and Panvel by around 15 to 20 minutes.

# Calcutta HC directs release of 'Nabanna Abhijan' convenor

IAN S

**KOLKATA:** The Calcutta High Court on Friday directed the Kolkata Police to release Sayan Lahiri, one of the convenors of the 'Nabanna Abhijan' (March to Secretariat) on August 27 condemning the rape and murder of a junior doctor at the state-run R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata earlier this month.

Besides telling the Kolkata Police to arrange for the release of Lahiri by 2 p.m. on Saturday, the single-judge bench of Justice Amrita

Sinha also directed that no coercive action will be taken against him in the matter.

Although the hearing was concluded on Friday afternoon, Justice Sinha temporarily reserved the final order. The direction to release Lahiri finally came on Friday evening.

Justice Sinha also made it clear that no coercive action can be taken against Lahiri, not just in connection with the Nabanna Abhijan, but also in relation to any other police case against him.

Earlier on Friday, Lahiri through his counsel approached the bench

of Justice Sinha challenging his arrest.

In the petition, his counsel accused the city police of arresting his client on false charges. The petition was admitted and heard on an emergency basis.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) also issued a notice to Kolkata Police on Friday seeking explanation on the alleged police excesses against the protesters who took part in the Nabanna Abhijan on August 27.

Political observers feel that first the NHRC notice, and then the Calcutta High

Court order have come as twin blows for the state administration, especially for the Kolkata Police.

Parts of Kolkata and Howrah turned into virtual battlefields on the afternoon of August 27 following clashes between the police and the protesters.

At many places, the police had to resort to lathi-charge, firing of tear-gas shells, and use of water cannons to disperse the protesters moving towards the state Secretariat located in the Mandirtala area of Howrah district, which is adjacent to Kolkata.

## RG KAR HORROR

# Calcutta HC gives nod to intellectuals' body for holding protest march

IAN S

**KOLKATA:** The Calcutta High Court on Friday granted permission to 'Cultural & Literary Bengal', an association of intellectuals in the state, to take out a protest march on September 3 condemning the ghastly rape and murder of a junior doctor at the state-run R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata earlier this month.

The association had approached the single-judge bench of Justice Amrita Sinha after being denied

police permission for the proposed protest march.

As the matter came up for hearing on Friday, the counsel for the petitioners argued that although the association submitted an application to the office of the Joint Commissioner (Traffic) of Kolkata Police for holding the protest march on September 3 from Rabindra Sadan to Hazra crossing in south Kolkata, they did not receive any reply in the matter from the police.

The counsel also questioned the justification for denying permission to a

protest march by the intellectuals and that too on an issue like the R.G. Kar case when even the Supreme Court has said that peaceful protests in the matter cannot be stopped or suppressed.

In his counter argument, the counsel for the state government said that since the timing of the protest clashes with the end of office hours, the police denied permission for the march.

He also said that police permission can be granted if the timing of the proposed march is changed. After hearing both sides,

Justice Sinha questioned the state government's counsel whether all the protests on the R.G. Kar issue can be restricted because of their timing.

Granting permission for conducting the protest march, Justice Sinha noted that it would be the responsibility of the state police to ensure that the event is held peacefully and without any hurdles.

However, at the same time, she advised the association to discuss with the city police authorities about the timing of the programme.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

# Independents to give traditional candidates a run for their money in south Kashmir

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Several independent candidates in south Kashmir are set to challenge traditional party candidates in their respective constituencies.

According to the details obtained, these independent candidates are expected to offer significant competition in their respective constituencies.

Shabir Ahmad Kullay - Shopian: Shabir Kullay, who left the National Conference (NC) after being denied a party ticket, is running as an independent candidate in Shopian. In the 2014 elections, Kullay secured 12,000 votes, more than twice the number of votes received by the NC candidate at that time.

Supported by two District Development Council (DDC) members and civil society members from Shopian, Kullay is considered a strong contender in this election. The current competition in Shopian involves Yawar Bandyal of the PDP, Sheikh Rafi of NC, and independent candidate Shabir Kullay.

Aijaz Ahmad Mir - Zainapora: Former MLA Aijaz



Ahmad Mir, who left the PDP after being denied a ticket, is a notable candidate for the Zainapora seat. Mir has the backing of the DDC Chairperson, other DDC members, and some independent candidates, making him a strong contender against NC's Gh Mohiuddin Wani.

Peer Mansoor - Anantnag: In Anantnag, a four-cornered contest is unfolding between Congress candidate Peerzada Mohamad Sayeed, PDP's Dr Mehboob Beg, Apni Party's Hilal Shah, and independent candidate Peer Mansoor. Previously associated

with the PDP and later with the People's Conference, Peer Mansoor is now contesting as an independent and is expected to provide a tough challenge to the other candidates.

Dr Gh Nabi Bhat - Tral: Dr Gh Nabi Bhat, NC's constituency in-charge for Tral, is running as an independent in the NC-Congress alliance. Bhat, whose family has a longstanding association with NC, is seen as a formidable opponent to PDP's Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Congress candidate Surinder Singh Channi, and former PDP leader Dr

Harbaksh Singh, who is contesting on an AIP ticket. Choudhary Gulzar - Larnoo (ST Reserved): Choudhary Gulzar, who is running for the ST reserved seat in Larnoo, is expected to give a tough fight to NC candidate Zafar Chowdhry and PDP candidate Haroon Chowdhry. Gulzar, supported by his community and his wife, a former DDC member, has a solid base and could easily influence the election outcome.

Over 23.27 lakh voters are eligible to participate in the first phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Election, scheduled for September 18, 2024. This includes 11.76 lakh male voters, 11.51 lakh female voters, and 60 third-gender electors, with 5.66 lakh youth voters also eligible to vote.

The notification for Phase I was issued on August 20, 2024, and the deadline for filing nominations was August 27, 2024. The scrutiny of nomination papers was conducted on August 28, 2024, and candidates were allowed to withdraw their nominations by August 30, 2024—(KNO)

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

# Election Observers conduct meeting with representatives of political parties

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Following withdrawal of nominations, the District Election Office, Shopian Saturday organised a meeting of Election Observers with Political parties and contesting candidates as mandated under the guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI) to acquaint them with guidelines, do's and don'ts of election process.

On the occasion, District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, who joined today, welcomed all Observers and representatives of political parties and contesting candidates.

The representatives of BJP, INC, JKNC, JKPDP, JKNPP, JKAP, CPIM, and agents of contesting candidates were briefed on using C-Vigil for reporting violations of MCC and expenditure and Suvridha apps designed for seeking timely permissions.

They were briefed and encouraged to highlight any apprehensions before the observers related to the elections and share a worry list.

The representatives raised various issues pertaining to permission of electioneering and expenditure booking. The issues were listened to patiently.



They were also apprised on 2nd randomisation of EVMS, scheduled on 02, September, 2024 and their commissioning, and briefed on expenditure booking, paid news issues, pre-certification of advertisements, MCC, etc.

General Observer for Zainapora, Jeevan Babu highlighted the critical role of Political parties for ensuring good and enhanced voter engagement and turnout.

General Observer, Shopian, Roohi Khan, asked election authorities to provide handbooks to all candidates, both hard and soft copies and asked political parties representatives and candidates to acknowledge receipt of notices communicated to them.

Expenditure Observer, Nelapatla Ashok Babu apprised on various facets of expenditure including keeping permissions with vehicles, adhering to expenditure ceiling and replied to various queries raised by the agents, with regard to permissions for campaigning, expenditure booking etc.

Police Observer, Ravi D Channannavar asked for guiding political parties on issues of MCMC, usage of IT apps for complaint registering and for permissions.

On the occasion, postal ballots of service voters of both Shopian and Zainapora numbering 52 and 83 respectively were transferred to service voters through ITPBMS in the presence of political parties.

Besides, a demonstration of the working of suvidha app was given on the spot and explained to them the procedure for filing of online and offline permission applications and also asked for producing expenditure registers before expenditure Observer for inspections on scheduled dates, 02, 09 and 14 September at Circuit House, Shopian.

All observers shared their local numbers, Jeevan Babu K, General Observer for 36-Zainapora AC, 7006392106; Roohi Khan, General Observer for 37-Shopian, 7006518189; Police Observer, Ravi D Channannavar, 9902956196 and Expenditure Observer Nelapatla Ashok Babu, 9906008597.

## Ex KCCI chief Sheikh Ashiq joins AIP, to lock horns with Omar Abdullah in G'bl

MUBASHIR ALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: In a significant political development, prominent trade leader and former president of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI), Sheikh Ashiq formally joined Er. Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) on Saturday.

The announcement, was made at a function held at the Sangarmal complex here in Srinagar, where AIP's chief spokesperson, Inam-un-Nabi, alongside other party leaders, including Abrar Rashid, who spearheaded the campaign during the parliamentary polls, welcomed Sheikh Ashiq into the party folds.

"I welcome Sheikh Ashiq in the party fold, we are happy to take him in the party fold," Nabi said. He added that given the experience of Ashiq in trade and business industry, they expect an overwhelming number of people to connect on ground.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Ashiq said that he is happy to be a part of the Er. Rashid led party, which has true represen-

tation of people in Jammu and Kashmir.

"If there is a platform, it is the Er. Rashid led AIP, which can never think of selling off. Our bigger manifesto is to work for the welfare of the people," he said.

He said that people of north Kashmir have already given him a mandate but that they will work to double it.

Meanwhile, following his formal induction into AIP, Ashiq confirmed to KNO that he would be contesting the upcoming assembly elections from Ganderbal constituency where National Conference (NC) has given mandate to its Vice President Omar Abdullah and PDP chose Bashir Ahmad Mir.

"The decision to field me from Ganderbal was made by the AIP party high command, despite earlier speculation that I might contest from a Srinagar constituency. I comply with the party's decision and readiness to represent the people of Ganderbal," he said.

Pertinently, Sheikh Ashiq is a resident of Ganderbal district—(KNO)

Assembly Elections

## Training session for Political Candidates held in Pulwama



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: In preparation for the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections, a comprehensive training session for political candidates was conducted Saturday at District Administrative Complex, Pulwama.

The session was led by a team of experienced Master Trainers who provided essential guidance on the electoral process, compliance with the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and other crucial aspects of campaigning.

The training was attended by candidates and their representatives from various political parties contesting in the Assembly Constituencies across the

district. The objective of the session was to ensure that all candidates are well-versed with the electoral guidelines and are equipped to conduct their campaigns in a fair, transparent and lawful manner.

Key topics covered during the training included expenditure limits, guidelines on electioneering and the importance of maintaining the sanctity of the electoral process. Special emphasis was placed on adherence to the Model Code of Conduct, with trainers underscoring the significance of following ethical practices during the campaign period.

Additionally, the Nodal Officer for MCC provided detailed instructions on

the critical aspects of the Model Code of Conduct, highlighting the importance of maintaining decorum and fairness throughout the election period. The Nodal Officer for Expenditure also briefed the candidates on the financial regulations governing campaign expenditure, underscoring the need for transparency and accurate reporting.

The training session also featured interactive discussions, where candidates had the opportunity to seek clarifications on various election-related matters. The Master Trainers provided detailed responses, ensuring that all queries were addressed comprehensively.

## General Observer reviews Election preparedness for Zainapora AC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: General Observer for Zainapora AC, Jeevan Babu K today held a crucial meeting at the meeting hall of Mini Secretariat to review and assess the preparations for the upcoming Assembly elections in the 36-Zainapora Assembly Constituency (AC).

The meeting was attended by various constituency nodal officers and district nodal officers responsible for different election-related activities.

During the meeting, each Nodal Officer provided a comprehensive briefing to the Observer on the preparations made so far.

The Nodal Officer for SVEEP presented a detailed overview of the SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) initiatives, highlighting efforts to enhance voter turnout.

Other Nodal Officers, including those from Transport, MCC, EVM/ VVPAT, Trainings, Logistics, material,

man power management, Media Management, Home Voting, and Law and Order, and others also briefed the Observer on their respective areas of responsibility.

The Observer asked for strengthening the SSTs and FSTs by way of logistics provision and provision of welfare measures for staff while calling for effective monitoring of their work round the clock, to curb illegal transactions.

He emphasized the need to improve voter turnout and stressed the importance of an effective action plan for the SVEEP program.

The Observer asked for extensive use of Social media for highlighting SVEEP activities across the Constituency by involving icons, students, influencers, posting election engagement creatives and content.

The meeting concluded with directives from the Observer to all Officers to ensure meticulous planning and execution to facilitate the smooth conduct of the elections.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

## First Randomization of Polling Personnel held in Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The first Randomization of Polling Staff to be deployed across 639 Polling Stations for 5-Assembly Constituencies of District Budgam was done here in DC office Budgam.

The Randomization process was held under the supervision of District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Akshay Labroo in presence of the concerned Officers.

The Randomization process was conducted through a dedicated Software as per the prescribed guidelines of Election Commission of India (ECI).

The District Election Officer emphasized the importance of impartiality and efficiency in conducting the elections, with the randomization of polling personnel being an important step towards achieving these objectives.

Returning officers of all 5- Assembly constituencies, Deputy District Election Officer Budgam, Shakeel Ahmad, concerned Nodal Officers, and other concerned were present in the meeting.

# Emerging Stronger: The Inspiring Resolve of Imtiyaz Ahad Dar



ZAIKA SHOWKAT

SRINAGAR: On a frigid winter's night in Sopore, as the world bid farewell to 1994, a new year and a new life began. Imtiyaz Ahad Dar was born on December 31st into a world where every breath was a struggle, where survival was the only victory his family could hope for. The only son among two daughters of a boatman whose strength was ebbing away with every passing day, and a mother who bore the weight of the world on her weary shoulders, Imtiyaz's life was destined to be anything but ordinary.

In a small, one-room house with a roof that barely held against the unforgiving Kashmiri winters, Imtiyaz's child-

hood was a harsh initiation into a life of ceaseless struggle. The cold winds pierced through the gaps in the walls, seeping into the very bones of the young boy, who would wrap himself in every piece of worn-out clothing he could find just to stay warm. But the cold wasn't the only thing that defined his early years; it was the relentless grind of poverty, the weight of responsibility that should have been far beyond the capacity of his small shoulders.

From a tender age, Imtiyaz knew that life wasn't fair. His father, once a robust driver, was reduced to a shadow of his former self, his health failing him just as the family needed him most. The meager earnings from his work as a boatman and fisherman were not enough to fill their bellies, let alone pay for Imtiyaz's education. His mother, a beacon of strength and perseverance, worked tirelessly from house to house, scrubbing floors and cooking meals just to keep the family afloat. But even with their combined efforts, they

could barely afford the essentials of life.

Despite the crushing weight of his circumstances, Imtiyaz's spirit remained unbroken. Even as a child, he possessed an insatiable thirst for knowledge—a thirst that no amount of hardship could quench. School was more than just a place to learn; it was a sanctuary where he could momentarily escape the harsh realities of his world. But those precious hours in the classroom came at a cost. While other children played, Imtiyaz worked—taking up labor at just 11 years old to help support his family. His tiny hands, meant for holding books, were instead burdened with the tools of labor, but he never once complained. This was the price he had to pay for his education, and he paid it willingly.

Every day was a battle, a relentless cycle of work and study that tested the limits of his endurance. Exhausted and aching from the day's labor, Imtiyaz would still find the strength to pick up his books



at night. His mother, despite her own exhaustion, found ways to support him. When his school bag finally gave out, beyond repair, and there was no money for a new one, she sold one of her few possessions—a treasured suit—to buy him a replacement. It was a small sacrifice, but one that carried the weight of a

mother's love and unwavering belief in her son's future.

In the classroom, Imtiyaz's brilliance was undeniable. He consistently ranked among the top students, his academic achievements a testament not only to his intellect but to his relentless determination. In 10th grade, despite the overwhelming odds, he earned a distinction, scoring 375 out of 500 marks. It was a moment of triumph, not just for him, but for his entire family—a victory snatched from the jaws of despair.

But the future remained uncertain. With his family's financial situation worsening, the possibility of further education seemed like a distant dream. Yet, in a twist of fate, Imtiyaz's path crossed with that of Bilal Sir, a compassionate chemistry teacher who recognized the spark of brilliance in the young boy. Offering him free tuition, Bilal Sir became the beacon of hope Imtiyaz so desperately needed.

For two years, Imtiyaz immersed himself in his studies, determined to seize this

opportunity with both hands. But the journey was far from easy. Financial hardships continued to plague him, forcing him to rely on the kindness of his professors for the books and materials he could not afford. Failure, too, was a familiar companion. His first attempt at the JK-CET exam ended in disappointment, and his second attempt brought only modest success. But Imtiyaz knew that failure was not the end—it was merely a stepping stone on the path to success.

And so, he pressed on. On his third attempt, Imtiyaz secured a place in the BDS program, a milestone that seemed almost unattainable just a few years earlier. Yet, even this was not the end of his journey. Balancing his medical studies, he completed a BSc and later pursued an MSc in Zoology, each achievement a testament to his unyielding determination and refusal to give in to the challenges that life had thrown at him.

Today, Imtiyaz Ahad Dar stands as a beacon of hope

and resilience. His journey from a cold, dilapidated room in Sopore to becoming a professor at Physics Wallah in Srinagar is a story of indomitable will, of a boy who refused to be defined by his circumstances. His childhood, stripped of the joys and innocence that most children take for granted, was the crucible in which his character was forged. It shaped him into a man of remarkable strength, whose story serves as a reminder that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can find a way to rise, to shine, and to inspire.

Imtiyaz's life is a testament to the power of perseverance, a beacon for all who face adversity. He didn't just survive—he thrived, turning every obstacle into a stepping stone on his path to success. And now, as a professor, he dedicates his life to passing on the lessons he learned the hard way, inspiring the next generation to reach for the stars, no matter how high the odds are stacked against them.