

# Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

**Amit Shah**  
@AmitShah



Under the leadership of Modi ji, BJP has brought about all-round development in Jammu and Kashmir, many opportunities for the bright future of the youth and peace and stability in the region.

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## BJP Releases J&K Poll Manifesto With 25 Promises



YOGESH

**JAMMU:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday unveiled the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) poll manifesto for Jammu and Kashmir.

The manifesto called as 'Sankalp Patra' (Resolution Paper) came with several lucrative announcements for unemployed youth, women and farmers which include 5 lakh jobs, Rs 18000 per annum to women, increased reservations, financial aid for farmers, and infrastructure development.

The manifesto also includes several welfare schemes aimed at the residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

The manifesto promised 'Maa Samman Yojana' to give Rs 18,000 to the eldest lady of every family, each year

besides two free cylinders under the Ujjwala scheme.

BJP promised 5 lakh employment opportunities to be created through Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Rozgar Yojana.

Under Pragati Shiksha Yojana, students will get Rs 3,000 per year, as a travelling allowance besides reimbursement of upto Rs 10,000 of coaching fee for JKPS and UPSC aspirants and students in remote areas will receive tablets or laptops, according to BJP's 25-point manifesto.

It also promised a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for IT at Jammu City, an amusement park in Srinagar, and the development of Gulmarg and Pahalgam as modern tourist destinations, development of Kishtwar, Rajouri, Udhampur and infrastructure development

## Article-370 Now History, Will Never Come Back: HM Amit Shah

Yogesh

**JAMMU:** Lashing out at the National Conference for promising restoration of Article 370 in its manifesto, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday said that the Article 370 has been buried forever and BJP won't allow the efforts aimed at its restoration. He also said that BJP will also release a "White Paper" on 40,000 killings in J&K and fix a responsibility as well post polls.

"I have gone through the NC agenda/manifesto. It states that the party will restore Article 370 in J&K. Let me tell you that Article 370 has been buried forever and it won't come back," Home Minister said addressing a press conference in Jammu, before releasing the party manifesto for J&K. "We will release a white paper on 40,000 killings that have taken place in J&K in the past over three decades and also fix the responsibility," He said BJP always wanted integration of J&K



with the Union of India. "Till 2014, J&K was plagued by separatism and terrorism. We also saw Hurriyat-backed governments in J&K," Shah said. "After 2014, a new chapter of peace and prosperity was started under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

He said it was due to the efforts and historic decision on August 5, 2019 and today "Article 370 and Article 35 is not the party of our constitution anymore," Shah said.

Taking a jibe at senior

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Shah said Rahul must explain as to whether he and his party supports the NC manifesto that promises restoration of Article 370, release of stone pelters and prisoners involved in promoting secessionism. Shah also dared NC that no power can touch the reservation of Gujjars and Bakerwals.

"I want to ask Rahul does he and his party want revival of terrorism, separatism in J&K. Does Rahul support restoration of two flags and Article 370." P-06

### 'J&K Witnessing New Era Of Peace And Development'

**SRINAGAR-** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a new era of peace and development under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

"J&K is witnessing a new era

### LEAVING FOR Jammu on my two day visit, where I will launch the BJP's Sankalp Patra today and interact with our karyakartas tomorrow in the Karyakarta Sammelan,

of peace and development under the Modi government. The region has transformed from a terrorist hotspot into a tourist hotspot, with an increase in educational and economic activities" Shah wrote on X.

"Leaving for Jammu on my two day visit, where I will launch the BJP's Sankalp Patra today and interact with our karyakartas tomorrow in the Karyakarta Sammelan," he further said.

Shah will launch the BJP's poll campaign and release the party's manifesto during his two-day

**I WANT TO ASK RAHUL DOES HE AND HIS PARTY WANT revival of terrorism, separatism in J&K. Does Rahul support restoration of two flags and Article 370. He won't answer.**

### Assembly Elections Phase 2 329 Nominations, 267 Accepted, 62 Rejected

JAHANGIR SOFI

**SRINAGAR:** Following the Election Commission of India's (ECI) notification on August 29, the second phase of assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir has been set in motion. A total of 329 nominations were received for 26 assembly constituencies, with 267 accepted and 62 rejected after scrutiny.

This marks J&K's first assembly elections since the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019. The ECI has announced that the region will undergo polling in three phases, with the first phase already underway.

Key constituencies & nomination details: The deadline for filing nominations was September 5, 2024, and the scrutiny of documents occurred on September 6. Candidates have until September 9, 2024, to withdraw their nominations, with polling scheduled for September 25.

Ganderbal constituency: In Ganderbal, 24 candidates submitted nominations. Notable among them is National Conference (NC) Vice President and former Chief P-06

### Terror Conspiracy

## CIK Produces Charge Sheet Against Pak Handler, Associates

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) on Friday presented a charge sheet before an NIA court in Srinagar against Ilyas Kashmiri and overground workers of various terrorist organisations in a terror conspiracy.

"On 6th of September, 2024 Police station Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) Srinagar presented charge sheet (Challan) against a terror module comprising of Pakistani Handler/ terrorist Commander Ilyas Kashmiri @ Gazi Hamas @ Haider S/O

Atta Din R/O Bhawalpur, Pakistan; Waseem Ahmad Sheikh S/O Gh Mohd R/o Kandoor, Beerwah, Budgam; Junaid Ahmed Mir S/O Abdul Jabar Mir R/O Tekipora Lolab Kupwara; and 4. Shabir Ahmed Gojri S/O Abdul Salam Gojri R/O Darbagh Harwan Srinagar before the Hon'ble Court of Special Judge, designated under NIA Act, at Srinagar in case FIR No. 07/2023 U/S 13,18,38, 39 U(P) Act, r/w 120-B IPC of P/S CIK," read a statement, issued by CIK Srinagar.

It said the case P-06

## BJP Slams Farooq Abdullah's 'Peace Without Forces' Demand In J&K

IANS

**NEW DELHI:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday slammed National Conference President Farooq Abdullah's call for 'bringing peace in the Kashmir Valley without security forces' and cautioned against making any 'disruptive' statements at a time when the Union Territory is witnessing return to normalcy and prosperity, particularly after the abrogation of Article 370.

BJP spokesperson Shazia Ilmi, took strong exception to calls for removal of Army from the Kashmir Valley and advised the NC chief to look at the green



pastures after 2019. "Farooq Abdullah's statement is out of touch. We all know what happened during their rule. The lives of ordinary Kashmiris were turned upside down and their livelihoods were destroyed. Now that peace has P-06

## CS Reviews Implementation Of Infra Projects Under PMG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the pace of implementation of infrastructure projects being monitored through the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) portal.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti; Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment; Principal Secretary, Power Development Department; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Commissioner Secretary Information Technology; Secretary, Public Works (R&B) and other senior officers. Divisional Commission-

er, Jammu; Regional Officer, NHAI, J&K Jammu; Chief General Manager BSNL and others attended the meeting through video conferencing.

While chairing the meeting, Chief Secretary emphasized the need to address the issues being faced by implementing agencies on priority to ensure timely completion of projects. He directed the officers to work in a coordinated manner to iron out all issues which are causing hindrances in implementation of projects.

Atal Dulloo inquired about the latest status of each project from the concerned officers and the challenges being faced P-06

### J&K Polls

## For Omar Abdullah Fight From Ganderbal Is No Cakewalk

IANS

**GANDERBAL:** The contest in the Ganderbal Assembly seat in J&K may not be a cakewalk for former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah.

A total of 24 candidates have filed their nominations for the seat out of which around four are real challengers for him.

Fiery cleric Sarjan Barkati also filed his nomination papers from this Assembly constituency.

Sarjan Ahmad Wagay alias Sarjan Barkati alias Azadi Chacha shot into the limelight in 2016 when the Hizbul poster boy, Burhan Wani was killed by the security forces in the Kokernag area of Anantnag district on July 8, 2016.

Barkati's vitriolic speeches against India incited youth to join the militant ranks. In addition, those speeches are believed to have motivated many to join the militant ranks.

Barkati is presently lodged in jail. He was first



arrested in 2016 and after his release was again arrested last year under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). He is considered to be an ideologue, promoter and supporter of terrorist-secessionist nexus.

His wife was also later arrested in a money laundering case.

Barkati's nomination papers were earlier rejected in the Zainpora constituency of the Shopian district because his mandatory oath

attested by the jail superintendent was not attached to the nomination papers.

His papers will now be scrutinised in Ganderbal and Beerwah. His relatives and supporters said this time the cleric's papers are complete in all respects.

Barkati joining the electoral fray against Omar Abdullah apparently seems to be less challenging for the NC leader because the Abdullahs, as a political family, are well P-06

## 14 KPs Enter Fray From Kashmir



AGENCIES

**JAMMU-** So far, 14 Kashmiri Pandits have filed nominations to contest from the valley for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, aiming to ensure the return and rehabilitation of their fellow community members, whose number run up to 3 lakh.

Srinagar's Habba Kadal assembly constituency has virtually turned into an electoral battlefield for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

A record six KPs out of the 14 have filed their nomination from the assembly segment, which goes to polls, along with 26 other constituencies in the second phase of elections, on September 25.

"As many as six candidates from the KP community have filed their nomination papers in Habba Kadal. Of them, five have filed under recognised political parties, while two have filed as Independents. A total of 14 candidates have filed their nominations," an election department official told PTI. P-06

**INOX SRINAGAR**

BAJRANGI BHAIJAN (HINDI) 02:00PM (U/A)

LAILA MAJNU (RE-RELEASE) (HINDI) (U/A) 01:30PM

BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE (ENG WITH ENG SUBTITLE) (U/A) 11:55AM, 04:30PM

STREE 2 (HINDI) (U/A) 12:30PM, 2:30PM, 04:00PM, 06:00PM, 08:00PM, 10:00PM, 12:00PM

9541613868 For assistance with tickets

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SATURDAY 07 SEPTEMBER

TICKETS AT: Paytm, Inox App or Directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

**ASSEMBLY POLLS**

# Expenditure Observer reviews Arrangements in Bandipora

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**BANDIPORA:** The Expenditure Observer for District Bandipora, Sudeep Dabas on Friday convened a meeting to review preparations for the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024.

During the meeting, Sudeep Dabas reviewed the operations of various teams, including Assistant Expenditure Observers, Accounting teams, Video Surveillance Teams, Video Viewing Teams, Flying Squads, Static Surveillance Teams, the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC), and the Control Room.

Sudeep Dabas urged the Surveillance Teams to work with dedication to ensure that the elections are conducted smoothly, fairly, and transparently and to minimize inconvenience to the public while performing duties. He emphasized the importance of effective coordination among the surveillance teams to uphold the integrity of the electoral process and ensure a peaceful election period.

Nodal Officer Expenditure Monitoring briefed the chair about the working of different teams and outlined the district's geographical challenges and the extensive planning undertaken by the District Administration. He informed the chair that Bandipora District encom-



passes three Assembly Constituencies, with 312 polling stations and 220 polling locations.

The briefing also highlighted the meticulous operations of the Video Surveillance Teams (VSTs), Flying Squads (FSTs), and Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs) aimed at ensuring a successful electoral process.

The Nodal Officer

MCMC also provided an update on the functioning of the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee. He highlighted the committee's rigorous procedures for monitoring media coverage and ensuring that the media plays a fair role in the electoral process, besides ensuring that all political advertisements comply with ECI guidelines.

Sudeep Dabas stressed the importance of closely monitoring both local and social media to prevent the spread of misinformation and ensure compliance with election guidelines. He highlighted that a vigilant approach is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the electoral process and ensuring that all media content adheres to established regulations.

# Expenditure Observers for Baramulla hold review meeting

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**BARAMULLA:** In an effort to ensure transparency and fairness in the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, Election Expenditure Observers (EOs) for Baramulla, Sidlingappa Teli and Prakash Borgohain chaired a meeting Friday with the representatives of political parties and teams responsible for overseeing the expenditure of candidates and political parties participating in the elections, at Dak Bungalow here.

The meeting was attended by the District Election Officer Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; Senior Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, Mohammad Zaid; Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Syed Qamar Sajad; Superintendent of Police, Sopore, Divya Dev, representatives of political parties, Nodal Officers of Expenditure Monitoring Committees, Video Surveillance Teams (VSTs), Video Viewing Teams (VVTs), Model Code of Conduct,



Accounting Teams, and others.

At the outset, the EOs were provided a detailed briefing by the DEO regarding the formation of Expenditure Monitoring Teams, SSTs, VSTs, and VVTs, and accounting teams to oversee the expenditures of candidates participating in the elections and to enforce and inspect violations of

the Model Code of Conduct as per the guidelines set forth by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Minga Sherpa further informed that the administration has made all necessary preparations, with different teams collaborating effectively to ensure a level playing field for the candidates contesting Assembly Elections to guarantee free,

fair, and seamless conduct of elections in all the seven assembly constituencies of the district.

Speaking during the meeting, Sidlingappa Teli emphasized to all the representatives of the political parties the importance of maintaining accurate expenditure records while adhering to legal expenditure limits of the candidates in accordance with the guidelines outlined by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Meanwhile, Prakash Borgohain directed the officers and concerned team members, instructing them to prevent any illicit or illegal activities by political parties aimed at enticing voters during the election period.

Later, the EOs held a comprehensive training session for the nodal officers of expenditure monitoring teams, VST, SST, accounting teams, and other concerned teams to ensure transparency and strict adherence to ECI guidelines during Assembly Elections 2024.

**ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

## Ganderbal district readies for Assembly elections



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**GANDERBAL:** With the announcement of Assembly Elections 2024, Ganderbal district is gearing up for 2nd phase of the elections with more than 2.08 lakh electorates set to exercise their right to franchise on polling day.

The district is fully prepared to conduct the election in a fair, transparent, and efficient manner on the scheduled polling day.

The district comprises two Assembly Constituencies; Kangan (ST) and Ganderbal with 2,08,018 registered voters, including 1,04,162 males and 1,03,856

females.

A comprehensive network of 267 polling stations has been established by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to accommodate voters across the district, ensuring accessibility by road and availability of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) such as Ramps, Electricity, Drinking Water and separate toilets for men and women.

AC 17-Kangan (ST) has 78,904 voters (40,000 males and 38,904 females) with 110 polling stations. Likewise, AC 18-Ganderbal has 1,29,114 voters (64,162 males, 64,952 females) with 157 polling stations.

**ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

## General Observer visits Polling Stations in Rajpora Constituency



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**PULWAMA:** Khartade Kalicharan Sudama Rao, the General Observer for 35-Rajpora Assembly Constituency Friday conducted a thorough inspection of several polling stations across the constituency, as part of the ongoing preparations for the Legislative Assembly Elections 2024.

The General Observer visited various polling stations in Lassipora, Achan A, Achan B, Panzran, Patipora, Rakh Children, Now-

pora Payeen and Armulla. He reviewed the preparedness at each polling station, including infrastructure, accessibility and security arrangements.

He interacted with officials to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place for a smooth and efficient voting process on Election Day, scheduled for 18th September 2024.

The visit underscores the Election Commission's commitment to ensuring free, fair and transparent elections in the region.

## General Observer for Rajpora reviews commissioning at Strong Room



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**PULWAMA:** The General Observer for Rajpora Assembly Constituency (AC), Khartade Kalicharan Sudama Rao visited the Strong Room Friday to review the ongoing commissioning process ahead of the Legislative Assembly Elections 2024.

During the visit, the General Observer conducted a thorough inspection of the Strong Room and assessed the arrange-

ments in place for securing election materials and electronic voting machines (EVMs).

He emphasized the need for stringent security measures and adherence to the guidelines provided by the Election Commission of India to ensure a transparent and efficient electoral process.

The visit highlights the Election Commission's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and security in the election process.

**ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

## GO Zainapora AC visits polling stations, takes stock of AMF



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SHOPIAN:** In the run-up to the poll day preparations, General Observer for Assembly Constituency (AC) 36- Zainapora, Jeevan Babu K Friday visited many polling stations of the AC to inspect the availability of the assured minimum facilities (AMF).

The Observer visited polling stations including at Kachdoora, Kaprin, Kanjiullar Adijan, Dangan etc, and reviewed the assured minimum facilities available for voters, ensuring that the arrangements are in place with the ECI guidelines, particularly regarding accessibility for differently-abled voters.

Assured Minimum Facilities are a set of basic infrastructural interventions and welfare based services that are made or set up at each polling station to facilitate the voters and polling staff for effective and hassle free polling.

These facilities include provision for water, ramp, furniture, medical kit, proper electricity and signage, help desk, toilets, shade, queue management etc.

Later, the Observer also inspected Flying Squads and impressed them for strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct and arresting the violations of MCC by timely action.

# DEO Kupwara inspects RO Office, ARO Office in Handwara

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**KUPWARA:** The District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudhan Friday visited Handwara sub division and conducted a comprehensive inspection of election Strong room, Election Control Room and Facilitation Centre of RO office at Handwara.

The inspection was aimed to evaluate the preparedness for upcoming assembly election-2024.



The DEO meticulously inspected the Strong Room

at ITI Handwara, Control Room and Facilitation centre, besides she also reviewed the facilities and arrangements for smooth conduct of elections.

On the occasion, DEO directed the officers of concerned departments to put in place all efforts for smooth conduct of assembly elections. She was accompanied by ADC (RO), AC-05 Handwara, Aziz Ahmad Rather; ARO, AC-05-Handwara, Executive Engineer R&B Division Handwara.

## SVEEP Rally sparks vibrant voter awareness across Shopian



**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**SHOPIAN:** A SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) rally was held Friday at various locations, including at Kachdora, Kapren, Kanjiullar, Adijan, and Dangan villages of the district, as part of the ongoing efforts to raise voter awareness ahead of poll day on September 18.

The rally organized by the Nodal Officer, SVEEP, witnessed an overwhelming response from children, local residents, and staff members, who actively participated in the rally.

Announcements emphasizing the importance of voting and the

inevitable need for people to register their franchise on the voting day were highlighted throughout the march.

Themes promoting a responsible, transparent, and vibrant democracy were also a key focus. The participants carried banners and placards with SVEEP content while as student ambassadors appealed to people to participate in voting.

Through these SVEEP initiatives, the District Election Office continues to work towards educating the public about the electoral process and the significance of their active participation in building a better future for the region.

## SVEEP programme held in Rajpora to encourage Voter participation

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**PULWAMA:** A large and successful Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme was conducted Friday under the leadership of the District-level Nodal Officer, for SVEEP in the main market (Nukad) of Village Chakoora, Pulwama.

The event witnessed active participation of residents from Chakoora and surrounding areas, along with Booth Level Officers (BLOs), ASHA workers, staff members and students

from Higher Secondary School (HSS) Chakoora.

The SVEEP team delivered a powerful message to voters through various engaging activities, including songs, skits, rallies and slogans, all aimed at raising awareness about the importance of voting.

The programme culminated in an inspiring speech by the Nodal Officer SVEEP, who emphasized the significance of casting votes in the upcoming Assembly Elections scheduled for 18th September 2024 in the 35-Rajpora constituency.

## DEO notifies details of Expenditure Observer for B'pora ACs

**GMK NEWS NETWORK**

**BANDIPORA:** The District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Friday notified the contact of Expenditure Observer for Bandipora district.

DEO informed that Sudeep Dabas, the Expenditure Observer for three

assembly constituencies of Bandipora viz. 14-Sonawari, 15-Bandipora and 16-Gurez, is stationed in the district from September 5th.

He said, the observer shall stay at PFH Building KGHEP, NHPC Bandipora and can be contacted on 8899234919 and 9103379985.

# Congress, NC Intend Snatching Rights Of Daughters Of J&K: Dr Jitendra

AGENCIES

**HIRANAGAR:** Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Friday said that at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given women the highest priority in every sphere of life and by abrogating Article 370 and 35A he ensured that the daughters of Jammu & Kashmir also be entitled to claim the land and property share of their parents which they were deprived of for almost seven decades under the garb of Article 370, it is unfortunate that Congress and National Conference (NC) intend snatching legitimate rights of the daughters of Jammu & Kashmir by denying them parental property rights through revival of Article 370 and 35A, according to which any daughter choosing to marry an individual who is not a citizen or State Subject of Jammu & Kashmir would be denied claim to the land and property rights of her parents.



Addressing a public rally to mark the filing of nomination papers by BJP Candidate Advocate Vijay Sharma, Dr Jitendra Singh said, in today's age and time when India has assumed a

global position in 21st Century, Congress and National Conference still seek to revert to male chauvinism of mediaeval era and deny equal rights to women in Jammu & Kashmir. Cautioning the people of this mischievous design, Dr Jitendra Singh cited Prime Minister Modi who has not only rolled out a series of schemes like Ujjawala Yojna providing gas cylinders, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna providing pucca house in the name of housewife but who also took the bold step of ensuring 1/3rd reservation for women in Parliament.

Dr Jitendra Singh also cited the BJP Sankalp Patra for J&K Assembly which promises support of Rs 18000 for women.

In contrast to Prime Minister Modi's emphasis

on women-led development contributing to the making of Viksit Bharat, Dr Jitendra Singh lamented that the Congress and National Conference wish to create gender based division in the society. He said, BJP will never allow such disempowerment of the women of Jammu & Kashmir and the entire society will collectively rise against this design.

Over half a century, alleged Dr Jitendra Singh, Congress and National Conference sought to perpetuate their Party rule by creating division in the women in the name of religion, community and caste. Now that people have seen through this design, they have gone one step further trying to create divisions based on gender and that too at a time when Prime

Minister Modi has repeatedly reminded the countrymen that for India to rise to world pedestal and to become third largest economy in next few years, contribution of each and every citizen is expected regardless of whether the individual is a man or women.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that Hirnaagar is a land of patriots and from here Prem Nath Dogra had initiated the movement of total integration of Jammu & Kashmir with India. It is also the land where Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Prem Nath Dogra gave a call for "Ek-Pradhan-Ek Vidhan-Ek Nishan". The spirit of national integration was inspired from here. Later on, it took the form of a countrywide movement that was also a part of Bharatiya Jana Sangh ideology.

Therefore, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Hiranagar has a special responsibility and duty to keep the legacy of Prem Nath Dogra and Syama Prasad Mookerjee alive. He said, victory from Hiranagar constituency is a foregone conclusion but we have to work to break all the previous records of victory so that it could be a lesson for the enemies of the nation.

'PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO'

# BJP will work to solve everyone's problems: Ravinder Raina

AGENCIES

**JAMMU:** Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir chief Ravindra Raina on Friday hailed the party's manifesto and termed it 'people's manifesto'.

Promising all help to the people of the state, Raina said that the party will solve everyone's problems, adding that the BJP will work with the mission of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'.

"BJP's manifesto is people's manifesto. Daily wagers, home guards, Anganwadi workers, Asha workers; BJP will solve everyone's problems. Youth, government employees; BJP will solve their problems too because BJP will work with the mission of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'," Ravindra Raina said.

Raina exuded confidence in party's victory in the upcoming assembly elections, saying that the BJP will record a 'tremendous victory'.

"PM Modi and Union HM Amit Shah have worked for J-K in a mission mode. While releasing the manifesto, the Home



Minister said that we will strengthen the peace and prosperity in J-K. As the HM has said, we will have tremendous victory here and the BJP will form the government," Ravinder Raina said.

Earlier on Friday, Amit Shah released, BJP's manifesto for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections. He stated that Article 370 is a thing of past and will never return again.

"Now Article 370 has become a thing of past, it is not a part of the constitution. I have read the agenda of NC and seen

the silent support of NC, but I want to make it clear, that article 370 is a thing of past and it'll never return again, we will not let that happen. Article 370 was the thing that gave weapons and stones in the hands of the youth It's the spirit of separatism that used to force youth towards terrorism," Amit Shah added.

BJP made 25 promises in its manifesto for the UT, primarily focusing on wiping out terrorism and separatism from Jammu and Kashmir.

BJP manifesto focused on women, promising

implementation of 'Maa Samman Yojana' to provide Rs 18,000 per year to the senior most woman in every household in Jammu and Kashmir.

The manifesto also catered to the youth, mentioning that the government will create 5 lakh employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir through Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Rozgar Yojana (PPNDRY).

BJP also said that it will provide Rs 3,000 yearly through DBT as travel allowance to college students under the 'Pragati Shiksha Yojana'. (ANI)

# Chief Secretary reviews HADP projects

'Take corrective measures to fill gaps'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the status and progress of implementation of projects under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

Besides, Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department, the meeting was attended by Managing Director & CEO, J&K Bank, Mission Director, HADP, All Deputy Commissioners of J&K UT, heads of various departments.

Assessing the performance of each project on different parameters, Chief Secretary emphasized the need to expedite establishment of various project activities. During the meeting, key issues

were identified with immediate directives issued for their resolution.

Dulloo said that there must be focused attention on the extension and outreach of HADP activities to ensure that intending beneficiaries across the length and breadth of J&K are brought within the ambit of HADP.

He called for a thorough analytical study of the implementation process so far to identify the areas where we are lacking. He said that the study will help us in identifying the gaps so that tailor made corrective measures are taken to fill those gaps.

He impressed upon the officers to commit themselves towards achieving the set targets within stipulated timelines, ensuring

optimal utilization of allocated resources. He asked them to expedite ongoing works on these prestigious projects so that benefits are provided to the farming community.

Chief Secretary further called for coordinated efforts between farmers, APD, universities, HoDs for smooth flow of the implementation process.

During the meeting, the officers presented detailed updates on implementation status, challenges encountered and strategies to expedite pending activities under these schemes. The review concluded with a reaffirmed commitment to expedite project activities and ensure effective collaboration among all stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the HADP.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

# Dr. Arvind reviews preparations for KM's participation in upcoming polls in Delhi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Dr. Arvind Karwani, Friday chaired a meeting with the Assistant Returning Officers and representatives of the prominent Kashmiri Migrant organizations at New-Delhi, to take stock of the arrangements being put in place with regard to conduct of upcoming General Elections to Legislative Assembly.

Dr Karwani emphasized on ensuring all requisite Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at all designated Special Polling Stations at New-Delhi viz. permanent ramps, drinking water, toilet facilities as per norms of Election Commission of India.

He emphasized on reaching out to the voters and ensuring all necessary facilitation, particularly keeping in view the scattered population of the migrants in the Delhi NCT region.

Pertinent to mention that the Election Commission of India Vide Notification No-3/J&K-LA/2024 dated 22-08-2024, has notified the scheme for Kashmiri Migrants to vote in person at notified Special Polling Stations and voting by means of postal ballots pertaining to the General Election to Assembly Constituencies falling in Kashmir Province of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. As



per the notified scheme 19 Special Polling Stations in Jammu and 01 in Udhampur have been mapped to the Camps/Zones individually, ensuring that every Zone has at least one special polling station. The intra-zonal jurisdiction for each such polling station has been earmarked keeping in mind the distance/ease of approach for each set of electors.

All electors within 07 days of the notification of the draft electoral roll extract, can approach the respective Assistant Returning Officers (Migrant) at Jammu and Udhampur, or their respective Zonal Officers (Nodal Officers)/Booth Level Officers (BLO's), in case his/her name does not figure in the draft electoral roll extract, or in case any elector wishes to opt for voting through postal ballot or vote at original polling station in Kashmir valley.

Further, Deputy Director Horticulture (P&M) and Deputy Secretary in the Office of Resident Commissioner, have also been appointed as the ARO for the receipt of applications, conduct of poll etc at the special polling stations provided in Delhi. Four special polling stations have been set up at New-Delhi. The requirement of filing M-Form in Delhi has also been simplified.

Any 'notified voter' who wishes to vote by post is required to make an application for postal ballot in Form 12-C appended to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to any of the AROs at least 10 days before the date of poll in the in the Assembly constituency in which he is registered as elector.

The ARO Migrant at Jammu has been made solely responsible for handling these applications. The Form -12 C and M-form ( for migrants residing outside J&K) can also be sent through online mode through concerned ERO where the migrant is residing.

Dr Karwani, appreciated the suggestions put forth by the representatives of prominent social organizations, regarding facilitation of migrant voters, and asked the concerned Assistant Returning Officers to involve them in SVEEP activities.

# Mehbooba Mufti criticises Omar Abdullah for contesting on 2 seats

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief and former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Mehbooba Mufti, criticised National Conference leader Omar Abdullah for contesting on two seats for the upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Omar Abdullah was reiterating one thing from the last 3-4 years, that he would not contest elections till the time statehood is restored in J&K. He even said that he could not beg the LG to approve every little order as the Chief Minister of a UT. Now he is contesting from two seats. This shows the difference in what he says and what he does. This is what his family has done since 1947," Mufti said while speaking to reporters on Friday.

Omar Abdullah is contesting from both Ganderbal and Budgam seats for the upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and

Kashmir. He has filed nominations from both the seats on separate dates.

Speaking on his decision to contest a second seat, Omar Abdullah said, "Me contesting elections from two seats is not a proof of weakness, it is a proof of the strength of the National Conference. Whether it is Baramulla, Anantnag or Srinagar, the trend is seen

in favor of the National Conference. As far as the last 5-6 years have been a period of misgovernance, allegations of corruption have been made, all of them will be investigated."

The National Conference and the Congress party are fighting the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir together. The Samajwadi Party (SP) has also extended its support to the Congress and National Conference alliance in the J-K polls.

The voting in the Union Territory is scheduled to be held in three phases: September 18, 25 and October 1. The counting will be held on October 8. (ANI)



ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

# CEO reviews Election preparedness in Kishtwar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KISHTWAR:** With an aim to ensure the free, fair, transparent and smooth conduct of Assembly Elections in the district, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Pandurang K Pole Friday visited Kishtwar, where he chaired a meeting with Nodal officers at Mini Secretariat to review overall Election preparedness for 48-Indermal, 49-Kishtwar and 50-Paddar-Nagseni Assembly Constituencies of the district.

District Election Officer (DEO) Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan; Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom; Additional Secretary Sandish Gupta; Returning Officers of all Assembly Constituencies; Deputy District Election Officer, Idrees Lone and the Nodal Officers monitoring/ overseeing election related activities also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on key aspects of election management, including manpower deployment, EVM randomization and transportation, polling staff arrangements, strong rooms, security protocols, functioning of Control Room and other arrangements for smooth conduct of elections.

The DEO through PPT presentation provided an overview of District Elec-

tion Profile including electorate count, number of polling stations and polling locations, model polling stations, home voting facilities, SVEEP activities and the district's election management.

Addressing the officers in the meeting, the CEO said that the aim of the visit is to see that there is no deficiency of any kind and to redress deficits at an earliest to make the electoral process successful.

He emphasized on the continuation of SVEEP initiatives to educate and engage voters effectively and urged all stakeholders to maximize voter turnout through door-to-door campaigns by roping in the BAGs, BLOs, AWWs, Teachers, Youths and Students of Colleges and Schools under SVEEP initiative.

The CEO instructed for widespread publicity of all SVEEP programs and prepare engaging social media contents by Youth Icons and other media influencers of society to ensure maximum voter awareness.

He also stressed for distribution of voter slips among the voters by using the services of BLOs, so that everyone is able to cast his/her vote on the poll day.

The CEO also emphasized on transparency measures for home voting for the elderly and disabled.

He also asked all stakeholders that plantation drives shall be organised at all polling stations of the district on scheduled dates, expressing the significance of environmental responsibility.

The DEO apprised the CEO that with an aim to improve voter turnout in the district, micro-level planning has been done for better voter turnout in assembly elections.

The DEO assured that the district is fully equipped with an adequate supply of EVMs and VVPATs, including sufficient buffer stock, to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of the upcoming Assembly Elections, adding that the preparations are in place to facilitate seamless electoral operations across all polling stations.

Meanwhile, SSP presented the law and order arrangements, manpower distribution and the security grid for the district.

During the visit, the CEO also inspected MCMC, receipt and dispatch sections, Counting Centres and Strong Rooms at the district headquarters and gave necessary instructions to the concerned Nodal Officer to ensure free, fair and smooth conduct of elections. The DEO assured the CEO of the Administration's full preparedness to ensure free, fair, and peaceful elections.

# BJP's election manifesto promises Rs 18,000, two free cylinders

IASNS

**SRINAGAR:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday released the BJP's manifesto for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections and detailed the future plans of the party should it come to power.

The BJP's manifesto pays special attention to the interests of all sections of the Valley. The Home Minister urged the people of the Valley to give BJP five years, after which they would experience a remarkable transformation in their lives.

The BJP's manifesto places significant emphasis on women. The Home Minister announced that if the BJP forms the government in the valley, Rs 18,000 will be provided yearly to one elderly woman in every household under the 'Maa Samman Yojana'.

Apart from this, under the Ujjawala Yojana, women will receive two free gas cylinders. To ensure that financial constraints do not hinder anyone's education, the party will provide Rs 3,000 annually to all female students.

The Home Minister also stated that if the BJP comes to power in Jammu and Kashmir, elderly women will receive a monthly pension of Rs 3,000, an increase from the current Rs 1,000 pension they receive.

Moreover, Amit Shah promised support for farmers as well. He said that under the 'Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana', farmers would receive Rs 10,000 annually instead of the current Rs 6,000.

In addition, Amit Shah addressed the issue of Article 370 in the manifesto. He made it clear that Article 370 is now a thing of the past and has no relevance to the present.

## NOTICE

The name "Kashmir Connect Tour and Travels" has been proposed for a new travel agency. Anyone with objections to the use of this name is invited to contact the Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir, within 15 days. The agency plans to highlight the region's cultural and historical richness, aiming to boost local tourism and the economy.

Proprietor:- Muien Bashir  
Office address:- Zakura, Srinagar  
Contact no.:-9419966660

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DEVELOPMENT KUPWARA RETURNING OFFICER AC 2-TREHGAM

"Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy"

FORM 1 (See rule 3)  
NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that :-

- (1) an election is to be held of a member to the Legislative Assembly 2-Trehgam.
- (2) nomination papers may be delivered by a candidate or any of his proposers to the Mr Muzaffar Ahmad Shiekh (JKAS) Returning Officer 2-Trehgam or to MC Ab Manan Wani (JKAS) Assistant Returning Officer, at Block Development Office Trehgam District: Kupwara Pin:-193224 between 11 A.M. and 3 P.M. on any day (other than public holiday) from 05.09.2024(Thursday) not later than the 12.09.2024 (Thursday).
- (3) forms of nomination paper may be obtained at the place and times aforesaid;
- (4) nomination paper will be taken up for scrutiny at Block Development Office Trehgam District: Kupwara Pin:- 193224 on 13.09.2024(Friday) at 11 A.M. onwards;
- (5) notice of withdrawal of candidature may be delivered either by a candidate or by any of his proposers or by his election agent who has been authorised in writing by the candidate to deliver it to either of the officers specified in paragraph (2) above at his office before 3 P.M. on the 17.09.2024 (Tuesday);
- (6) in the event of the election being contested, the poll will be taken on 01.10.2024(Tuesday) between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 06:00 P.M.

Place: Trehgam  
No.:RO/01/2024  
Date: 04.09.2024

DIPK-5348-24  
DT: 05/09/2024

Muzaffar Ahmad Shiekh (JKAS)  
Assistant Commissioner DEV Kupwara  
Returning Officer 2Trehgam

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

## Sound Pollution

Wherever one turns out head there is unbearable noise. People chanting loudly on public address systems - politicians, religious preachers, alms collectors, fruit vendors, stray item sellers and others. Everyone is using public address system to convey their point. The decibels are mind boggling, the content repetitive and boring mainly. It has become literally impossible to walk through any thoroughfare in the city without getting affected by this noise. The noise is there on every street, lane and Warren.

While till a few years back this phenomenon was restricted to Srinagar city only it has now spread to other districts as well. The towns in both north and southern Kashmir are getting affected by this cacophony of noises wherein people try to sell different things. Everyone everywhere is using a public address system to convey his/her point without preinforming the authorities. This reckless use of public address system is not only affecting the mental peace of the general population but also of the birds and other animals.

Some years back the civil society had launched a campaign to impress upon the masjid committees to restrict the level of sound emanating from the loudspeakers. There was a sustained campaign going on social media also in this regard. However, after a few initial strides this campaign ebbed out and the loudspeakers were at their highest decibels again.

The same can be said about the political campaigns. Rampant use of loudspeakers by all political parties is leading to a precarious situation and for the aged and sick it has become impossible to even walk quietly for even ten minutes on the road. Even though the Election Commission of India (ECI) has clearly marked the decibels allowed in a political campaign in a densely populated area but political workers laugh at such regulations.

Curbing sound pollution is very important for the spiritual and mental well being of the people. Use of public address system must be allowed with a proper permission from the government.

# Status Of A Teacher

MASROOF MANZOOR

Alexander the Great, while indicating the notability of a teacher said, "I am beholden to my parents for my life but for living a good life I am beholden to my teacher". It means the difference between our parents and a teacher is only that our Parents are the very source of our existence and a teacher is the cradle to embellish & illustrate our life, playing a vital role in guiding us through the highs & lows of life and shaping us into the successful individuals we become. Just recall, when a person opens his eyes to life in this world, he is even unaccustomed to his self & attributes. His first school is his mother's lap who then hands over her piece of the heart to a teacher at the time when he is equivalent to a worthless stone only, which a teacher then carves out & turns into a diamond by bringing out his dormant knacks, making him the uncrowned king of his time.

Behind every successful person, there is a teacher. A teacher not only teaches educational subjects to children but also inculcates moral values among them. He nurtures them with all-round development & social welfare awareness. So, a teacher is like a lamp that illuminates the dark paths inviolately. He is like a flower that conveys a message of peace, love & friendship to society with its fragrance. He is a leader who takes a person out of the lost ways of life towards his destination. He is an artist who takes a man out of the clutches of animalism by making him aware of the evils of humanity. Being a teacher is not as easy as it seems because it is the same personality who is a maker of a nation by building the future of a nation.

Every religion glorifies and extols a teacher. Islam highlighted the honorable status of a teacher long ago. The Prophet (PBUH) gave honor to the class of teachers by saying, "I am sent as a teacher." Imam Ali said about a teacher, "If a person teaches me one



single word, he has made me his servant for a lifetime." It clearly shows that the status of a teacher is the highest of all the professions around.

There is no bond as chaste as the teacher-student bond, it is similar to that parent-child relationship. A teacher is considered a spiritual father, who must treat every apprentice like his own children. But unfortunately, there are few teachers who not only take this noble profession as a mere means of employment but have also spoiled this

sacred bond due to their sacrilegious acts. But these few instances will not cast any dark shadow over this noble & sacred profession.

To conclude, It is the collective responsibility of society, teachers, and students as well to know the worth of this noble profession to ensconce the sanctity of this bond. If justice is not done with this sacred profession, it surely is going to generate hostile consequences upon the whole society by disrupting the development progress

of society. Therefore, the Need of the hour is, that a teacher must be sincere in his profession & play his full role to shape the character of his apprentices in a way where they can become useful citizens of society. Tomorrow these same students will lay the foundation of a good society, raise the dignity of teachers, and use all their energies for the country and nation.

The author can be mailed at mas-roof950@gmail.com

## A Tale Of Love, Betrayal, And Resilience



SYED MAJID GILANI

In a world where truth is often trampled, John's life is turned upside down by a relentless campaign of harassment and manipulation orchestrated by his partner, Mary. Her ultimate goal was to secure a divorce and a hefty alimony but with a twisted plan: to manipulate John into initiating the divorce.

For years, Mary surreptitiously compiled a dossier on John, meticulously copying his phone contacts and closely monitoring his interactions with friends, colleagues, neighbors, and acquaintances. Her clandestine efforts were a precursor to a campaign of manipulation and harassment, designed to exploit John. Despite being subjected to torture, incitement, denial, and constant provocation, John remained calm and composed. Mary's strategy was to push him to the brink, hoping he would lash out and give her the divorce she wanted. But John refused to take the bait.

When Mary created a scene, hoping to manufacture evidence of violence, her lies didn't work as planned. Undeterred, she reached out to the police, courts, and various forums, spinning a web of fabricated stories and lies. She even approached John's colleagues, friends, relatives, and acquaintances hoping to infuriate him into a divorce.

But John remained resolute, refusing to give in to her tactics. The battle of wills continued, with John determined to withstand the onslaught and protect his rights. As John reflects on the darkest chapters of his life, he realizes that his quest for love and connection was mercilessly manipulated and distorted. Every day brought a fresh wave of torment: relent-

less arguments, crushing criticisms, and a relationship twisted beyond recognition. Mary, the person he trusted most, turned against him, and his own flesh and blood were brainwashed and turned against him.

As the truth began to unravel, John realized with horror that he was betrayed in the most heinous way imaginable. Yet, he finds the strength to break free from this toxic web of lies and manipulation. His heart-wrenching true story is a testament to the resilience of the human heart and the power of truth to overcome even the darkest of evils.

Actually, John thought

he had found his soulmate in Mary, but, he discovered a self-centered and manipulative narcissist in her. She consistently belittled him, making him feel insignificant and eroding his self-worth. Conversations revolved around her accomplishments, needs, and desires, with any disagreement or non-compliance triggering her rage. Despite his efforts to please her, Mary was never satisfied, leaving John feeling trapped and walking on eggshells to avoid her wrath. Her fragile ego and superiority complex made her incapable of empathy or understanding. But one day, John found the strength to break free from Mary's

toxic grasp. He set boundaries, refused to engage in her games, and rediscovered his passion for writing. He reconnected with friends and family, slowly rebuilding his shattered confidence.

However, Mary couldn't accept John's newfound independence. She unleashed her fury and manipulation, desperate to pull him back into her web. Yet, John stood firm, knowing he deserved a life free from narcissistic abuse.

Her motive throughout the long years was to oppose John in every manner driven by a deep-seated hatred for him. Whatever John earned, he spent on his children and Mary and tried to keep every-



thing available for his family, even beyond his means and reach. But there was a huge difference since Mary had a lot of hatred for John. All of John's genuine efforts, love, and hard work were met with disapproval. Mary's desire and aim were to be the head and controlling authority in John's family, which he resisted. Her behavior with John was such that no other person could have tolerated it, but John believed he was chosen by Allah to bear all the disrespect and arrogance.

Syed Majid Gilani is a writer and a GST Inspector and can be reached at syed-majid667@gmail.com

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# One Step Towards Making The World Free Of TB



SHOBHA SHUKLA

Let us share an old story you might have read it already. But guiding lights always guide. This is one of them for us: "Once upon a time, there was an old woman who used to go to the ocean to do her writing. She had a habit of walking on the beach every morning before she began her work. Early one morning, she was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see. Off in the distance, she noticed a small girl approaching. As the girl walked, she paused ever so often and as she grew closer, the woman could see that the girl was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea. The woman called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The girl paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean. When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water." The woman replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I am afraid you would not really be able to make much of a difference." The girl bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she turned, smiled and said, "It made a difference to that one!"

A homeless person would not have got TB services without the support of a community health worker, so do we believe. Akin to starfish analogy of "one step towards changing the world," Humana People to People India workers strive their hardest to bring yet another person to TB care fold - and support her/him on their way to cure.

Rajendra, who hails from Uttar Pradesh state of India, had migrated to West Bengal and then came to Delhi owing to his alcoholism (as he himself stated). More than a year before getting diagnosed of TB in Delhi, he was presumptive of TB when he underwent pleural aspiration in West Bengal. But no one offered him a TB test back then. He came to Delhi, became very sick and weak while staying in a night shelter for homeless people - so much so that he could not even walk a step or stand on his feet.

The turnaround came when he was spotted by Abhishek, a frontline community health worker who works as a Field Officer of Humana People to People India and regularly visited this shelter. Abhishek immediately put him on a cycle rickshaw (even that was not easy given Rajendra's condition) and took him to a nearby hospital - Delhi's famous and among India's best TB clinics at Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital (also known as LNJP or 'Urban' among the locals) which was just about a kilometre away.

Rajendra tested positive for TB. He received treatment on the same day he got a report of being positive for TB. After a lot of critical support from community health workers, as well as from the caretaker of the night shelter, he could complete his treatment on 13th February 2024.

**Quitting alcohol was the first hurdle if he was to defeat TB**  
Another game-changing counselling which Abhishek gave him was on quitting alcohol. Though this was an uphill battle for Rajendra, he was finally able to become a teetotaler and defeat TB. His source of nutrition was from the free food which is regularly provided to the night shelter residents by an NGO (Akshayapatra). **The transformation from TB survivor to TB champion**

Rajendra is not only a TB survivor but also champions the fight against TB by bringing other people who have similar symptoms into TB care fold. So far (by early April 2024) he has helped six people get referred to TB services, out of which three are seeking help from Abhishek for TB disease management.

The night shelter where Rajendra lives is about a kilometre away from LNJP hospital (and 750 metres away from Girdhari Lal Hospital from where he took his medicines) in the very heart of India's capital Delhi.

But even this distance seems too far to travel, for a person in Rajendra's condition. His personal lived



experience of fighting and winning over TB underpins how critically important is the role of community health workers to bridge this gap between existing TB services and their access to most-at-risk people. Community health workers play a vital role in bringing key and vulnerable populations into TB care fold. It is important to remember that if are to end TB then we cannot leave anyone behind as TB anywhere is TB everywhere.

**TB diagnosis takes an hour, but diagnostic delay was over a year**  
Rajendra had undergone a pleural aspiration over a year back in West Bengal where the healthcare worker

he became very weak to do any work, and was even unable to stand or walk a step. He had gradually lost his appetite to the extent that a bread bun lasted 3-4 days as the only source of food for him. He was lying on a side in the night shelter when Abhishek spotted him and enquired about his health.

It was Abhishek who consoled him and took him to the nearest TB centre at LNJP Hospital. His x-ray was done followed by an upfront molecular test using Cartridge-Based Nuclear Acid Amplification Test (CB-NAAT) on the same day. His TB drug susceptibility test via Line Probe Assay (LPA) was also done to ensure that the TB

of taking TB medicines regularly, infection control, nutritional support, treatment adherence, taking responsibility of one's own health, and seeking support from the community health worker or other healthcare providers as needed.

His treatment for drug-susceptible TB of the lungs began on the same day he got his TB positive test report. Thanks to Abhishek for making this happen, as it is so very important to put all people diagnosed on effective treatment as early as possible. It helps reduce human suffering as well as stop any further spread of TB infection - both are critical to ending TB eventually. He got his medicines from the nearest designated microscopy centre (DMC) at Girdhari Lal Hospital. Abhishek helped him get his medicines regularly till he was fit enough to go and collect them by himself.

**The fight against alcoholism**  
Once his treatment was initiated, Abhishek regularly counselled him to stop drinking alcohol. Rajendra recalls how despite initial problems he was finally able to quit and stay quit.

"Despite Abhishek bhaiya's (bhaiya is a Hindi word for brother or used to address someone respectfully) efforts to help me stay away from alcohol, it was not easy for me to stay away from alcohol. One early afternoon I had a strong urge to get drunk. I went to the alcohol shop as I had enough money in my pocket. I saw a queue outside the shop. As I sat and waited on the side, I began having second thoughts about alcohol. Finally I gathered enough courage to walk away from the shop and go to the nearby Kamla Market where I had a good meal and came back to the night shelter and slept. When I woke up in the evening and again had a huge urge to drink, I ate and went back to sleep. This difficult struggle against alcoholism continued for 3-4 days. But I persisted. And finally got rid of it."

Rajendra had a few x-rays during his TB treatment - all free - thanks to LNJP Hospital. One of these x-rays was done in a private clinic and fees covered by Humana People to People India.

Initially he faced side effects, like itching, associated with TB treatment, but they subsided soon after.

Rajendra says that even after having completed his TB treatment his energy level is not fully back. "When I go to Girdhari Lal Hospital, which is just 750 metres away, I have to sit down twice to rest and get back my breath," said Rajendra. He showed his recent ultrasound report to Abhishek which mentions pleural effusion. They agreed to go for another medical consultation with an expert the day after CNS met them. A medical van (supported by Medanta Hospital) with free state-of-the-art laboratory services was also sup-

posed to come the day after we met Rajendra - right across the street in RamLila Maidan.

**Rajendra now is helping many more to seek TB services with Abhishek's support.**

He expresses his gratitude to community health workers like Abhishek: "I am very indebted to Abhishek Bhaiya - he saved me. If he had not met me, I would have gone away" (he points towards the skies - perhaps implying towards the ultimate resting place after death). "That is the final destination for everyone, is not it?" he remarked pensively.

**Community health workers are frontline heroines and heroes**

The role of community health worker becomes very important when it comes to making TB services accessible for most-at-risk people. Rajendra and Abhishek's journey that led to Rajendra's victory over TB and alcoholism is a clarion call to recognise the role of frontline community health workers and scale interventions to make TB services accessible in people-centred and rights-based ways for everyone - especially those who are most-at-risk. After all, we have to listen to the people we serve.

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

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

Thanks to Humana People to People India and team of Abhishek and everyone engaged, for making a difference for Rajendra. One more step towards making the world free of TB.

(Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant co-lead the editorial of Citizen News Service and are on the board of Global Antimicrobial Resistance Media Alliance (GAMA) and Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media). Follow them on Twitter: @Shobha1Shukla, @BobbyRamakant)



had asked him to get checked for TB. But he was in denial, did not get tested, and came to Delhi. "When I got drunk, I stopped feeling if I was even sick or had a fever - until the day when I just collapsed," said Rajendra.

Description automatically generatedHis persistent cough worsened,

bacteria that infect a person are not resistant to the medicines he or she is treated with. His HIV test was negative.

Rajendra was counselled extensively and taken for a medical consultation before he got the report. He was counselled on the importance

# Here's How High Cortisol Levels Can Affect Your Health

**C**ortisol is a steroid hormone produced by the adrenal glands in response to stress and low blood glucose levels. It plays a crucial role in the body's "fight or flight" response by increasing blood sugar, suppressing the immune system, and aiding in metabolism regulation. While cortisol is essential for managing stress and maintaining various bodily functions, persistently high levels can be harmful. In this article, we share a list of ways in which high cortisol levels affect your

well being.  
10 Ways high cortisol levels can affect your health  
1. Weight gain  
High cortisol levels stimulate appetite and can lead to increased fat storage, particularly around the abdomen. This happens because cortisol enhances the storage of fats and carbohydrates, preparing the body for perceived "emergencies."  
2. Increased blood sugar levels  
Cortisol raises blood sugar levels by promoting gluconeogenesis, a process where

the liver converts non-carbohydrate substrates into glucose. This is a natural stress response, but chronic elevation can lead to insulin resistance, a precursor to Type 2 diabetes.  
3. Weakened immune system  
Cortisol suppresses the immune response by reducing the production of white blood cells, making the body more susceptible to infections and illnesses.  
4. Sleep disturbances  
Elevated cortisol levels can disrupt the natural sleep-wake cycle, making it harder to fall asleep or stay asleep. Cortisol

is supposed to be low in the evening, but chronic stress can keep levels elevated. To improve sleep quality, establish a regular sleep routine and create a calm, dark sleeping environment.  
5. Digestive issues  
High cortisol can negatively impact digestive health by slowing down the digestive process and reducing blood flow to the digestive tract, leading to symptoms like bloating, gas, or irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).  
6. High blood pressure  
Cortisol contributes to high blood pressure by causing the

body to retain sodium and fluid and by constricting blood vessels. This sustained increase in blood pressure can elevate the risk of heart disease.  
7. Memory and cognitive impairment  
Chronic high cortisol levels can damage the hippocampus, the part of the brain involved in learning and memory. This can lead to difficulties in concentration and memory recall. Engaging in regular physical activity, learning new skills, and maintaining social connections can help support cognitive health.  
8. Mood swings and anxiety

High cortisol levels can cause mood swings, anxiety, and even depression due to its impact on neurotransmitters like serotonin and dopamine.  
9. Reduced bone density  
Cortisol interferes with bone remodelling by reducing calcium absorption in the gut and increasing calcium excretion in the kidneys, which can lead to osteoporosis over time. Regular physical activity, counselling, CBT, and mindfulness practices can help manage mood swings and anxiety.  
10. Hormonal imbalance  
High cortisol levels can dis-

rupt the production of other hormones like thyroid hormones and sex hormones (oestrogen and testosterone). This imbalance can lead to various symptoms, including fatigue, reduced libido, and menstrual irregularities.  
Managing high cortisol levels effectively involves a combination of lifestyle changes, dietary adjustments, regular physical activity, and stress management techniques. These approaches can help mitigate the negative effects of high cortisol on overall health.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

### BJP Releases J&K

in the Union territory.  
The party aims to develop the Tawi Riverfront in Jammu, modelled after Ahmedabad's Sabarmati Riverfront, and to promote water sports and tourism around Dal Lake in Srinagar.

For small traders and MSMEs, the BJP has pledged to resolve existing issues around land access, utility services, and lease deeds. These measures are expected to boost local businesses and support economic growth.

The manifesto promises relief from outstanding electricity and water bills, free electricity under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, and drinking water through the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' scheme.

In addition, the BJP pledges to triple pensions for the elderly, widows, and the disabled, from Rs 1,000 to Rs 3,000, ensuring a life of dignity for vulnerable groups.

The BJP also aims to expand the Ayushman Bharat Sehat Scheme, increasing coverage by an additional Rs 2 lakhs, and promises to add 1,000 new medical seats to government colleges, reflecting its commitment to affordable healthcare.

The BJP has outlined various measures to support farmers, including increasing the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi payout by Rs 4,000, bringing the total annual benefit to Rs 10,000. Electricity tariffs for agricultural activities will be reduced by up to 50%, and the manifesto includes plans to build 10,000 kilometres of new rural roads under the 'Har Tunnel Tez Pahal' Yojana, improving connectivity in the region.

The BJP also promised the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits under the Tika Lal Taploo Visthapit Samaj Punarvas Yojana, while also expediting support for refugees from Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK) and internally neglected groups like the Valmiki and Gorkha communities.

A concerted drive to remove illegal Rohingya and Bangladeshi settlements from Jammu and Kashmir is another priority in BJP's plan.

**Agriculture:** Provide Rs 10,000 to the farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi. Reduce electricity rates for agricultural activities by 50%.

**Employment:** Generate 5 lakh employment opportunities for the youth. Ensure a fair and just recruitment process.

**Education:** Under the Pragati Shiksha Yojana, provide college students with a travel allowance of Rs 3,000 per year. Add 1,000 new seats in medical colleges to improve the education system.

**Social Welfare:** Under the Maa Samman Yojana, the senior-most woman in every household will be given Rs 18,000 per year. Ujjwala beneficiaries will receive two free cylinders every year.

Through the Atal Housing Scheme, land will be allotted free of cost to landless beneficiaries. Old age, widow, and disability pensions will be increased three times.

**Infrastructure:** Complete all important tunnel projects. Construct 10,000 km of new rural roads. Initiate metro services in Jammu and Srinagar.

**Religious and Cultural:** Rebuild and renovate Hindu temples and religious places.

**Healthcare:** Ayushman Bharat Sehat Yojana will provide an additional Rs 2 lakh in healthcare coverage on top of the Rs 5 lakh already provided.

**Rehabilitation:** Speed up the rehabilitation process for displaced people.

**Tourism:** Transform Jammu and Kashmir from a "terrorist hotspot to a tourist spot."—(KNO)

### Article-370 Now

He won't answer. But I want to state here that Rahul is very much in support of NC manifesto," Shah said. Replying to a query about restoration of Statehood to J&K, he said: "I as a Home Minister have promised on the floor of the house that Statehood will be granted to J&K at an appropriate time after Assembly polls. Why demand something that has already been accepted." On the possibility of talks with Pakistan, Shah said that talks and terror can't go together. "We will talk to the youth of Kashmir not Pakistan unless Pakistan stops terrorism," he said. Replying to a query whether trade can be started with Pakistan, he said trade sets base for terrorism. "So no question of trade with Pakistan till terrorism is there," he said.

On the alliance, he said apart from the three families—Muftis, Abdullahs, and Gandhis, BJP will keep the options open. "One thing is sure that there won't be NC, PDP, Congress government in J&K," he said—(KNO)

### 329 Nominations,

Minister Omar Abdullah, who has filed for

two seats—Ganderbal and Budgam. After scrutiny, 15 nominations were accepted and 9 rejected in Ganderbal.

Srinagar district: Srinagar's eight constituencies saw a significant number of candidates, with a total of 118 nominations. Habba Kadal leads with 21 candidates, followed by Hazratbal with 18. Other constituencies are also competitive:

Khanyar: 12 candidates, Lalchowk: 12 candidates, Chanapora: 11 candidates, Zadibal: 15 candidates, Eidgah: 15 candidates, Central Shaletang: 14 candidates

Notable candidates in Srinagar include Apni Party's Syed Altaf Bukhari from Chanapora, NC's Tanvir Sadiq from Zadibal, Ali Mohammad Sagar of NC from Khanyar, and Muzaffar Shah of the ANC.

Budgam district: Budgam has received 73 nominations, with 56 accepted and 17 rejected. The Beerwah constituency saw the highest number of nominations, with 19 applications (15 accepted and 5 rejected).

Jammu division: Key constituencies in the Jammu division are also part of this phase:

Reasi: 11 nominations, Gulabgarh (ST): 7 nominations, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi: 7 nominations, Rajouri (ST): 14 nominations, Kalakote-Sunderbani: 11 nominations, Nowshera: 8 nominations, Budhal (ST): 7 nominations, Thannamandi (ST): 8 nominations, Poonch Haveli has 13 nominations, Surankote (ST) 11, and Mendhar (ST) 11 nominations.

Withdrawal and upcoming phases: Candidates have until September 9 to withdraw their nominations. As the second phase approaches, political activities are intensifying across Jammu and Kashmir, with campaigns and rallies underway.

With key figures, including former CM Omar Abdullah, contesting in multiple constituencies, this election is poised to be a significant event in Jammu & Kashmir's political history—(KNO)

### CIK Produces Charge

was registered in P/S CIK on an information received through reliable sources that a terrorist module in pursuance of criminal conspiracy is radicalizing/motivating potential youths to join terrorist organizations of LeT/AuGH/JeM on different social media applications/ platforms which includes encrypted messaging applications.

"During the course of investigation, it was established that a criminal conspiracy has been hatched by Pakistani Handler/ terrorist Commander Ilyas Kashmiri @ Gazi Hamas @ Haider S/O Atta Din R/O Bhawalpur, Pakistan (a wanted criminal accused), with Waseem Ahmad Sheikh S/O Gh Mohd R/o Kandoor, Beerwah, Budgam; Junaid Ahmed Mir S/O Abdul Jabbar Mir R/O Tekipora Lolab Kupwara and Shabir Ahmed Gojri S/O Abdul Salam Gojri R/O Darbagh Harwan Srinagar and in pursuance of the conspiracy handler of this terror module was sharing criminal/ seditious contents through encrypted messaging applications with above named accused in order to motivate, radicalize, lure gullible youths by variety of incentives to join terrorist ranks of LeT/AuGH/JeM, so as to extend logistic support to terrorist organizations for furthering their terrorist activities."

Besides it, these above accused persons were acting as OGWs of proscribed terrorist organizations of LeT/AuGH/JeM for carrying arms/ammunition and providing other logistic support to these terrorist organizations on the directions of handler namely Ilyas Kashmiri @ Gazi Hamas @ Haider S/O Atta Din R/O Bhawalpur, Pakistan. The said terrorist commander/ handler is known for recruiting the potential youths into terrorist ranks through different social media applications/platform which included encrypted messaging applications.

A reward of rupees 03-Lacs has already been announced for giving information about the terrorist commander/ handler Ilyas Kashmiri @ Gazi Hamas @ Haider S/O Atta Din R/O Bhawalpur, Pakistan.

### BJP Slams Farooq

prevailed, he is making such comments, talking about removing the Army," Ilmi said. She further said: "After so many years, there is finally peace in Jammu. People can now roam around Lal Chowk peacefully. Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government took a tough decision to revoke Article 370 because that was necessary for the country and for Jammu and Kashmir."

Farooq Abdullah, a day ago, said that the Centre has stationed many battalions of troops in the Kashmir Valley to bring 'forced' peace.

"Go, walk and see the streets of J&K. Peace should be without the troops around," he told the mediapersons. Shazia Ilmi also called out the doublespeak

of the Congress on Himachal Pradesh's burning issue pertaining to a mosque, allegedly built on an illegal property.

"Look at the double standards of the Congress party. When it comes to Uttar Pradesh, the matter is given a Hindu-Muslim spin. But, when it comes to Shimla's Sanjauli mosque, it goes from one floor to five floors. One of their own leaders has said that it's illegal and should be removed. For other states, they try to create communal divides, while in states ruled by them, illegal constructions become legitimate constructions. What kind of double standards are these?" she asked.

Earlier on Friday, the BJP also hit out at the Congress over its star list of campaigners for J&K Assembly elections, which apparently features Chaudhary Lal Singh, a controversial political figure, who stood with Kathua rapists.

"In 2018, the Congress wanted Lal Singh to be sacked from the minister's post for backing rapists of an 8-year-old girl in Kathua, but in 2024, not only it gave him a ticket for Lok Sabha polls but also made him star campaigner," said a BJP spokesperson, referring to his name featuring along with Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul, Priyanka and other big leaders.

### CS Reviews

by them in completion of the projects. A brief presentation was made giving details about the summary of PMG issues pertaining to J&K on the portal.

It was given out that a total of 116 issues have been flagged on PMG portal out of which 106 have been resolved while the rest are at various stages of resolution.

The issues that came up for discussion include non-availability of electric connection in 660 locations in 13 districts, saturation 4G mobile coverage of uncovered villages through USOF, Shahpur Kandi Dam, 4L ring road/bypass around Srinagar 5G/4G expansion of Reliance Jio.

PMG portal of Invest India is a unique institutional mechanism to facilitate resolution of bottlenecks in infrastructure projects and do milestone-based project monitoring of the same.

### 14 KPs Enter Fray

Ashok Kumar Bhat has filed his papers as the BJP candidate, Sanjay Saraf as the Lok Jan Shakti Party candidate, and Santosh Labroo will be contesting election as an All Alliance Democratic Party candidate.

Amit Shah Arrives in Jammu On 2-Day Visit, To Launch BJP's Poll Campaign  
Ashok Raina, Panaji Dembi, and Ashok Sahaib will fight as Independents.

Saraf, who has contested elections from the seat twice in the past, said his aim is to bridge the gap between communities and ensure the return of the community spread across the country, back to the valley.

"If I am elected as an MLA, I will work to ensure the return of KPs to the valley with respect, dignity, and security. This includes carving out places for them here. We should be ambassadors of peace," Saraf, contesting from his home constituency of Anantnag said.

The six KPs in fray are banking on the support of the 25,000-strong migrant vote bank in Habba Kadal, traditionally, a National Conference stronghold.

Raman Mattoo, a KP, won the election in 2002 as an Independent candidate and became a minister in the Mufti Sayeed government.

In 2014, four KPs candidates contested from the seat, while in 2008, the number was a record 12. In the 2002 elections, out of 11 total, nine were KPs.

BJP's Vir Saraf, Apni Party's M K Yogi, and Dileep Pandita, an Independent, will seek election from Shangus-Anantnag segment. In all, 13 candidates are in fray from the segment.

Yogi, a former president of the powerful Martand temple committee and a former NC leader, alleged that no party has done anything for the Kashmiri Pandits.

"I will ensure that KPs are brought back through a return and rehabilitation policy. BJP did marketing and sold their pain but did nothing in the past 15 years," he told PTI.

Other KPs in fray are — Rakesh Handoo from the Zadibal constituency in Srinagar, Dr Sanjay Parva from Beerwah constituency in Budgam, and Ramesh Wagnoo, an Independent, from Pampore.

Rosy Raina and Arun Raina are contesting as Republic Party of India and NCP candidates from Rajpora in Pulwama district.

Ashok Kumar Kachroo, the sole KP from Jammu, is contesting the election from Bhaderwah constituency as an All Alliance Democratic Party candidate.

Rosy Raina came to Kashmir five years ago and started working in South Kashmir after

being elected as a Sarpanch.

"I have worked hard for the past five years as a Sarpanch. Because of my work, the youths are on my side. I am sure that I will win the election," she said.

"I want to create an environment where Kashmiri Pandits can move freely to any place without any fear," she said.

After unsuccessfully contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Baramulla and Anantnag, Arun Raina and Dileep Pandita are now contesting the Assembly polls from Rajpora in Pulwama district and Shangus-Anantnag.

Vikram Koul, head of KP volunteers, told PTI, "We welcome the contest by community members. Political parties have even fielded them. We wish to see them in the Assembly."

He, however, added that the community has always had high hopes from political parties, but they did little for the community.

"For the past 30 years, the community lives as refugees in its own land. The return and rehabilitation policy was framed, but no government implemented it on the ground to take back over 3 lakh KPs to the valley and rehabilitate them," he said.

### For Omar Abdullah

entrenched in Ganderbal. While Barkati marginally increases the challenge against Omar Abdullah, NC's real worry in Ganderbal comes from the other two potentially strong candidates.

Bashir Ahmad Mir of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Ishfaq Jabbar, an Independent from the J&K United Movement (JKUM).

Mir belongs to the neighbouring Kangan Assembly constituency. He had been challenging the otherwise unassailable senior Gujjar leader of the NC, Mian Altaf Ahmad in the past.

In the 2014 elections, Mian defeated Mir by less than 2,000 votes and this came as a rude shock to those who believed that Mir would finish a far distant second against the religious-political might of the Mian family in Kangan constituency.

After delimitation, Kangan is now an ST seat and that is the main reason for Bashir Mir to have moved to the neighbouring Ganderbal Assembly seat.

Mir shifting to Ganderbal is no flight of the fugitive. PDP as a political party has a standing in Ganderbal and it was in this constituency that Omar Abdullah lost to Qazi Afzal of the PDP in the 2002 elections.

Omar later avenged his defeat by winning from here in 2008, but 2024 is neither 2002 nor 2008. Youth have rallied for Bashir Mir and this has heightened the odds against Omar Abdullah.

The NC's worries are multiplied by the presence of Ishfaq Jabbar also. He won from this constituency as an NC candidate in 2014, but was later expelled from the party for 'anti-NC activities'.

Ishfaq belongs to Lar village of Ganderbal and is the son of the late Sheikh Jabbar, a senior NC leader who played the pivotal role in toppling Dr Farooq Abdullah-led NC government in 1984 when 17 NC MLAs defected and Farooq's brother-in-law, G.M.Shah led the defectors to form the government with Congress support.

Ishfaq has all along maintained his presence among the people of Ganderbal during the last 10 years.

It was during this period that he formed the JKUM. His presence against Omar Abdullah is not something the NC can afford to take lightly.

Marginal problems for Abdullah in Ganderbal also come from Sahil Farooq. Sahil defied the Congress as its district president to file papers as an independent candidate in Ganderbal.

As Omar Abdullah himself said after being defeated by Engineer Rashid in the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat he knows better that no election can be taken lightly.

It was this worry and concern that made the otherwise stiff upper-lipped Omar Abdullah remove his cap and extend it before the voters of Ganderbal for support.

In Kashmir, removing your cap and extending it hand folded before anybody is proverbially considered to be the ultimate act of supplication.

Omar has exhibited this great gesture of humility before the voters of Ganderbal.

He is still the favourite candidate in this constituency.

But, all said and done, the throwing of the hat into the electoral ring by cleric Barkati, the presence of Bashir Mir of the PDP and Ishfaq Jabbar as strong opponents, clearly indicates that victory for Omar Abdullah is no longer a foregone conclusion in this constituency.

As Abdullah himself often says, "Picture Abhi Baki Hai Mere Dost (The Movie is still not over yet)".

# PM Modi reaches Delhi after concluding Singapore, Brunei visit



IAN S

**NEW DELHI :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arrived in Delhi after concluding his three-day visit to Singapore and Brunei.

PM Modi shared a video of his Singapore visit on X and said, "My visit to Singapore has been a very fruitful one. It will certainly add vigour to bilateral ties and benefit the people of our nations. I thank the government and people of Singapore for their warmth."

Earlier on Thursday, PM Modi and Singapore PM Lawrence Wong met at the Parliament House in Singapore.

The two leaders, along with their delegations, held the bilateral meeting. At their talks, both leaders reviewed the progress of India-Singapore bilateral relations.

Following this, the two

sides exchanged four MoUs in the areas of digital technology, semiconductors, skill development, and healthcare.

Prime Minister Modi invited PM Wong to visit India, which he accepted.

PM Modi also visited the semiconductor facility of AEM Holdings Ltd.

Singapore's PM Wong accompanied PM Modi during his visit to the semiconductor facility.

PM Modi invited Singapore's semiconductor companies to participate in the SEMICON INDIA exhibition set to be held in Greater Noida from September 11-13.

The Prime Minister also called on Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam earlier on Thursday and held talks that focused on key sectors including skill development, sustainability, technology, innovation,

and connectivity. The talks focused on the full range of bilateral ties between India and Singapore.

PM Modi and PM Wong acknowledged India and Singapore's shared history, long tradition of friendship based on trust and mutual respect, and extensive cooperation across a wide range of areas. They reviewed and expressed satisfaction over the progress in the bilateral relationship, in the areas of political, economic, security, technology, education, people-to-people and cultural links.

It is interesting to note that India and Singapore will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations next year. Against this backdrop, both Prime Ministers agreed to elevate bilateral relations to a higher level of a 'Compre-

hensive Strategic Partnership', to deepen and broaden bilateral cooperation.

Before his visit to Singapore, PM Modi was on an official visit to Brunei. PM Modi held "wide-ranging" talks with Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah at Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan. During their talks, both leaders discussed ways to further cement bilateral ties.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Delighted to meet His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah. Our talks were wide-ranging and included ways to further cement bilateral ties between our nations. We are going to further expand trade ties, commercial linkages and people-to-people exchanges."

PM Modi inaugurated the new Chancery of the High Commission of India, in Brunei's capital city Bandar Seri Begawan.

# India's technical textile industry exports to cross \$10 billion by 2030: Minister

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian technical textile industry exports are projected to cross \$10 billion by 2030, Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh said on Friday, adding that the niche carbon fibre will likely be produced by India in 2025-26.

The global trade of technical textiles is around \$300 billion while India's domestic market size stands at \$25 billion with an export of \$2.6 billion.

The minister expressed confidence that the carbon fibre -- used in aerospace, civil engineering and defence as an alternative to metal -- will be produced by India in 2025-26. Currently, India does not produce any carbon fibre and relies on imports.

The minister emphasised the increasing consumption and importance of man-made fibres and technical textiles in all spaces of life, at both a global and domestic level.



"The government is fully dedicated to the development of the technical textiles industry of India and has taken various steps such as launch of National Technical Textiles Mission, PLI Scheme for MMF Fabric, Apparel and Technical Textiles," Singh mentioned during an event here organised by the Ministry of Textiles, FICCI and the Indian Technical Textile Association (ITTA).

Textiles Mission (NTTM) and also awarded confirmation certificates to 11 approved startups under NTTM.

He informed that 156 research projects have been sanctioned including development of carbon fibres and support to startups under different areas of technical textiles, under the mission.

Singh displayed confidence in the ability of the local industry, government and stakeholders in the development of high-performance fibres that

have huge applications in different field including aerospace, automobile and construction.

The minister reiterated the complete support of the government to become a global leader and the largest manufacturer and market of technical textiles.

Minister of State for Textiles, Pabitra Margherita, said the nation is advancing towards becoming 'Atmanirbhar' in all sectors, including technical textiles.

Margherita also mentioned that multiple state governments have taken initiatives for promoting investments, including FDI, in the technical textiles industry and urged other states to do the same.

The government urged the industry and stakeholders to carry out large scale investments in this sector, including the development of complex machinery to not only cater the local demand but also tap the large global market.

# Maharashtra tops in attracting highest FDI worth Rs 70,795 cr in Q1FY25

IAN S

**NAGPUR :** Maharashtra has topped in attracting the highest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the first quarter of the current financial year 2024-2025.

According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Maharashtra continues to maintain a number one slot among other states as it has received the FDI of Rs 70,795 crore in the first quarter of April to June 2024-25.

The neighbouring Karnataka ranked second by attracting investment worth Rs 19,059 crore, Delhi third with Rs 10,788 crore, Telangana fourth with Rs 9,023 crore, Gujarat fifth with Rs 8,508 crore, Tamil Nadu sixth with Rs 5,818 crore, Uttar Pradesh eighth with Rs 370 crore and Rajasthan ninth with Rs 311 crore.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis posted on social media platform X on Friday: "Congratulations Maharashtra! Very happy news!! 52.46 per cent of the total investment in the country. Foreign investment only in Maharashtra!!!"

He said the investment attracted by Maharashtra was the highest and much more than the other states.

"In short, the total investment in the country during this quarter is Rs 1,34,959 crore, of which Rs 70,795 crore or 52.46 per cent alone is reported in Maharashtra," said Fadnis.

The BJP leader said that Maharashtra had received Rs 12,35,101 crore FDI in 2023-24, more than that of Gujarat plus Karnataka combined. Further, Maharashtra had attracted FDI worth Rs 1,18,422 crore in 2022-23 more than Karnataka, Delhi and Gujarat combined.

He said that during the BJP-led government, under his chief ministership from 2014 to 2019, a total of Rs 3,62,161 crore of foreign investment came to Maharashtra.

"On the very first day (June 30, 2022), we had said that we (MahaYuti) would complete the work of a five-year term in two-and-a-half years. Now, in two-and-a-half years we have brought an investment of Rs 3,14,318 crore. Q2 figures are still to come," he said.

The DPIIT's data has come as a major relief to the MahaYuti government especially when the Maha Vikas Aghadi has been stepping up attacks against it for the flight of capital and investments to Gujarat and other states during its rule.

The trigger for MVA's criticism was the loss of Rs 1.80 lakh crore Vedanta-Foxconn project, Tata Airbus manufacturing plant, GAIL's 1.5 million tonnes per annum ethane cracking unit at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh with an investment of Rs 50,000 crore to other states.

# SC flags delay in remission pleas in Delhi due to lack of CM Kejriwal's signature

IAN S

**NEW DELHI :** The Supreme Court on Friday flagged the delay in processing remission pleas of convicts lodged in prisons in the national capital when Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal himself is in jail in the excise policy scam and cannot sign official files from Tihar Jail.

A bench headed by Justice Abhay S. Oka asked the Delhi government to clarify if there was any restraint order against CM Kejriwal to deal with files pertaining to the premature release of convicts when he himself was detained by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The Bench, also comprising Justice A.G. Masih, was apprised that remission files could not be forwarded to the Lieutenant General's (L-G) office due to the lack of the signature of the Chief Minister.

Observing that remission, which relates to the right of liberty of convict, cannot be stalled for want of signature of the Chief Minister, the apex court suggested that it would not hesitate to exercise its power under Article 142 to do "complete justice" in the matter.

As per the procedures, the Delhi government recommends for premature release of convicts from prison and, thereafter,

the proposal is submitted to L-G for approval. And, before a prisoner's plea reaches the L-G, the file has to have the signature of the Chief Minister.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court reserved its verdict on CM Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest by the CBI and seeking bail in the corruption case linked to the alleged liquor policy scam.

CM Kejriwal was ordered to be released on interim bail in connection with the money laundering case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on July 12. However, he was not able to walk out of jail since he was arrested by the CBI on June 26 in the same liquor policy scam.

The SC had also asked Kejriwal to take a call on stepping down from his post of Delhi CM.

"We are conscious that Arvind Kejriwal is an elected leader and the Chief Minister of Delhi, a post holding importance and influence. We have also referred to the allegations. While we do not give any direction, since we are doubtful whether the court can direct an elected leader to step down or not function as the Chief Minister or as a Minister, we leave it to Arvind Kejriwal to take a call," it said, referring his plea challenging his arrest and subsequent remand by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to a larger bench.

## RG KAR SCAM

# ED raids four places including Sandip Ghosh's residence

IAN S

**KOLKATA :** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday was conducting raid and search operations at four places, including the residence of Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of the R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital.

The ED has already filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in the case of financial irregularities at the state-run hospital in Kolkata.

Ghosh is currently in the custody of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is conducting a parallel probe in the case as directed by a single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court.

The two other places where ED is conducting raid and search operations include the residences of Biplab Sinha, Koushik Koley and Prasun Chattopadhyay, all being private vendors supplying medical and other equipment at R.G. Kar and suspected of being beneficiaries in the financial irregularities case.

Although the team of ED officials had yet to enter the residence of Ghosh and was waiting at his doorsteps (at the time of filing the report), the raid and search operations by the three other teams of ED started action at the respective residences of Sinha, Koley and Chattopadhyay.

Each raiding team of ED is escorted by Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)



personnel. Sinha is also in CBI custody in connection with the agency's ongoing probe into the scam.

Ghosh, Sinha and two others were arrested by the CBI in connection with the case on September 2. The two others who are

currently in CBI custody include Ghosh's bodyguard Afsar Ali and Suman Hazra, a private vendor like Sinha.

The ED is investigating the money laundering angle in the case. While CBI's probe in the case of financial irregularities at R.G. Kar was court-directed, ED has started a suo motu investigation in the matter.

The ED always has greater flexibility than the CBI in starting an investigation in any case. While CBI can enter the investigation scene only under two circumstances, the first being standing clearance from the state government concerned and the second being a court order, there are no such restrictions on ED in such matters.

## Congress, and Khalistan

# Why Kangana's 'Emergency' faces Sikh ire

VIKAS DATTA

**NEW DELHI :** The Emergency is still a controversial issue in the Indian polity, and sparks are bound to fly when a controversy-courting actor like Kangana Ranaut seeks to present it onscreen. However, the film's release has been stuck as various Sikh organisations across the country, including the SGPC, take umbrage over the depiction of the community and the Punjab troubles.

There has not been love lost between Kangana and (Sikh) Punjab, with her remarks on the farmers' protests and the assault on her by a woman CISF trooper, hailing from the state, at an airport and some references to Punjab in the film trailer have added to the toxic mix.

The purported depiction of militant preacher Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, and his reported deal with the Congress to ensure support and votes in exchange for 'Khalistan', and a montage scene showing one of the massacres by Khalistani militants has riled up the community.

While there is no conclusive

proof that Bhindranwale was a votary of Khalistan, with the furthest he went being opining, ahead of Operation Blue Star as he barricaded himself in the Sri Harmandir Sahib and security forces began the siege, that the "foundations of Khalistan will be laid the day the Indian Army storms the Golden Temple", there are questions why a film based on the Emergency (1975-77) deals with the Punjab problem, which technically only erupted in 1978 with the anti-Nirankari movement.

The reality lies somewhere in the middle. While Bhindranwale may never have explicitly espoused Khalistan, his actions were geared towards this direction and there was a tacit, but short-lived, agreement between him and the Congress before it ended in acrimony in 1981.

Why this happened, necessitates a look into the political history of Punjab since Independence, particularly the reasons for the emergence of Bhindranwale.

Following the horrors of Partition, the Sikhs, left bereft of some of their most productive land and property, as well as



shrine such as Kartarpur Sahib and Panja Sahib, began demanding a 'Punjabi Suba', with Master Tara Singh raising the demand right from 1948.

Partitioned East Punjab then included what is now Haryana and parts of Himachal Pradesh.

The 'Punjabi Suba' movement, spearheaded by the Akali Dal, encountered resistance from some Hindu outfits, who even took out ads in newspapers, ahead of the Census, asking co-coreligionists to cite Hindi, not Punjabi, as their mother tongue, to dilute the demand.

For the next decade and a half, the movement saw much drama, including a police raid on the Golden Temple in 1955, mass arrests of the Akalis, and fasts by Tara Singh and Sant Fateh Singh. Eventually, the Punjab Suba demand conceded in 1966, but agitation had created a communal rift, whose dire consequences would be seen in the decades to come. Sikh activist Darshan Singh Pheruman did fast to death in jail in 1969 over the non-transfer of Chandigarh and other Punjabi-speaking areas.

The next flashpoint came in 1973 with the Akalis passing the Anandpur Sahib Resolution demanding more powers for the states. The trigger was the destabilisation of the party's first government in the state, led by Justice Gurnam Singh (retd). It came to power in February 1967 but fell in November that year, as a section of legislators led by Lachman Singh Gill walked out. Gill would go on to become Chief Minister with the support of the Congress, but lasted only a few months.

The Anandpur resolution would go on to bedevil Centre-State relations for the next two decades and fuel the rise of terrorism, as some vested interests seized the issue to seek a Sikh homeland. Meanwhile, charismatic preacher Bhindranwale entered the stage.

The Congress had intended him to against the Akalis, but his ascendancy was fuelled by the feud between two tall Congress leaders and Chief Ministers -- Darbara Singh and Giani Zail Singh (later President). One used the fiery preacher to weaken his rival, but in the pro-

cess created an unpredictable and uncontrollable force. And when Bhindranwale latched on to the Khalistan demand and the ongoing Sikh-Nirankari tussle, he had become too big to control.

Full-blown violence erupted in the early 1980s - the murder of the Hind Samachar Group's Lala Jagat Narain and Punjab Police DIG A.S. Atwal within the Golden Temple, extortions, bombings, and random massacres.

With Bhindranwale's demands getting more strident and his open defiance of the state, Operation Blue Star was launched in June 1984. Though Bhindranwale and his top aides were killed, the damage to the Sikh's shrine and growing anger, led to the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and a full-blown insurgency in the state, finally quelled in 1992.

However, Bhindranwale's time was well after the Emergency, and he and the Congress eventually ended up fierce enemies. (Vikas Datta can be contacted at vikas.d@ians.in)

# India not in favour of talks with Pakistan until terrorism ceases: Shah

AGENCIES

**JAMMU:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said India is not in favour of talks with Pakistan until terrorism ceases, emphasizing that "talks and bombs cannot go together".

Shah made these remarks while releasing the BJP's manifesto for Jammu and Kashmir, dismissing any possibility of dialogue with Pakistan amidst the ongoing terrorist activities.

"We are not in favour of talks with Pakistan unless and until terrorism does not end. But we will definitely talk to the youth of Kashmir," he told reporters here.

Shah reiterated this stance when addressing questions about demands from the political parties to resume talks with Pakistan and restore cross LoC trade, saying, "Unless terrorism does not come to an end and a trade-terror eco-system is formed, we cannot agree with it."



Replying to a question about the demand of the National Conference (NC) and the Congress about restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, he said "the demand is to mislead the people".

"I have always accepted the demand. At an appropriate time, it will be restored," he added.

Responding to the National Conference's manifesto on restoration of Article 370 and the Congress' support to it, Shah said, "The agenda of the NC cannot get implement-

ed on the ground. Article 370 is the past. It is history. Nobody can bring it back."

The minister also reacted to Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's comments on outsiders ruling Jammu and Kashmir.

"If he says presidential rule is outsider rule, then I want to tell Rahul Gandhi it was time, when three times presidential rule was there during your rule in J&K," he said.

Regarding security measures in Jammu and Kashmir, Shah assured that

security measures have been fully put in place by the Narendra Modi government and Jammu and Kashmir administration.

He dismissed concerns of suppression of the Muslims in the valley and said "there is no question of it in Kashmir".

Expressing confidence of the BJP forming the government in Jammu and Kashmir, Shah said, "There will be no government by the PDP, NC, and Congress ruled by dynasties. Rest possibilities, BJP will explore."

# Military Commanders Told To Always Be Ready To Establish Peace: Rajnath Singh

AGENCIES

**LUCKNOW:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said that keeping in mind the global conditions prevailing today, the military commanders have been told to always be ready to establish peace in the world and India so that peace is not disturbed anywhere.

Rajnath Singh's statement came a day after the Joint Commanders Conference was held here.

Speaking to reporters in the Uttar Pradesh capital after visiting the Khatu Shyam temple in Lucknow on Friday, Singh said, "India is the only country in the world which has given the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. India is a worshipper of peace and will always remain so.

"Keeping in mind the global conditions prevailing today, the military commanders have been told to always be ready to establish peace in the world and India so that peace is not disturbed anywhere."

On Thursday, Singh had called upon the top military brass to analyse the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza as well as the



current situation in Bangladesh to "predict" any future problems and stay prepared to deal with the "unexpected".

In an address at the maiden joint commanders conference here, he also said the armed forces need to be prepared for war in order to preserve peace and emphasised on "synergised, swift and proportionate response to provocations", in comments that came amid the lingering border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

The defence minister pitched for deeper analy-

sis of the situation along India's border with China and developments in the neighbouring countries, which are posing a challenge to peace and stability in the region.

The conference, with the theme 'Sashakt aur Surakshit Bharat: Transforming the Armed Forces', held extensive discussions on the contours of the government's ambitious plans to roll out 'Integrated Theatre Commands'.

In his remarks, Singh, in presence of the chiefs of the three services, stressed on evolving a joint military

vision as part of preparation to confront future security challenges and urged the commanders to identify and include the right mix of traditional and modern military hardware in the arsenal.

On Friday, Singh offered prayers at the Khatu Shyam temple in Lucknow. During this, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, office bearers of the Lucknow Mahanagar' unit of the BJP and MLAs were present, the Lucknow Mahanagar unit of the BJP said in a statement. (Agencies)

# Indian Army trains VDGs in J&K to counter terrorist threats

AGENCIES

**JAMMU:** The Indian Army, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP), has taken the initiative to enhance the security of local communities by training Village Defence Guards (VDGs), sources said.

This initiative aims to equip these civilians with the skills necessary to protect their villages from terrorist threats, thereby bolstering the region's overall security framework.

Approximately 600 civilians are currently undergoing intensive training in the operation of automatic rifles, squad post drills, and minor tactics to protect their villages from terrorist threats. The training, conducted at the unit level near their respective villages, ensures that the VDGs can swiftly apply



their skills in real-world scenarios.

The training programme, meticulously structured by the Indian Army, includes a minimum of three-day training for each VDG unit.

Instructors and training aids from the Corps Battle School in Sarol provide additional support, ensuring that the VDGs receive expert guidance.

This collaboration

ensures that the VDGs receive instruction from highly skilled personnel, enhancing the effectiveness of the training. The initiative, undertaken at the request of the Jammu

and Kashmir Police, has already seen significant progress.

To further empower the VDGs, self-loading rifles (SLRs) are being issued through a coordinated effort between the Army's Ordnance Depots and the JKP.

This initiative demonstrates the Indian Army's commitment to safeguarding the lives of innocent civilians in Jammu and Kashmir.

These rifles are a crucial component of the VDGs' armament, further empowering them.

To date, around 500 individuals have been trained in the Rajouri area, with an additional 85-90 individuals trained in the Doda and Kishtwar regions.

This initiative is a commitment to safeguarding the lives of innocent civilians in Jammu and Kashmir. (ANI)

# Usman Majid Ramps Up Election Campaign with Public Meetings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Former Planning Minister and MLA Bandipora, Usman Majid on Friday addressed a series of meetings in various areas of the Bandipora Constituency, including Laharwalpora, Kanilbagh, Qazipora, CA Khan, and Balhama. These meetings were part of his ongoing efforts to intensify his election campaign and strengthen his support base.

During these gatherings, Majid warmly welcomed several political workers from various parties—including the PDP, Congress, and others—who joined him in his caravan. Expressing his delight at the new additions to his political camp, Majid said the strength and unity that this merger brings to their collective efforts in serving the people of Bandipora. This move is a significant boost to our campaign, further consolidating our influence in the Bandipora constituency.

Welcoming the new entrants, Majid acknowledged their importance and stated that their joining is a major boost to his campaign. He encouraged the workers to intensify

their efforts and strengthen their commitment to ensure a decisive victory in the upcoming elections. The joining of new members from other parties not only strengthens Majid's position but also enhances his capacity to address the needs and aspirations of the people of Bandipora.

Addressing the meetings, Majid emphasized the importance of inclusive development and reiterated his commitment to ensuring that all voices in the constituency are heard and represented. He outlined key projects that he initiated as a Minister and MLA in these areas, including improvements in infrastructure, healthcare, and education. He assured the people of his unwavering dedication to enhancing their quality of life.

Reflecting on the significance of the newly joined leaders, Majid stated, "The inclusion of these experienced leaders and workers from different political backgrounds strengthens our collective resolve to work for Bandipora's development. Their trust and support are a testament to the shared vision of a prosperous future for our constituency. Addressing workers

in Laharwalpora, Majid said that the area has been neglected by certain political and vested interests, leading to a halt in its development progress. He assured the people that, if voted to power again, he will work diligently to bring Laharwalpora onto the tourism map and elevate its development to the next level.

DDC member Firdous Akhtar, on the occasion, requested workers and new entrants to go door-to-door and help people understand the significance of this election. He termed the joining of the new entrants from Laharwalpora as a significant boost for Usman Majid ahead of the assembly elections. Akhtar added that Usman Majid is gaining widespread support through his comprehensive outreach programs.

Majid also offered Friday prayers at Jamia Masjid in the Qazipora area of the Bandipora Constituency. He prayed for peace and prosperity for the entire J&K region. He visited the residence of Ghulam Nabi Sofi of Qazipora, who passed away after a brief illness and expressed his condolences to the bereaved family.

# General Observer chairs meeting on Poll Preparedness in Pampore

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** A meeting to review poll preparedness for the upcoming Legislative Assembly Elections 2024 was chaired by General Observer for 32-Pampore, Vadarevu Vinay Chand at the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) in Pampore.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including the Additional District Development Commissioner, Showkat Ahmad; Returning Officer (RO) for 32-Pampore, Nazir Ahmad Mir and Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) for 32-Pampore. In addition, various teams responsible for ensuring the smooth conduct of elections were present, including the Video Surveillance Team



(VST), Video Viewing Team (VVT) and the Flying Squad Team (FST).

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on ensuring the efficient deployment of resources, maintaining law and order and addressing any logistical concerns related to polling day.

Vadarevu Vinay Chand emphasized the importance

of strict adherence to election guidelines and seamless coordination between the teams to guarantee free and fair elections.

Later, the General Observer visited the Commissioning Centre to oversee the final stages of preparation and ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place for the election process.

# ADDC Kupwara reviews preparations of MCMC, Media Centre



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat who is also Nodal Officer for Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) Friday convened a meeting with the officials of MCMC and Media Centre Kupwara to review the preparations ahead of J&K Legislative Assembly Election 2024.

On the occasion, the ADDC impressed upon the concerned officials to work with added dedication and close coordination to ensure smooth functioning of the MCMC and Media Centre in the district during the conduct of the Assembly Election.

He directed them to ensure close monitoring of various media platforms including Television Channels, Print and Social Media to check any violation with regard to the broadcast/posting of content against the MCMC guidelines.

He emphasized upon the officials to ensure that all media-related activities are in compliance with election regulations and asked them for monitoring paid news, advertisements to ensure the ethical conduct of media during the election period.

The MCMC plays a crucial role in maintaining the integrity of election reporting and ensuring that media coverage is fair and unbiased.

# DEO Pulwama suspends Naib Tehsildar for Dereliction of Duty

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** The District Election Officer (DEO) Pulwama has suspended Naib Tehsildar Abdul Majeed Naik for negligence and dereliction of duty.

Naik, who was deployed as a magistrate in the Flying Squad Team (FST),

failed to perform his responsibilities in accordance with the guidelines set for election duty.

The officer has been attached to the office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Tral for further action. The ADC, Tral has been directed to conduct an inquiry into

the matter and submit a detailed report to the District Election Officer for further course of action.

This step has been taken to ensure the smooth conduct of the ongoing election process. DEO has warned all officers/officials to be careful and exercise duties with diligence.

## ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

# Police Observer assesses Security Arrangements in Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** Akhilesh Kumar, the Police Observer for Pulwama, paid a visit to the Pulwama and Rajpora constituencies to oversee the security measures in place for the upcoming Legislative Assembly Elections 2024.

As part of his assessment, Kumar conducted thorough inspections at key 24/7 naka points, including those at Hawal, Tahab Crossing and Newa Point. He evaluated the efficiency of security personnel stationed at these checkpoints, ensuring that vigilant and round-the-clock monitoring is maintained.

In addition to his inspection of the naka points, the Police Observer visited the polling booths at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Newa, where he assessed the preparedness and deployment of security for polling day.



He highlighted the critical role of secure and well-managed polling stations in ensuring a smooth electoral process.

Furthermore, Kumar reviewed the daytime security arrangements at various other naka points across the region, focusing

on the need for constant vigilance to uphold law and order during the election period.

His visit reaffirmed the Election Commission of India's commitment to conducting free, fair and peaceful elections in the region.