



This has been a fruitful USA visit, covering diverse programmes and focusing on a series of subjects aimed at making our planet better.



Srinagar • Wednesday 25, September 2024 • Vol: 15 • Issue No: 220 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

# **India Emerges Asia's 3rd Most Powerful Nation**



PM Modi's Leadership For Ascent

NEW DELHI: The Sydneybased Lowy Institute has placed India as the third most powerful nation in its Asia Power Index 2024, just behind China and Japan.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri welcomed India's ascent into the select league and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for propelling the nation to global superpower status.

Puri, lauding the country's rising prominence, said, "India's rise is no accident. This is the direct result of Prime Minister Modi's aggressive diplomatic strategy and his bold ambitions to reshape India's place in the world. Without his • P-06

Heatwave **Persists In Kashmir** 

# Srinagar Seethes At 33.6 Degree Celsius

SRINAGAR: The heat wave continued to persist across Kashmir region on Tuesday with Srinagar, the summer

capital of Jammu and Kashmir recording the maximum temperature of 33.6 degree Celsius.

The maximum temperature settled 6.6 degrees • P-06

Battle Lines Drawn For Phase-2

## 25.78 Lakh Voters Eligible, 239 Candidates In Fray

AMIR TANTRAY

JAMMU: Stage is set for the second phase of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 Assembly constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir will be going for polls on September 25, in which fate of several highprofile leaders including former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and others will be sealed.

These constituencies have a total of 25.78 lakh electorates which include 13.13 lakh male, 12.65 lakh female, and 53 third-gender electorates.

As per the chief electoral officer (CEO) of Jammu and Kashmir around 1.21 lakh voters are between the age group of 18 to 19 whereas over 19,000 electorates are with Persons with Disability (PwD) and 20880 voters are above the age group of 85.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 3502 polling stations across 26 Assembly constituencies which include 2446 rural, 1056 urban, 26 green, 26 all women managed, 26 all PwD managed and 26 with youth

managed polling stations. There are 239 candidates

in the fray which include 233 male and only six female candidates.

There are many highprofile candidates in the fray which include Omar Abdullah, who is contesting from Ganderbal and Budgam Assembly constituencies, Apni Party President Syed Muhammad Altaf Bukhari, contesting from Chanapora Assembly constituency of Srinagar, BJP J&K president Ravinder Raina, contesting from Nowshera assembly constituency of Rajouri district and Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra contesting from central Shalteng Assembly constituency of Srinagar district.

During this second phase, eight constituencies of Srinagar district including Hazratbal, Khanyar, Habbakadal, Lal Chowk, Chanapora, Zadibal, Eidgah and Central Shalteng, two constituencies of Ganderbal district including Ganderbal and Kangan, five constituencies of Budgam district including Budgam, Beerwah. Khansahih Charar-i-Sharief and Chadoora, three constituencies of Reasi district including Gulabgarh, Reasi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. five constituencies of Rajouri district including Budhal, Rajouri, Thannamandi, Nowshera and Kalakote-Sunderbani and three constituencies of Poonch district • P-06

Second Phase Of Polls

### **Security Stepped Up** At Polling Booths

SRINAGAR- More than 13,000 polling staff on Tuesday took positions at 3,500 polling stations set up across 26 assembly constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir, where voting will be held Wednesday in the second phase polls in the union terri-

The security forces personnel comprising police, armed police and central armed paramilitary forces left for the polling stations early morning, the officials said.

They said a multi-tier security blanket has been thrown around each polling station to ensure the voting for the second phase is held in an atmosphere free of fear.

"As the second phase of voting will take place tomorrow (Wednesday), we have made elaborate security arrangements to ensure that the maximum number of people exercise their right to vote," a senior police official said.

The strong rooms — where the electronic voting machines will be kept after the close of polls Wednesday — have been secured and will be kept under round-theclock digital surveillance.

"To facilitate the • P-06

Voters hopeful

**Srinagar Set To Vote After A Decade** 



**REHAN OAYOOM MIR** 

SRINAGAR: After a decade-long gap, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, is all set to head to the polls on Wednesday.

The Srinagar district includes eight key constituencies, going to polls in the second phase of assembly election. The eight assembly constituencies are Hazratbal, Khanyar, Habba Kadal, Lal Chowk, Chanpora, Zadibal, Central Shalteng, and Eidgah, among the twenty-six assembly constituencies.

The city, once bustling with political activity, has now entered a critical phase, with many residents reflecting on the changes they hope to see and the challenges that

remain unaddressed. Locals from different parts of Srinagar city, highlighted many key issues, from environmental neglect to the rising tide of unemployment.

While excitement for change is high, there is also an undercurrent of frustration with political leaders.

Sahil, a student, •P-06

### **BJP Calls For Comprehensive Dev, End To Terrorism In J&K**



SRINAGAR: BJP National Spokesperson Shazia Ilmi, along with BJP Rajpora candidate Arshad Bhat, Tuesday sharply criticized mainstream political parties for their failure to address key issues in Jammu and Kashmir. Ilmi highlighted that the BJP has been targeted across the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir, while maintaining its commitment to development and peace in

Addressing a press conference here in Srinagar, BJP Raipora candidate Arshad Bhat explained his decision to join the BJP and contest elections under its banner. He accused the National Conference (NC), Congress, and People's Democratic Party (PDP) of neglecting the aspirations of Kashmiri youth. Bhat asserted that these parties had created a climate of "political terrorism," where discussions • P-06

# **JKPC Condemns Malicious** News Report By News Laundry

THE CAMPAIGNING FOR THE SECOND PHASE witnessed high

profile events like Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing a rally in Srinagar, Leader

of Opposition (LOP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi addressing a couple of rallies,

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Press Corps (JKPC) a registered Press body of leading daily newspapers, convened a meeting on Tuesday to address concerns over prejudicial and misleading video report by Delhi-based Newslaundry website on its YouTube channel.

The meeting chaired by JKPC President Ayaz Hafiz was attended by representatives of Rising Kashmir, Kashmir Observer, Kashmir Monitor, Kashmir Images, Daily Aftab, Morning Kashmir, Daily Uqab, Daily Gadiyal, Good Morning Kashmir, Kashmir scan, Era of



Kashmir Srinagar Jung, Kashmir Rays, Kashmir convener, KNS, State Times, Etc Etc Etc.

The meeting strongly condemned the Newslaundry's video report describing the reportage prejudicial and malicious. They further asserted that video report ultimate objective appears to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in the Union Territory and malign the media fra-

The JKPC discussed "Inside Kashmir's Media Crisis: The Real Story no one is telling this election," presented by Manisha Pande on the •P-06

# CS Reviews Progress



**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a meeting of Power Development Department (PDD) to assess progress on Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) tailored to achieve reduction in distribution losses. Besides Principal Secretary PDD, the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance;

from PESL, NTPC and other concerned officers of the department.

The Chief Secretary. while speaking in the meeting, asked the department to make strenuous efforts towards achieving time bound progress on implementation of this ambitious scheme. He termed it significant for substantial reduction in Actual Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses across the UT.

#### ...J&K Assembly Elections

### **Among 872 Candidates In Fray For 3** Phases, Bukhari Richest, Raina Poorest

**AGENCIES** 

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the Jammu & Kashmir 2024 Assembly Elections, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari of the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party has emerged as the richest candidate in the race, declaring total assets worth Rs 165 crore.

Data reveals that Bukhari. contesting from Channapora in Srinagar, leads a wealthy lineup of candidates, followed closely by Congress leader Tariq Hameed Karra, who is contesting from Srinagar's Central Shalteng constituency with assets worth Rs 148 crore

Almost half of the candidates in the Jammu & Kashmir elections are crorepatis, with the average wealth per candidate standing at Rs 3.65 crore. Only three candidates, however, have declared assets exceeding Rs 100 crore.

BJP's Devender Singh Rana, brother of Union minister Jitendra Singh, is the third wealthiest contender. Rana, who is contesting from Nagrota in Jammu, declared assets worth Rs 126 crore the highest in the Jammu



On the other end of the spectrum, BJP's local unit president Ravinder Raina, contesting from Rajouri's Nowshera, is among the poorest candidates, with a meager Rs 1,000 in assets. Among non-zero declarations, Raina is the second-poorest candidate after Mohd Akram from Poonch's Surankote.

There are in total 873 candidates, 137 are from national parties, 205 from state parties, and 185 from registered unrecognised parties. A total of 346 candidates are contest-

ing independently. There has also been a sig-

nificant rise in the number of candidates with criminal backgrounds. At least 152 candidates (17%) have declared criminal cases against themselves, a sharp increase from the 49 candidates (6%) in the 2014 elections. Out of these, 114 (13%) candidates face serious criminal charges,

charges (IPC Section 376). With 407 (47%) having education between the 5th and 12th standards, • P-06

including 12 who are facing

charges related to attempted

murder (IPC Section 307)

and 15 with cases involv-

ing crimes against women,

including three facing rape

#### **Can Omar Win Budgam For Nc-Congress Alliance?**



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: All eyes are on the Budgam assembly constituency in central Kashmir as it heads to polls tomorrow, with the National Conference (NC) and Congress alliance hoping to retain the seat. Since 1972, the seat has been a stronghold for these parties, with the NC winning it seven consecutive times since 1977.

This election sees former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah contesting as the joint candidate for the NC and Congress. Having won from the Beerwah constituency in 2014 but lost in Sonwar, Omar is now vying for both the Ganderbal and Budgam seats.

Analysts believe that Omar is the most prominent figure contesting from Budgam and has a notable edge due to the backing of Aga Ruhullah, the Member of Parliament for the Srinagar parliamentary constituency.

Besides Omar, there are seven other candidates in the fray. These include • P-06

MD JPDCL/KPDCL; Chief Engineers, representatives

Dulloo asked the •P-06

MOVIES SCHIED UILE Wednesday 25 Sept.



STREE 2 SARKATE KA AATANK (HINDI) (U/A) 11:30AM, 02:00PM









ANY MOVIE ANY SHOW TICKETS AT FLA

9541613868







# **SVEEP Marathon held in Basohli amid overwhelming Public participation**

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

KATHUA: A highly successful SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Marathon was held in Basohli witnessing enthusiastic participation from a wide spectrum of people. The event, aimed at spreading awareness about the importance of voting, was flagged off by Director ACB Shakti Pathak, along with Returning Officer 65-Basohli AC Anil Kumar Thakur and AC Nodal Officer Dr. Roshan Pakhroo.

The marathon saw participation from athletes of various age groups, emphasizing the inclusive nature of the event.

The marathon commenced from the iconic Cable Stay Setu Bridge, a well-known landmark of Basohli, and passed through the vibrant streets of the town, culminating at Purthu on the banks of Ranjit Sagar Dam, known as Mini Goa. The scenic route not only provided a visually appealing setting but also symbolized the connection between the people and their electoral responsibilities

A special highlight of the event was the presence of Renowned Mountaineer Suman Verma, who participated as the District Election Icon/Ambassador. Suman Verma, known for her extraordinary achievements in the field of mountaineering, joined hands with the election authorities to promote voter awareness. Her presence



resonated deeply with the participants, symbolizing the strength and perseverance required not only in mountaineering but also in exercising one's right to vote responsibly.

The event attracted participants from all walks of life, with a particularly enthusiastic response from young citizens. Athletes. local community members, and students came together, reflecting a strong commitment to the cause of electoral participation. Many participants shared that they were excited to be part of a marathon with a larger social message. helping to raise awareness about the importance of

voting in a democracy. The DIG, while formally flagging off the marathon, appreciated the District Election Cell for organizing a wide range of activiaware, and ready to cast their vote responsibly in the upcoming elections," he added

The AC Nodal Officer for SVEEP, Dr. Rakesh Pakhroo, emphasized that the event was designed to spread the message of the importance of voting across every part of the district. He noted that activities like these help ensure that there is a strong voter turnout in the forthcoming assembly elections. "Our efforts are aimed at making sure that every individual understands their role in shaping the future of their constituency through

informed voting," he said. District SVEEP Icon Suman Verma expressed her joy for being part of the initiative and called upon all voters to participate actively in the elections. 'Just like in mountaineering, where every step counts toward reaching the summit, in elections, every vote counts in selecting the right representative. I urge all citizens. especially the youth, to come forward and ensure a record turnout in Kathua District," she said.

The marathon concluded with special thanks given to local authorities for organizing a seamless and impactful event.

The SVEEP Marathon at Basohli is one among many such initiatives taking place across the district, reflecting the ongoing efforts of the election authorities to engage with citizens and promote greater voter turnout.

**ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS** 

# Two-Day Home Voting for Senior Citizens begins in Samba

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

SAMBA: District Election Office (DEO), Samba, under the guidance of DEO Rajesh Sharma, on Tuesday started two-day exercise to conduct home voting through postal ballots for Absentee Voters in the categories of Senior Citizens (AVSC) and Persons with Disabilities (AVPD across the three constituencies of Vijaypur, Samba, and Ramgarh.

Polling teams deployed for the exercise on the first day covered numerous voters across the district. The comprehensive outreach was aimed at ensuring that every eligible voter is able to exercise his democratic right, regardless of health or mobility challenges

A total 386 absentee voters are being covered in the exercise including 167 in Vijaypur Constituency; 170 in Samba Constituency and 49 in Ramgarh Constituency. As part of the initiative, DEO Rajesh in remote areas on this Sharma personally vis-

first day of the exercise. ited several locations in The DEO praised the the district, including commitment of the teams, acknowledging their hard Khour Salarian, where he interacted with home work in covering the disvoters and received trict comprehensively feedback on the process. and ensuring last-mile DEO Sharma commendconnectivity. He emphasized that no eligible voter ed the polling teams for their efforts in ensurshould be left behind, paring extensive coverage, ticularly those in vulnerreaching voters even able categories.

The home voting proces will continue tomorrow, ensuring that all absentee voters in the district are

fully covered. This initiative highlights the commitment of the District Election Office to ensuring inclusive and accessible voting, making the process as convenient and safe as possible for every citizen.

#### **ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

### GDC R S Pura hosts SVEEP event to spread voter awareness

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

JAMMU: A mega SVEEP event was organised Tuesday at Government Degree College R.S. Pura to educate and encourage the voters participation for upcoming Assembly Elections.

The programme started with great fervor. Block Development Officer, R. S. Pura, Pardeep Singh, in presence of Principal Govt. Degree College R.S.



Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project Satwari, Tanvi Gupta, delivered a thought provoking speech. Street Play 'Loktantra Ka

Asli Mantra' presented by artists of Natrang group Jammu encouraged the masses to participate in elections and not run away from their ultimate responsibil-

ity of voting for the stronger democracy of India. The street play has been written By Padmashree Balwant Thakur and directed by Neeraj Kant.

The event concluded with the Vote of thanks by Tanvi Gupta, Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project Satwari with an appeal to all to exercise the right to vote for upcoming assembly elections at District Jammu.

### **GCW Gandhinagar hosts** debate competition "Is voting a right or a duty"

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

JAMMU: As part of the ongoing (Systematic Voters' Education and electoral participation (SVEEP) campaign, the Electoral Literacy Club. Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu Tuesday organized debate competition under the theme, "Is voting a right or a duty'

As many as 15 students participated in the competition judged by Prof. Bindu Chib, Prof. Suman Bala and Prof. Sunita Devi.Prof.

Liaquat Jafri lent a unique charm to the occasion with his gracious presence. Winners of the competition were Gunveen kour (1st), Khyrul Nisa Bhat (2nd) and Naina Raiput (3rd). Debate competition was concluded with the voter's pledge.

In the same series, a Social Media based activity was also organized on

the theme, "Know your Constituency". The objective of this activity was to create awareness among the college students and the local community about the importance of knowing one's constituency and to enhance electoral participation and informed decision-making. A total of 8 students participated actively and shared informative posts providing details of their respective assembly constituencies including Doda, Kathua, Billawar, Vijaypur and

Jammu. Principal of the College, Dr. S. P. Saraswat appreciated the efforts of participants and shared valuable views to motivate the students. Both the activities were coordinated by student coordinators Shivva Gandotra, Pratishtha Sharma and Khushi Bhardwaj under the mentorship of Prof. Vinay Lata and Dr. Manmeet Kour.

ties under the SVEEP ini-

tiative in Kathua District.

"Such initiatives provide

a tangible reminder to

all electors about the sig-

nificance of voting. The

enthusiasm shown by the

participants today speaks

volumes about the commit-

ment of the people to the

democratic process," he said and urged everyone to

ensure that they exercise

their voting rights in the

Anil Kumar Thakur, while

addressing the partici-

pants, said that the SVEEP

Marathon was an integral

part of the District SVEEP

Plan, designed to sensi-

tize all stakeholders about

their crucial role in the

voting process. "This mara-

thon serves as a reminder

that each vote counts. Our

goal is to make sure every

eligible voter is informed

Returning Officer (RO)

upcoming elections.

# Massive Voter Awareness Campaign conducted across Rajouri

RAJOURI: A series of voter awareness events were organized across the Assembly Constituencies of Rajouri District to encourage voter participation and highlight the importance of voting in the upcoming J&K Legislative Assembly elections.

Nodal Officer SVEEP for AC-85 Rajouri, Rakesh Kumar Sharma, accompanied by Senior Lecturer Abdul Hamid, conducted a door-to-door campaign in the Badoon and Dhangri areas. The campaign emphasized the significance of voting and the pride associated with casting a vote. The team visited public places such as the Maruti Jamkash Showroom in Badoon and Hyundai Showroom in Dhangri. where they conducted awareness programs. The initiative garnered an enthusiastic response, with participants expressing excitement about exercis-

ing their democratic rights. In AC-84 Nowshera, Nodal Officer SVEEP, JP Singh, led an awareness program at Jhangar Chowk, a busy market and transportation hub in Nowshera Township. Guided by District Election Officer and District Nodal Officer

ENERAL ELECTION LATIVE ASSEMBLY 2024 JOIN US TO EXERCISE YOUR PRECIOUS RIGHT, TO VOTE, AS EACH VOTER MATTERS DISTRICT NODAL OFFICER SVEEP, RAJOUR SVEEP, the team engaged with shopkeepers, workers, and customers, discussing the importance of voting. They also interacted with passengers at the auto stand, distributed

locals expressing their commitment to participate in the upcoming elections. Nodal Officer SVEEP, AMF & Media- AC-86 Budhal. Prof. Tahir Nadeem, visited Polling Station No. 98 at Govern-

informative materials, and

answered questions about

voter registration and

the electoral process. The

outreach received a posi-

tive reception, with many

ment Primary School, Phalni. As part of the Election Commission of India's 'Green Election' initiative, Prof. Nadeem planted a sapling and encouraged BLOs to plant trees with the first three voters on Election Day. The SVEEP team also visited Ziarat Mehar Gali, engaging with pilgrims and motivating them to cast their votes in the upcoming elections.

In AC-83 Kalakote-Sunderbani, SVEEP team member Muddasir Mughal led a voter awareness campaign during a pre-wedding function in Panchayat Halqa Channi. The campaign focused on electoral literacy and ethical voting. Mughal concluded the program with a unique touch, interacting with locals in Dogri and Gojri, which resonated deeply with the community.

Similar voter awareness initiatives were conducted in AC-87 Thannamandi, reinforcing the message of ethical voting and active voter participation.

These efforts, guided by the Election Commission of India, are part of a broader push to ensure informed, ethical, and participatory elections across Rajouri District.

### **GDC Vijaypur celebrates National Service Scheme Day**



**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

SAMBA: Government Degree College Vijaypur, reverberated with the spirit of community service as it celebrated National Service Scheme (NSS) Day - a day dedicated to honoring the legacy of NSS founder Shri Keshav Baliram Hedgewar. This event, marked by enthusiasm and fervor, brought together NSS volunteers. college students and faculty members to commemorate the essence of NSS.

The celebration commenced with an inspirational speech by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS Programme Officer) where she briefed the students by underscoring the significance of selfless service to society, motivating the students and NSS volunteers to actively participate in community service endeavors. She stressed upon the volunteers to work with zeal and zest and prove themselves as volunteers and further stated that volunteers should commit themselves for social cause and community development.

Principal of Govern ment Degree College Vijaypur, Dr. (Prof.) Vandana Verma expressed pride in the active participation of NSS volunteers and their dedication to upholding the values and ethos of NSS. She emphasized the vital role played by NSS in nurturing responsible and sociallyconscious individuals. The event exemplified the institution's unwavering commitment to fostering responsible and socially committed NSS volunteers who understand the importance of community service and citizenship.

The vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (Coordinator NSS) The event was organized with the full support of the senior faculty members.

### **SVEEP Voter awareness** programme held in Kaghote



**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

**RAMNAGAR:** A Voter aware ness programme was organized here Tuesday at Government High School, Kaghote as part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation initiative.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from approximately 500 attendees, including students and local voters. Parshotam Sharma, Headmaster of the School delivered an inspiring speech emphasizing the significance of each vote in shaping the nation's future. He also sensitized students and voters on the importance of participating in the electoral process.

The programme aimed to boost voter awareness and encourage greater participation in the upcoming General Assembly Elections. The program featured a variety of colorful activities, including cultural performances, skits, awareness speeches, a signature campaign and postermaking competition

#### **GMK NEWS NETWORK**

SAMBA: The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit 'Prabha" of Government Degree College, Ramgarh celebrated 55th NSS Foundation Day, honoring the establishment of NSS, a journey dedicated to serving and strengthening our communities.

The event was held under the patronage and guidance of the Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra.

Principal highlighted the importance of community service stating "NSS is a powerful platform for students to develop leadership qualities and a sense of responsibility towards society." She encouraged the students to embrace the values of service and dedication.

The celebration included an informative session by the NSS Advisory Committee including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Prof. Sandeep Kumari and Dr. Shivali Panjgotra. The session

**GDC Ramgarh celebrates 55th NSS Foundation Day** highlighted the aim of NSS which focuses on encouraging social responsibility, personal growth and community engagement among students.

The motto of NSS "Not Me But You" was emphasized, reminding participants of the importance of selfless service and prioritizing the needs of others. Attendees also learned how they can make a difference in their communities and the invaluable experiences that come with service.

## JMC intensifies anti-dengue measures

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

JAMMU: To contain the spread of Dengue, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has launched a special fogging drive in collaboration with the Anti Malaria Wing under the aegis of Commissioner, JMC Dr. Devansh Yadav.

The fogging team supervised by Health Officer, Dr. Vinod Sharma targeted the hotspots including Muthi, Janipur, Bantalab, Trikuta Nagar, Shastri Nagar and



Channi areas falling under the jurisdiction of Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The Health & Sanitation and Transport Wings of JMC deployed sufficient manpower and machinery

to carry out the fogging operations. The drives are now being conducted in double shifts, ensuring that fogging occurs twice in these critical areas to effectively eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

Urging the public to cooperate with the JMC in maintaining cleanliness and avoiding water accumulation in and around their dwelling units, the Commissioner said that it would go a long way to prevent the spread of Dengue.

SRINAGAR | Wednesday, 25, September 2024



**GUNS GIVE WAY TO BALLOTS IN TRAL** 

# **Innovative Leadership** by RO Boosts Tral Voter **Turnout to 45%**

TRAL: In a remarkable show of democratic tive tehsil of Tral recorded an impressive 45% voter turnout, an achievement being credited to the tireless efforts and innovative strategies of Returning Officer (RO) Sajid Naqash.

Nagash, working in close collaboration with the local Superintendent of Police (SP) and other administrative officials implemented a series of groundbreaking initiatives aimed at building trust and ensuring the safe and smooth conduct of elections. His round-the-clock commitment to addressing logistical challenges and ensuring security in a region that has often been marred by unrest was key to this success

'This is a transformation story for Tral. RO's outreach programs, security protocols, and the way he engaged with the community have created an environment where people felt safe enough to come out and vote," said Altaf Dar, a senior government

A series of community outreach efforts, coupled with strategic security measures, made voting

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The Gander-

bal Assembly segment in

central Kashmir is poised

for a triangular contest in

the upcoming elections,

with former Chief Minis-

ter Omar Abdullah of the

National Conference (NC).

Bashir Ahmad Mir of the

People's Democratic Party

(PDP) and former MLA

Ishfaq Ahmad Sheikh, who

is running as an indepen-

dent candidate, as the key

are contesting the Gan-

derbal seat. These include

Bashir Ahmad Mir (PDP),

Ab Rashid Ganaie (Jammu

& Kashmir National Pan-

thers Party), Omar Abdul-

lah (NC), Tariq Ahmad

Zargar (Rashtriya Lok

Janshakti Party), Zahoor

Ahmad Malik (Republican

Party of India - A), Gulam

Qadir Wani (Rashtriya

Lok Dal), Qazi Mubashir

Farooq (Jammu & Kash-

mir Apni Party), Qaiser

Sultan Ganie (Democratic

Progressive Azad Party),

and several independent

candidates: Ishfaq Ahmad

Sheikh, Saquib Rehman

Makdoomi, Javid Ahmad

Wani, Sarjan Ahmad

A total of 15 candidates

contenders



accessible even during the busy pre-harvest season, a time when participation is usually low. RO's coordination with the police and paramilitary forces ensured that the locals felt protected. with special arrangements put in place to safeguard

polling stations. The efforts didn't go unnoticed by the voters or the candidates. Independent candidates and political party representatives alike expressed their satisfaction with how the

election was handled. "This election sets a new

for triangular contest

Wagay, Ashiq Ahmad

Sheikh (backed by the

AIP), Farooq Ahmad Bhat

bly segment has a total of

126,504 voters, including

63,093 male voters and

the race won't be easy for

Omar Abdullah, as his

former ally Ishfaq Ahmad

Sheikh is now contesting

as an independent candi-

date and will divide NC's

vote share. Sheikh's wife,

who serves as the DDC

Chairperson, may further

strengthen his support

base. Besides Omar Abdul-

lah and Bashir Mir, both

Ishfaq Ahmad Sheikh and

Qaiser Sultan Ganie are

expected to secure a sub-

stantial number of votes.

Political analysts believe

The Ganderbal Assem-

and Majid Ashraf Mir.

63,410 female voters.

15 candidates including former CM vie for top spot

Ganderbal Assembly seat set

standard for how things can be managed in sensitive areas," said one independent candidate.

General Observer Brijesh Narayan Singh, IAS, played a crucial role in the smooth conduct of elections in Tral by providing valuable oversight and guidance. His meticulous attention to detail and constant monitoring of the electoral process ensured transparency and fairness, bolstering confidence among both voters and candidates. Singh's hands-on approach, coupled with

The division of NC votes

could benefit the PDP, par-

ticularly its senior leader

Bashir Ahmad Mir, who

previously secured around

25.000 votes in Kangan

during the 2024 elections,

though the seat is now

reserved for Scheduled

Tribes (ST), according to

In 2014, Ganderbal had

90,582 electors, with 53,539

valid votes cast. Ishfaq

Ahmad Sheikh (NC) won

with 19.478 votes, defeat-

ing PDP's Qazi Mohammad

Afzal by a narrow margin

ency had 76,971 electors,

with 39,818 valid votes.

Omar Abdullah (NC) won

with 16,519 votes, defeat-

ing PDP's Qazi Mohammad

Afzal by 8,215 votes

In 2008, the constitu-

analysts.

of 597 votes

his dedication to maintaining the integrity of the election, has been widely praised by officials and observers alike. His collaboration with RO further strengthened the administrative efforts, making the election a resounding success in Tral.

Tral, once known for its volatile atmosphere, has now emerged as a beacon of democratic hope, showcasing how effective leadership can transform even the most challenging regions into vibrant centers of civic participation

In 2002, Ganderbal

had 68,402 electors, with

24,081 valid votes. PDP's

Qazi Mohd Afzal won with

11,622 votes, defeating

Omar Abdullah (NC), who

secured 8,752 votes, by a

In 1996, with 49,558 elec-

tors, 23,403 valid votes were

cast. Farooq Abdullah (NC)

won the seat with 16,440

votes, defeating Congress

candidate Qazi Mohd Afzal

ency had 47,051 electors,

with 38,418 valid votes.

Farooq Abdullah (NC)

won with 30,255 votes,

defeating independent

candidate Abdul Khaliq

39,769 electors, with 33,745

valid votes. Farooq Abdul-

lah (NC) won with 32,331

votes, defeating Congress

candidate Ghulam Mohi

Ud Din Saiati by a massive

had 35,118 electors, with

29,671 valid votes. Sheikh

Mohammad Abdullah

(NC) won with 26,162 votes,

defeating independent

candidate Ali Mohammad

Taria by 22,653 votes-

In 1977, the constituency

margin of 31.096 votes.

In 1983, Ganderbal had

Sofi by 22,809 votes.

In 1987, the constitu-

by 12.823 votes.

margin of 2,870 votes.

World Food India 2024

# J&K pavilion presents UT's unique products, attracts international buyers

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

**NEW DELHI:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government participated in the 3rd World Food India edition in New Delhi, which wrapped up on September 22, 2024.

The JKTPO sponsored pavilion at World Food India featured an array of J&K's signature products, including fruits, spices, dry fruits, honey, aromatic products etc. The event enabled J&K exhibitors to establish crucial business connections, explore new markets and expand their export footprint.

World Food India 2024, a remarkable four day food event, was organized at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from September 19th to 22nd, 2024.

The region showcased its unique products through seven exhibitors sponsored by the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO). This strategic participation not only highlighted J&K's rich agricultural heritage but also facilitated vital

connections between local businesses and international buyers, fostering an environment ripe for collaboration and growth.

The event enabled J&K's entrepreneurs to tap into global markets, unlocking opportunities for sustainable economic development. By leveraging platforms like World Food India, the region aims to boost its trade and export potential,

At the J&K Pavilion.

international buyers from fron, Honey and Basmati. 17 countries including South Africa, Iran, Malaysia, Vietnam, Kenya, USA, Oman, Lebanon, Australia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Jordan, Korea, Japan, Singapore,

Netherlands, and Bhutan engaged in productive B2B meetings with J&K exhibitors. These interactions yielded significant outcomes, with buyers sampling local products and placing on spot orders, par-

Notably, Wancho Sons a local exhibitor, secured a substantial order for GI tagged Saffron from African and Malaysian buyers. The other exhibitors are also expecting valuable orders from the potential buyers who were engaged in negotiations with them. Notable on-spot sales were also registered by certain

# Mega Rally in Srinagar on Sep 23

**How Congress Planned Gandhi's** 



**REHAN QAYOOM MIR** 

SRINAGAR: On the morning of September 23, the HMT area of Srinagar was adorned with vibrant posters of Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi. The ground was set for what would become a historic political rally, the first of its scale in nearly

four decades in Srinagar. The event, according to party insiders, was the result of meticulous planning and round-the-clock efforts by Congress cadres in Jammu and Kashmir. Party activists, functionaries, and leaders worked behind closed doors for days, determined to make the event not just successful but memorable. A senior Congress leader described how the entire team, regardless of rank, united to draw a massive crowd and ensure the rally conveyed the par-

ty's key messages. "For this purpose, thousands of leaflets and pamphlets were printed in both Urdu and English, highlighting why this election is crucial and urging people to vote for Congress," Congress leader Kadfeen Choudhary said.

"We emphasized old age schemes, interest-free loans for women, filling up government posts, and the restoration of statehood. We ensured these pamphlets reached every home around the venue, even going doorto-door ourselves and utilizing newspaper hawkers to

spread the word."

One of the rally's key attractions was the grand posters welcoming Rahul Gandhi. "We wanted something fresh," Choudhary added. "Instead of the usual slogans, we designed posters featuring Rahul Ji's quotes on Jammu and Kashmir, showcasing him as the only leader who has consistently spoken his heart for Kashmir, both inside and outside of Parliament. This strategy garnered a lot of attention and generated a massive response.'

Tariq Hameed Karra, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC). called the rally a landmark moment. "This was the first major political rally in Srinagar in 37 years. No such event has taken place since 1987, and the turnout was beyond our expectations. This rally was a true success story," he said—(KNO)

### **CBC Organizes Two-Day Outreach Programme at Turtuk in Nubra valley**







**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

TURTUK: The Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India on Tuesday organized a twoday Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) cum Photo Exhibition at Government Higher Secondary School. Turtuk, Leh. The event aimed at raising awareness about Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), Poshan Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission), and the New Criminal Laws was organized by CBC's Anantnag and Leh field units.

Child Development Project Officer(CDPO) Sonam Tsephel presided over the proceedings on the inaugural day.

The programme, held in one of the remotest regions, emphasized the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle, understanding the significance of nutrition, and familiarizing the local population with India's new criminal laws. The information dissemination is being done through a series of infor-

mative photo exhibits, printed IEC material and expert lectures.

Resource persons from the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Environment, and Law departments urged participants to embrace the principles of Mission LiFE, follow the guidelines of Poshan Abhiyaan, and adhere to the new criminal

Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Anantnag, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the crucial role CBC plays in outreach activities. He emphasized that these programmes focus on creating awareness among grassroots communities, especially in far-flung areas, enabling them to benefit from various government schemes and adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Sh. Naseer Ahmad Rather, Field Publicity Officer, Srinagar impressed upon the students to be torch bearers of the change envisaged under Mission LiFE and Poshan Abhiyan. He said that youth are key in bringing the positive change in

### Police clarify claims of "Mass Incarceration," urge public to ignore misleading assertions

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

SRINAGAR: In response to circulating claims on social media suggesting that thousands of people are imprisoned, the police have issued a statement refuting these allegations, here on Tuesday.

Sharing a series of tweets, Srinagar police on its official X handle, wrote only a few individuals with past records of disrupting the electoral process and criminal backgrounds are currently being dealt with under preventive sections of the law

They emphasized that these legal actions are being carried out in accordance with due legal procedures. The preventive measures, they said, are in place to ensure peace and order, particularly in the context of maintaining a free and fair electoral process

"Apropos to social media assertion by certain quarters that thousands of people are lying in the jails, it's stated that few mischevious elements with past conduct & proclivity of disrupting electoral process & having criminal antecedents are being dealt & bound down under preventive sections of Law following due procedure of law," Srinagar police tweet reads.

It reads as, the preventive sections of law provide law enforcement agencies security for keeping peace and good behavior. Legal measures duly reported are adhered to ensure free and fair electoral process. People are advised to refrain from according any credence to such unfounded and spurious assertions—(KNO)

### 2 drug peddlers arrested in **Kupwara: Police**

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing its unwavering efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Kupwara on Tuesday said to have arrested two drug peddlers and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

A Police party of PS Lalpora at a checkpoint established in their jurisdiction, intercepted two individuals coming from Diver towards Lalpora. They have been identified as Bashir Ahmad Sheikh son of Gh Hassan Sheikh resident of Batpora Magam Handwara and Tahir Ahmad Sheikh son of Gh Mohammad Sheikh resident of Tujer Sharief Sopore. During search, 60 grams of charas was recovered from their possession, a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 67/2024 has been registered at Police Station Lalpora and investigation has been initiated.

"General public is requested to come forward or Dial 112 with any information regarding drug peddling/anti-social activity in their vicinity and extend their cooperation to Police in eradicating the drug menace from the society," police said—(KNO)

#### Rahul Gandhi to address two rallies in Jammu, Sopore on Sept 25

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

JAMMU: After addressing a couple of rallies in Surankote area of Poonch district and in Srinagar on September 23, Leader of Opposition (LOP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will be visiting Jammu and Sopore on Wednesday to campaign for party candidates.

Gandhi, will be reaching Jammu first to address a professional meet at hotel Radisson before addressing a public meeting at JK Resorts.

"After addressing the public meeting in Jammu, Rahul Gandhi will be flying to Srinagar and then to Sopore to address a rally in Dagerpora area. He will be flying back to New Delhi in the evening," a Congress

party spokesman said. Gandhi has so far addressed five public rallies during the course of Assembly elections in different areas of Jammu and Kashmir and yesterday he addressed a massive rally in Surankote Assembly constituency of Poonch district in support of party's candidate Shahnawaz Choudhary. After that he flew to Srinagar and addressed a rally in support of Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra in the Central Shalteng Assembly constituency.

Congress party is contesting the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir in a pre-poll alliance with National Conference (NC) and Rahul Gandhi has been actively involved in the decision-making and garnering public support for party candidates—(KNO)

### CONGREGATIONAL FATEH KHAWANI

With deep sorrow and profound respect, we announce the passing of Mrs Rafiqa Bano W/O Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/O Natipora Srinagar who breathed her last in the intervening night of 22-23 September 2024, in a manner as peaceful as her life was noble.

Her life was a testament to her devotion and compassion, and her absence leaves a void in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on September 26th, 2024 (9:00 am), at the native graveyard near Natipora Crossing, Srinagar.

May her soul find eternal peace, and may her legacy of kindness continue to inspire all who remember her.

### **Bereaved Family**

**Ghulam Mohammad Bhat** Manzoor Ahmed Bhat **Zahoor Ahmed Bhat** Irshad Ahmed Bhat Contact: 6005801548

→ CMYK+

# Morning Kashmir

### **Unscheduled Power Cuts**

any areas in Srinagar city have been complaining about unscheduled power cuts over the period of last one week. This coincides with the unusually hot September temperatures wherein we are getting records broken for the highest-ever recorded September temperature in many districts.

The rivers, as we understand, have flown below the desired levels affecting power production. The rainfall has been deficit in many districts and rivers have by and large remained calm. The number of newer power connections is increasing per day and we can imagine the pressure it puts on the LG administration working day and night to ensure scheduled power to citizens of all districts of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. However, there are numerous challenges and sometimes load-shedding is the only solution.

At a time when the inflow into the dams meant for hydroelectric power generation is at the lowest the output of power generation can only be imagined. However, the administration is duty-bound to provide power supply as per the schedule devised by it or simply opt for fishing out a new schedule. Once the schedule is issued the administration is duty bound to adhere to it without fail. Any deviation from the scheduled plan should be published in the print media days ahead. This is how we can expect transparency in power supply across the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. There are traders neck deep in debt trying to somehow make two ends meet. They are increasingly dependent on the schedule laid out by the PDD. Factory owners, shopkeepers, ice cream parlors, and bakeries suffer a great deal when there is a deviation from this schedule. Unscheduled power cuts can break the backbone of any business enterprise and kind of push away other prospective business owners.

The LG administration must take immediate steps to revise the schedule laid out and adhere to it without fail. Any additional load-shedding must be published in print media and broadcast on state media so that people take measures in advance.

### Morning Kashmir

Printer, Publisher, Owner,

Editor in Chief: Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editor:

Mir Suhail

Bureau Chief Jammu:

**Harbans Nagokay** 

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

Office No: 0194-3593724

Regd No: 109555

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com Office Address:

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

**Khidmat Offset Printing** Press, The Bund, Srinagar

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

> **Layout Designer** Aijaz Ahmad Dar

> > 00000 00000

# The Unconditional Love Of A Mother



SYED MAJID GILAN

childhood was a haven of wisdom, filled with the guidance of elderly family members, neighbors, and relatives. They shared stories, tales, and life experiences that instilled good morals and ethics, cautioning us against the consequences of reckless actions. This social accountability fostered a closely-knit society where crime rates were minimal. In this nurturing environment, my grandmother, Late Syeda Sakina Gilani, often shared stories from her childhood. One such tale has stayed with me to this day.

Once upon a time, in a small village, there lived a woman, her husband, and their only son. The husband traveled extensively for work, leaving his wife to care for their child. Despite his occasional returns, bringing necessities and provisions, the wife's toxic behavior made their home an uncomfortable place for him. The son began attending a local school, and his mother showered him with love and affection. However, when he brought home an extra pencil, admitting to taking it from a classmate's bag without permission, his mother remained silent—this pivotal moment marked the beginning of a downward spiral. The next incident occurred when the son beat a classmate, and his mother was summoned to school. Instead of reprimanding him, she justified his actions, arguing that the classmate had previously wronged him. This misguided encouragement emboldened the son to continue down a path of misbehavior.

As the son grew older, his actions became increasingly concerning. One day, he was caught smoking by



their teacher in an effort to prevent him from developing a harmful habit. The school authorities called his mother to address this issue, intending to correct his behavior. However, when the teacher reprimanded the boy, his mother surprisingly objected, citing the absurd reason that since people of his age were indulging in worse habits like drinking wine and committing grave offenses, smoking was a non-issue, even normal for boys his age.

This alarming response revealed the mother's true intentions: shielding her wayward son rather than correcting him. Her silence and justification only fueled his destructive tendencies. The boy interpreted his mother's response as approval, and his behavior continued to deteriorate.

Years passed, and the son's transgressions escalated. He dropped out of school and mastered the art of robbery under his mother's decided to stay home and engage in local business. However, he was dismayed to find his son's behavior eyond correction.

One fateful day, while robbing a house, the son killed the owner in a scuffle. The authorities arrested him, and the king sentenced him to death by hanging. As was the custom, the son was granted a final wish. To everyone's astonishment, he requested that his mother be hanged alongside him. The king inquired about the reasoning behind this unusual request. The son explained that his mother's failure to correct him when he stole the pencil, her justification of his violent behavior, and her constant belittling of his father had cultivated his destructive nature. The son lamented that his father had tried to reform him, but his mother had consistently undermined these efforts, fueling his rebelliousness. He recalled the incident where he was

being corrected, his mother had normalized the behavior. The mother, overcome with grief and regret, realized too late the devastating consequences of her

actions. The King, bound by tradition, granted the son's final wish. As they stood together on the gallows, the son's words served as a haunting reminder: unchecked ambition, misguided encouragement, and lack of accountability can lead to devastating consequences. This story, passed down through generations, serves as a cautionary tale about the importance of responsible parenting, social accountability, and the value of elder wisdom in shaping a harmonious

Syed Majid Gilani is a writer and works as a GST Inspector, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com

# Time To Express Gratitude, Reverence **To Our Ancestors**



DR. SHIBEN KRISHEN RAINA

itra Paksha, or Shradh Paksha, a period deeply revered in Hinduism. During these days, devout Hindus perform Shradh and Tarpan ceremonies in remembrance of their ancestors and noble souls. The term Shradh is derived from "Shraddha," meaning faith and reverence. It reflects the underlying sentiment of honoring one's forebears, particularly the parents, acknowledging the profound impact they have had on our lives and expressing gratitude for the qualities and skills we inherited from them. Shradh is a sacred act, offering a way to repay the debt we owe to those who gave us birth.

Hinduism places immense importance on parental service, considering it the highest form of worship. The ritual of Shradh ensures that parents and ancestors are not forgotten after their departure from this world. It is believed that just as birth guarantees death, death similarly guarantees rebirth—except for a rare few who achieve Moksha (liberation). During Pitra Paksha, which spans sixteen days from the full moon of Bhadrapada to the new moon of Ashwin, offerings are made for the souls of ancestors, up to three generations on both the paternal and maternal sides, known collectively as the "Pitra." The Shradh is performed on the same lunar day (Tithi) as the



ancestor's death.

According to the scriptures, those who sincerely perform Shradh with the appropriate rituals and offerings will have their desires fulfilled. The act of charity made in memory of ancestors during this period is said to bring prosperity, harmony, and success in all walks of life, whether in the family or professional workings.

The concept of Shradh raises an intriguing question: How do the offerings like rice, fruit, pulses, coins etc. reach our ancestors? Hanuman Prasad Poddar. the founder of Gita Press and a key figure in the revival of Indian culture, was once asked this very

question by a curious follower. Poddar Ji smiled and responded with a simple yet profound analogy. He asked, "If we send a money order from a remote village in Rajasthan/Kashmir to someone in a distant village in Kerala, does it reach him?" The person promptly replied, "Yes, it does." "In the same way," Poddar Ji explained, "the offerings we make for our ancestors through the prescribed rituals reach them wherever

they are.' This analogy beautifully captures the essence of Pitra Paksha: faith, devotion, and the belief that our actions. performed with sincerity and respect, transcend physical distances and

spiritual realms.

Today, as I perform the Shradh for my father, and prepare for my mother's on the Trayodashi, I feel a profound sense of connection with them. Even though they are no longer physically present, I firmly believe they dwell in the heavens, showering their blessings upon me and my family. Despite the limited resources they had, my parents provided me with everything I needed to become the person I am today. Their sacrifices, teachings, and values continue to shape my life, and performing these rituals is my way of expressing my eternal gratitude In the grand scheme of

with every act of reverence. Writer is Former Fellow at IIAS(Shimla), Ex-Senior Fellow,Ministry of Culture,Govt. of India. He Can be mailed at

skraina123@gmail.com

life, Pitra Paksha is not

merely about performing

rituals—it is a reminder of

the eternal bond between

parents and children, a sacred duty to honor

the legacy of those who

came before us, and an

opportunity to reflect on

how deeply our existence is

Paksha, let us remember

that our ancestors continue

to live on in us, in our values,

in our traditions, and in

gratitude, we carry forward

As we observe Pitra

intertwined with theirs.

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN

AND MAY NOT BE FOUND N ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

# An Open Letter To Kashmir, Kashmiris



DR SHUJAAT ALI QUADRI

Dear Kashmir and Kashmiris,

ven though I am writing to you from the faraway mainland of India, trust me it comes straight from my heart where you dwell like my loved ones. We people from the mainland have to climb the steep stairs of mountains to reach your beautiful Valley whose beauty is a spin-off of firdaus (heaven) on earth. Tomes of paeans have been composed to measure its elegance, yet it remains a task in the making.

I feel that you people have climbed the tallest mountain - the mountain of choosing the power of decision over a blood-soaked dilemma that devoured generations of your youths and laid waste to your creative geniuses. It was not merely a loss of Kashmir; it was a catastrophe for India. The tears that welled from the eves of mothers in the Vale rolled down to the heartland of India. And every Indian who has a pure heart has been drenched in their pain as profoundly as a mother's wailing invokes.

The clock has however turned. The people are back on the streets with aspirations, thronging every nook and corner, forcing their leaders to come down among them to solicit their ballots. See the coverage of ongoing elections, the people would be seen taking part in the elections with a fervour that truly defines the vivacious spirit of Kashmiriyat. They are bravely vetting their would-be legislators. They are forthright in their unanimous query: how will you shape the future of our coming generations? The answer, clearly, has to be graft-free and answerable governance. Governance that will instill a trust in a Kashmiri that he has a future in Kashmir, and then in the mainland and everywhere in the world. A future that will be free of fear, from either side of the border



Talking of border, dear Kashmiris, the scourge of terrorism that returned to Jammu as the Union Territory was bracing up for elections has emanated only from across the border. But it will die with its ill design sooner than the estimate of those who have raised it as a tool of a war-defeated nation. It will be another foolhardy mission for them if they continue to paddle this misadventure. Even their future, dear Kashmiris, lies in cooperation and the joint rise of Asia. No nation, especially in poverty-ridden Asia, can afford to wage a war. It is a recipe for selfdestruction. No one knows this better than Pakistan. So, let's pray that better sense prevails upon their leadership.

One feels heartened to note that the story of Kashmir is in fact moving from gloom to flourish. Reporters

of almost every mainstream media outlet are meeting people in Srinagar who say, "We have better roads, more businesses are re-opening, and there is a sense of normalcy returning.' People are moving freely, businesses are growing, and there is a sense of peace that was not felt in years. Downtown Srinagar, once a flashpoint of unrest, is witnessing a remarkable revival. The area surrounding Jama Masjid, which was once deserted, is now full of life. Lal Chowk has also seen a remarkable transformation.

The Lal Chowk actually presents a picture that Srinagar competes and beats most of the prominent cities of the world. This landmark is so unique. It erects the memories of what Kashmir has seen over the years – promises kept and broken. Yet, it is a minaret of hopes that unfurls on its top an invisible flag of Kashmir's perseverance that has defied all

Tourism is the most remarkable indicator of change in the Valley. Data shows a record rise in the number of national and international tourists in Kashmir. Lal Chowk, Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Dal Lake are a few favourite destinations. These visitors contribute to the economy and development of the region. You Kashmiris know best that tourism has been the bedrock and lifeblood of your economy. The more it will flourish, the more you will prosper.

Another and most noticeable change perceived in mainland India about Kashmir is the remarkable feats that young Kashmiris have achieved in the fields of education, sports and innovations. Girls are outshining boys, like what we see in the rest of India.

Therefore, dear Kashmiris, you are at a new threshold today. You have to usher in the new dawn from here and wake up in a day that will help you leave the past only in the past. It doesn't mean that the grief will totally disappear and the wounds will heal all of a sudden. In fact, they should not. But, they, as Rumi said, must make way for the light to enter. Wounded souls illuminate the whole world. Who will know this wisdom better than you. Kashmiris? Let your Kashmir be the lantern of India!

(The Author is the Chairman of Muslim Students Organisation

# **Understanding Rivers**

MOHD ISHAO SHAH

[A river runs from God's throne, representing God's life-giving presence. (Revelation 22:1-2) A river comes from the House of God. (Ezekiel 47:1-12:)

ature has bestowed us with a lot of bounties that we avail and enjoy in our day-to-day lives. Every component of the natural setup has tremendous importance for the existence of life on this earth. Water and air are the two most crucial of them that are unavoidable for the survival of life. So the importance of rivers is crystal clear and undeniable The theme for the 2023 International Day of Action for Rivers was "Rights of Rivers". The day is celebrated on March 14th each year.

The theme for the 2024 International Day of Action for Rivers is "Water for All". The theme highlighted the importance of Access to clean water: Everyone's right to access clean water is fundamental. Protecting rivers: Rivers are national assets that are vital to the well-being of entire populations. The International Day of Action for Rivers is celebrated annually on March 14. It's a day to raise awareness about the threats rivers face. Promote sustainable river management. Inspire people and organizations to take action to conserve rivers. The International Day of Action for Rivers was first celebrated in 1997 and is now widely celebrated in many parts of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The rivers are not only important for us in respect of their economic and ecological importance, but also from the religious and spiritual point of view. There are so many rivers that are associated with different beliefs like the Zamzam river in Mecca which flowed mystically at the time the wife of Abraham-Hazrat Hajira required water for her newborn baby Ishmael. River Nile has a reference in the Quran. It tells us about the episode of Prophet Moses (Hazrat Mussa) who would give the way and drown rather than electrocute Pharaoh - the cruel king of Babylon( Now Egypt). The river Furath in Iraq has relevance to the greatest tragic episode in Islamic history. It is this river whose waters were banned for Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A) and his associates during the battle of Karbala. The Euphrates will divert itself and reveal "mountains of gold", which Muslims should either not touch or take only a small

(Prophet Muhammad-PBUH) Urubamba River: Cutting through Peru's lush Sacred Valley, the Incans saw the Urubamba as a direct reflection of the Milky Way, a celestial river known as "Mayu." Flowing along the spiritual center of Incan culture, the river passes important ruins like Machu Picchu and the Raqch'i temple. According to Incan

amount. The earth will open up and

swallow people. Smoke will appear.

The caliphate will be revived, but

Islam will not be united as many "false

prophets and deviants" cause discord.

beliefs, the river was a collection point of the Earth's water, that would then feed into the sky.

The Jordan River connects the Dead Sea with the Mediterranean, passing through Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. It's sacred in both Judaism and Christianity for different reasons: In the Old Testament, ancient Jews had to cross the river as a final step in finding freedom after years wandering the desert; in the New Testament, Jesus christens John the Baptist in the waters. The exact spot of John's baptism is best pinpointed to Al-Maghtas, Jordan, now a UNESCO World Heritage site and followers of both faiths can enter the murky river here, though it is heavily polluted.

Ganges River: At 1,569 miles long, the Ganges flows through India and Bangladesh and is one of seven sacred rivers in Hinduism. Tens of millions of believers travel to different points of the river to bathe, as doing is believed to absolve sins. As with many of the world's rivers, it is heavily polluted by the industrial factories, sewage systems, and urban areas it flows past in India. Billions of dollars have been pledged from international and Indian sources to help clean up the river.

Bagmati River: The Bagmati in Nepal is the final resting place for many Hindus, whose bodies are dipped

in the water three times and cremated on funeral pyres at the Pashupatinath Temple (pictured) in Kathmandu. The ashes are then spread in the river, which meets up with tributaries of the Ganges in northeastern India. River Styx is believed to have immortalizing powers. Its waters were used by the gods to seal unbreakable oaths, and the Greek hero Achilles was immersed in the river as a child, making him entirely invulnerable except for the spot on his heel where his mother held him for his dip.

Let's introspect how we are behaving towards the purity and sanctity of the rivers. And how are we violating their rights? Before proceeding ahead, let's understand the rights of rivers in detail. The concept of river rights is based on the idea that rivers are living entities with fundamental rights and that humans should act as custodians of the natural resources around them.

The Universal Declaration of River Rights (UDRR) was developed in 2017 by the Earth Law Centre. The UDRR states that rivers have the following rights:

The right to flow. The right to perform essential functions within their ecosystems. The right to be free from pollution. The right to feed and be fed by sustainable aquifers. The right to rejuvenation and restoration.

The right to facilitate biodiversity management. The UDRR also suggests that the entire river basin, not just the river itself, has these rights. Some governments have used the UDRR as inspiration for their own river rights legislation, including El Salvador, France, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the UK, and Serbia.

The idea of environmental personhood, which recognizes nature's rights and the need to enforce them in court, has its origins in essays by University of Southern California law professor Christopher D. Stone. Indigenous communities have long recognized nature as having personhood and deserving of protection and respect.

The violation of these rights includes stopping the free flow of rivers by constructing dams and ponds on them for the sake of hydroelectricity. Polluting rivers using certain harmful activities kike diverting drainage and sewage towards them, putting waste material in them, and conducting atomic and nuclear experiments on their surface.

So, violating the rights of rivers means violating the divine law. And it results in drastic consequences. Not only the water resource is adversely impacted by our single-minded actions, but the marine life associated with rivers also is a great threat although is the creation of God who has created us as well.

In today's world, there is no such huge  $\operatorname{crisis}$  as drinking water. The great philosophers and scholars are reflecting on their apprehension that future wars will be based on water crises because there would be none of the nations of the world that would not try to supersede others about water resources. And that would again result in the loss of human life and property. There is a common saying "Jal Hi Jeewan Hai" and if the water is not sustaining in its purest form, it means that life is under great threat. Impure water is the cause of various diseases and epidemics. It is the cause of environmental pollution. So, to preserve the water we must preserve the rivers.

> The author can be mailed at ishaq7007@gmail.com



# Benefits Of Consuming Lassi

assi is a traditional Indian drink made from yogurt, water, and sometimes spices, fruits, or sugar. It is rich in probiotics, calcium, proteins, and essential nutrients. making it highly beneficial for health. During the rainy season, when the body is more prone to digestive issues and infections, lassi can be particularly helpful. Its probiotic content supports gut health and boosts immunity, while its hydrating and cooling properties help combat humidity and prevent dehydration. In this article, we share a detailed list of benefits you can achieve from consuming lassi during the monsoon season.

Here's how lassi can boost

your health in the monsoon

1. Boosts immunity Lassi is packed with probiotics, the beneficial bacteria that help strengthen the gut and immune system. During the rainy season, the body is more susceptible to infections due to fluctuating weather conditions. The probiotics in lassi boost the body's defence mechanism, helping to ward off common monsoon illnesses like colds, flu, and stomach infections by maintaining a healthy balance of gut flora.

2. Aids digestion Monsoon can disrupt digestion due to increased humidity and changes in eating habits. Lassi, being rich in probiotics, promotes the growth of good



bacteria in the digestive tract. It helps improve bowel movements and prevents issues like indigestion, bloating, and constipation, which are common during the rainy season. Regular consumption of lassi can keep the digestive system running smoothly.

3. Hydrates the body The humid weather during the rainy season can cause dehydration, even though one might not feel as thirsty as in

source of hydration as it contains water, electrolytes, and beneficial nutrients. It replenishes lost fluids and helps maintain the body's water balance, which is essential to prevent fatigue and weakness during the monsoon

4. Cooling effect Despite the cooler temperatures, the humidity during the rainy season can make one feel sticky and uncomfortable. Lassi has a natural cooling effect on the body, helping to reduce internal heat. This soothing drink can help you stay cool and refreshed even in the muggy weather, making it an ideal bev-

erage for the monsoon. 5. Prevents stomach infec-

brings with it a higher risk of food and water contamination, leading to stomach infections. Lassi, with its probiotic properties, helps combat harmful bacteria in the gut. The good bacteria in lassi can prevent the growth of pathogens that cause foodborne illnesses, offering a protective shield to your diges-

6. Rich in nutrients Lassi is a nutrient-dense drink containing proteins, calcium, vitamins, and minerals. These nutrients are especially important during the rainy season when the body's resistance may be lowered. The calcium in lassi strengthens bones,

tive system during monsoon.

while proteins support muscle health and repair. This makes it a wholesome drink to ensure your nutritional needs are met.

7. Promotes skin health

The monsoon season can lead to various skin issues due to excess humidity, such as acne and fungal infections. Lassi's probiotics support a healthy gut, which is directly linked to better skin health. A balanced gut helps reduce skin inflammation and can promote clearer, healthier skin. Additionally, lassi's cooling properties help calm the skin from within.

By consuming lassi during the rainy season, you can enjoy a range of health benefits, from improved digestion to enhanced immunity, while staying hydrated and refreshed.

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

### **India Emerges**

leadership, India would still be languishing behind, but today, we see a nation on the verge of superpower status."

The latest Asia Power Index, released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute, said that India, being seen as a potential superpower for a long time, has finally started flexing its muscles on the regional stage.

'India's power in Asia is growing while that of China is plateauing despite its continued economic and military growth," the report said.

The Lowy Institute report notes India's significant gains in Economic Capability, Diplomatic Activity, and Future Resources, signalling a demographic dividend that could fuel its con-

Hardeep Puri said, "It's PM Modi's tireless effort on the world stage that has put India back on the map. He has taken India's nonalignment policy and transformed it into a powerful tool for gaining leverage in global diplomacy.'

He further stated, "While countries like China are ageing and facing a slowdown India, under PM Modi, has the resources and the leadership to take the throne as the new kingmaker of Asia.

'Those who question Modi's impact on India's rise need only look at the facts. India's trajectory is up, and the world can no longer ignore it," he

The senior BJP leader also took a shot at previous Congress governments and said, "The country was left rudderless by the previous government's indecisive and directionless approach. They said the Indian economy will be third largest by 2043 and PM Modi is guaranteeing it will be so in his third term itself. The IMF has, in fact, recently forecast that India will be the thirdlargest economy by 2027. Under their leadership, India would never have made it to the top three on any power index."

### **Srinagar Seethes**

above normal today while Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir witnessed a slight decline in the mercury today as against yesterday's 33.2 degree Celsius, the station recorded 32.8 degree Celsius

In Qazigund, the mercury settled 7.2 degrees above normal temperature today, the data reveals, adding that Kokernag recorded a maximum temperature of 31.2 degree Celsius, which was 6.6 degrees above normal.

Kupwara in north Kashmir, Pahalgam a famous tourist destination and Gulmarg a ski-resort recorded maximum temperatures of 33.7 degree Celsius, 29.5 degree Celsius and 23.6 degree Celsius respectively.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather would remain generally dry tomorrow with possibility of light rain and thunder at isolated places

On September 26 & 27, the weather would remain generally cloudy with a spell of light rain and thunder expected at many places, he said, adding that from september 28 to 3, generally dry weather with a brief spell of rain and thunder is expected at isolated places on 28th and 29th.

However, he said that generally dry weather is

expected on October 01 to October 03. Besides, the MeT has issued an advisory, stating that thunderstorm, lightning and Gusty winds are expected at isolated places with possibility of light snow over a few higher reaches during 26th Sept (Night).

Farmers are advised to safely store the harvested crops, it reads—(KNO)

### 25.78 Lakh Voters

including Surankote, Poonch-Haveli and Mendhar will be going for polls.

The campaigning for the second phase witnessed high profile events like Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing a rally in Srinagar, Leader of Opposition (LOP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi addressing a couple of rallies, one in Surankote and another in Srinagar and Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other top BJP star campaigners addressing rallies all across.

The counting of the votes for all the three phase of Assembly elections in J&K will be held on October 8 alongside Haryana—(KNO)

### **Security Stepped Up**

voters for smooth and hassle-free electoral participation, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 3,502 polling stations in these segments. There are 1,056 urban polling stations and 2,446 rural polling stations," an official spokes-

man said. He said all the polling stations will have a webcasting facility as part of Election Commission's efforts to ensure transparency in the polls.

Elections in Jammu and Kashmir are being held in three phases. Voting for 24 seats in the first phase was held on September 18 while 26 seats will go to polls Wednesday in the second phase. The voting for 40 seats in third phase will be held on October 1 while counting of votes will be held

### **Srinagar Set To Vote**

said environmental conservation has completely fallen off the radar. "We live in a valley surrounded by beauty, yet every election, they forget to address the issues of pollution and shrinking green spaces. How can they talk about development without protecting what makes our city

Similarly, Zubair, another local from Nowhatta, Srinagar, expressed concerns over unemployment, stating that despite being a postgraduate student, he is unemployed and forced to work in private companies as no government jobs are available. "I have completed my education, but where are the jobs? Our youth are struggling, and no one seems to have a clear plan. We need leaders who will prioritize the future of young people in Kashmir," he said.

As polling day approaches, many citizens are hoping for more accountable and responsible leadership.

A shopkeeper in Lal Chowk, Srinagar, said, We have been ignored for too long. Our streets, our businesses, our livelihoods—it feels like no one cares. This election, we need representatives who will actually listen to us," he said.

A young girl, who is about to cast her first vote tomorrow, said she is excited to cast her ballot for the first time and contribute to shaping the future. "I want a better future for myself and all the Kashmiri people, as most people are unemployed, and this election is our chance to change things," said Sadia—(KNO)

of governance and reforms were suppressed "The youth of Kashmir have been left without opportunities, especially in the public sector and other key departments, by the very parties that claim to represent them. They have been misled for decades, while BJP's vision offers the promise of development and progress," said Bhat

Shazia Ilmi called for a comprehensive development process in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing that the region must be freed from the cycles of terrorism, stone-pelting, and frequent hartals that disrupt normal life. She stated, "We want to see Jammu and Kashmir as a state free from hartals and violence, moving towards development. The mainstream parties like NC, PDP, and Congress have failed to take the necessary steps for progress.

Ilmi further added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP envisions a stable, peaceful Jammu and Kashmir, where terrorism no longer holds sway over the lives of ordinary people.

She drew attention to the plight of Muslims in Kashmir, stating that many had suffered in ways similar to the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits. "Muslims in Kashmir have also been forced to leave their homes due to the instability and violence, much like our Kashmiri Pandit brothers. Their voices have been suppressed by the very leaders who were supposed to represent them.

She reiterated that the BJP stands for the prosperity of all communities in the region and seeks to foster an inclusive environment where every citizen feels secure and empowered.

Ilmi emphasized Prime Minister Modi's engagement with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. She noted that the Prime Minister has consistently focused on the development of the region, ensuring that the people's voices are heard at the highest levels of governance. "Prime Minister Modi has visited the region multiple times, offering a vision of a prosperous and peaceful Jammu and Kashmir, where development is prioritized, and the youth have real opportunities," she said.

Both Ilmi and Bhat made it clear that the BJP's vision for the future of Jammu and Kashmir stands in stark contrast to the status quo maintained by the traditional political parties. The BJP, they said, is committed to bringing tangible change, ending violence, and promoting development across the region.

### **JKPC Condemns**

Newslaundry YouTube channel. According to the JKPC, the propaganda video of the Newslaundry seeks to subvert the narrative on Kashmir, falsely portraying the region as regressive and sans press freedom. "This is a deliberate attempt to falsify the ground reality and distort the true picture of press freedom in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the Kashmir Valley," the meeting concluded.

The JKPC accused the Newslaundry of deliberately discrediting the mainstream media in Kashmir by labelling it 'Pamphlet' and ignoring hard work of reporters and professional journalistic ethics followed by the newspapers. The members emphasized that the content undermines the integrity of the local press and casts unfounded aspersions on the editorial policies of Kashmir's daily newspapers.

It further said that the presenter is pained to see the media reports about the Prime Minister of India and the Home Minister on the front pages. Even if these lead reports are derived from the recent Jammu and Kashmir visits of the Prime Minister and Home Minister.

She anticipates that what the PM speaks about Kashmir and the Jammu and Kashmir policy must not occupy the front pages in Kashmir. Instead such reports must be put in oblivion and must not catch the reader's gaze, it said, adding that this positioning is indeed suspicious and belittles the ethics of journalism. Not only has she offered unsolicited advice asking the newspapers published from Kashmir to give prominence to the stories that highlight Kashmir as a conflict zone, it said.

She has an issue with the transformation that is encouraging the people to uphold peace. She has problems with the mainstream news being published from the valley and bringing the emergence of peace in the public domain. This is not only malicious but suspicious. At whose behest is she interested to project Kashmir as the land of bloodshed and abnormality when during the Lok Sabha Elections people created new records in terms of voting percentage and sent their elected representatives to the Parliament?

After the successful completion of the first phase of the Assembly Elections people are enthusiastic to cast their vote in the second phase as well. She has issues why the newspapers from Kashmir are publishing the mainstream news that projects Jammu and Kashmir as the nucleus of change and peace. She has issues with the standard and quality of journalism being maintained by Kashmir's newspapers amid competition and challenges. Instead of appreciating the professional journalism being upheld by the media in Kashmir she wants to draw the sadistic pleasure. She does not stop here; she offers consultancy, which no one has asked her, regarding the editorial policy. She claims in her video that she is highlighting the gagging of the press. But what will she say about her video in which she dictates the policy for the valley based newspapers? We are compelled to ask the Newslaundry as to its

The JKPC members opined that the video of the Newslaundry makes it amply clear that it wants to foment unrest and is acting on the behest of the elements that derive pleasure from the violence and subversion in Kashmir. It wants to project Kashmir as the land of violence. It does not want the development and peace to be restored. Moreover, the JKPC observed that News Laundry has the editorial policy of projecting Kashmir as a conflict zone when there has been an on ground change after the abrogation of the Article 370

The JKPC asks the Judiciary to take cognizance of this type of subversive reporting that wants Jammu and Kashmir again on the brink of conflict and is posing a threat to the responsible media that projects the real picture of peaceful and progressive Kashmir. Newspapers published from Kashmir have every right to analyse and frame their editorials on the issues that concern public interest and territorial integrity of India. No one can gag the Kashmir based newspapers and dictate terms to them when it comes to the freedom of press. This kind of pressure tactics and misleading, malicious report by the Newslaundry is nothing but subversion to encourage the elements who want to drown Jammu and Kashmir again in the quagmire of ethno-religious

"For more than three decades newspapers in Kashmir have been working as the guardians of human rights and democracy with utmost sense of responsibility," they stated. Later, the media fraternity reaffirmed their resolve to uphold freedom of press and the national interest at all costs. It also warned the entire nation to be aware of those with vested interests and fissiparous tendencies masquerading as media but are actually acting as enemies of professional press fraternity.

We appeal to the entire media fraternity across the nation to condemn the Newslaundry report and stand in support of the progressive media in Kashmir that is working tirelessly to guard the national interests and the press freedom in Jammu and Kashmir", they added.

## **CS Reviews Progress**

department to devise a proper monitoring mechanism to ensure timely execution of works with desired outcomes. He enjoined upon the DISCOMS of both the divisions to ensure the set targets are achieved within the fixed deadline.

The Chief Secretary enquired about the status of smart metering and other loss reduction works accomplished in different districts of the UT by different executing agencies. He also asked about the physical progress registered in each package of work awarded to PIA.

In the presentation, the Principal Secretary Power, H. Rajesh Prasad, gave out a detailed description about the RDSS works being executed across different districts of the UT.

Regarding its objectives, he informed that the scheme aims at improving the quality, reliability and affordability of power supply to customers through an efficient distribution system.

The meeting was further apprised that implementation of these works had resulted in sharp decline in the gap between Average Cost of Power (ACP) and Average Revenue Realised (ARR).

As far as other LR works are concerned, it was added that the scope includes LT cable replacement work, HVDS, HT Line cabling, HT Line (Conductor), Feeder segregation etc. It was also revealed that different project implementing agencies including PESL, NTPC, RECPDCL have been assigned specific works for completion in a time bound manner.

### Can Omar Win

Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi (PDP), Aga Syed Ahmad Mosvi (Awami National Conference), Gazanfar Maqbool (Samajwadi Party), Nisar Ahmad Pal (Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front - Secular), Mukhtar Dar, Mehraj-ud-Din Ganayee, and Nazir Ahmad Wani and all independents.

Budgam has a total of 125,266 voters, comprising 63,181 male voters, 62,081 female voters, and four third-gender voters.

Historical election results in Budgam: In the 2014 Budgam legislative assembly election, the total number of registered electors was 103,683, with 68,758 valid votes cast. Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, the candidate from the NC, won the seat with 30,090 votes. His closest rival, the PDP candidate Muntazir, secured 27,303 votes, resulting in a narrow loss by 2,787 votes.

In the 2008 election, the Budgam constituency had 88,713 electors, with 48,942 valid votes. Aga Syed Ruhullah of the NC won again, securing 19,652 votes, while PDP candidate Mohammad Kamal Malik came second with 9,692 votes, losing by a margin of 9,960 votes.

In 2002, the total electorate was 67,450, with 22,531 valid votes. Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, running for the NC, emerged victorious with 11,398 votes, defeating independent candidate Aga Syed Mahmood Almosvi, who garnered 4,753 votes, by a margin of 6,645 votes.

In 1996, the constituency had 58,029 electors, and 37,000 valid votes were cast. Syed Gh Hussain Geelani of the NC won with 15.360 votes, narrowly defeating Indian National Conference candidate Aga Syed Mehdi, who received 13,766 votes, by 1,594 votes.

The 1987 election saw 51,611 electors, with 42,059 valid votes. NC candidate Syed Ghulam Hussain Gilani won with 18,911 votes, defeating independent candidate Mohd Sultan Bhat, who garnered 12,556 votes, by a margin of

In 1983, Budgam had 42,376 electors and 30,606 valid votes. Ghulam Hussain Geelani of the NC secured victory with 17,037 votes, while INC candidate Assadullan Mir received 8,392 votes, losing by 8,645 votes.

The 1977 election featured 35,587 electors, with 28,744 valid votes. Ghulam Hussain Geelani of the NC won the seat with 14,324 votes, defeating Janata Party candidate Agha Sayeed Hassan, who garnered 11,799 votes, by 2.525 votes.

In the 1972 election, the Budgam constituency had 28,675 electors and 17,286 valid votes. INC candidate Ali Mohd Mir won with 8,448 votes, while independent candidate Agha Sayed Ali Shah Safvi stood second with 5,918 votes, losing by 2,530 votes—(KNO)

### **Among 872 Candidates**

and 436 (50%) holding qualifications of graduate level or above. Only 15 candidates are diploma holders, one candidate is just literate, and 13 have declared themselves as illiterate.

In terms of age, the largest group of candidates (47%) is between 41 and 60 years old, followed by 33% of candidates aged 25 to 40. A significant portion (20%) is between 61 and 80 years old—(KNO)



# Global statesman, trendsetter par excellence: NDA allies hail PM's US trip



IANS

**NEW DELHI:** As Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from a three-day power-packed trip to the U.S., the allies of the BJPled National Democratic Alliance (NDA) have hailed his visit as remarkable and trendsetting.

From Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to Andhra Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to other alliance partners including Kumaraswamyled Janata Dal (S) to Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustan Awami Morcha (HAM), all made gushing praise for PM Modi's leadership and thanked him for drawing world's attention to issues of global concern.

During his three-day trip, PM Modi participated in a slew of events including the Quad Leaders' meeting, addressed an overwhelming Indian community event and also the Summit of the Future at the UN General Assembly.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar congratulated PM Modi for the successful visit and said that this will have far-reaching

and positive effects. "The decisions taken to increase investment between the two countries are welcome. The decisions taken between the two countries will increase investment in cutting-edge technology areas and open new ave-

during PM Modi's US visit

nues of development. The people of Bihar are excited about the announcements made during the visit. The warm welcome accorded to PM Modi by world leaders and the Indian diaspora strengthens his leadership," the JD-U chief said.

Andhra Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said India was proud to be working under the leadership of a global statesman. "Prime Minister has

strengthened India's position in the comity of nations and has unarguably emerged as a tall world leader, bringing communities and countries together. His address to the United Nations stands as testimony to the importance world leaders associate with India and the significance of the role we are poised to play on the global stage in the coming years,'

Naidu wrote on X. Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde said that it was a moment of pride to see the Prime Minister being welcomed by American President Joe Biden at his personal residence.

"PM Modi's USA visit has shown once again why he is a global statesman and trendsetter par excellence. In a short visit, he has been able to cover many sectors, which will strengthen India's journey to progress. I welcome the engagement with tech and business leaders. Maharashtra has a robust interaction with many of these people and PM's efforts to draw investments will naturally benefit our state," he wrote on X.

Maharashtra Chief Minister further said, "I am particularly happy that PM Modi ensured the return of almost 300 antiquities from the U.S. It is important a leader keeps in touch with his cultural roots and this is exactly what PM Modi is doing."

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy said, "Over three days PM Modi discussed nuclear energy, cervical cancer vaccine, semiconductors, AI, biotechnology, quantum technology, Indo-Pacific economic architecture, return of our cultural heritage and many other topics. Apart from all this, there were strategic

discussions on geopoliti-

cal matters. The pictures of his warm interactions with the Indian diaspora were also heart-warming."

Former Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi said that the whole world today concurs with the fact that PM Modi is the pride of India. "PM Modi is return-

ing to India today after concluding his three-day visit to the USA. During his three-day visit, he attended the Quad Leaders Summit and the Summit of the Future (SOTF) at the United Nations in New York which was unique in itself, also, he held important bilateral meetings during his visit which will be fruitful for the progress of the nation. PM Modi's meeting with Vietnam President To Lam on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly and discussions on ways to enhance relations between the two countries and increase cooperation in areas such as connectivity, trade and culture will benefit the country's trade. The world will remember PM Modi's address at the United Nations Future Summit. Every Indian is feeling proud seeing the world's love for Modi Ji during his USA visit," Manjhi added.

# Jaishankar meets Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Advisor amid frosty ties

**NEW DELHI**: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Advisor Touhid Hossain on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, marking the first high-level engagement between India and Bangladesh's interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus after Sheikh Hasina's ouster as Prime Minister, last

The meeting focused on "strengthening" the bilateral ties between the two neighbouring countries and addressed mutual interests. "Had a meeting with Foreign Affairs Advisor Md. Touhid Hossain of Bangladesh in New York this evening. The conversation focussed on our bilateral ties," EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

The two ministers met only a few hours after the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry had lodged a "diplomatic protest" with the Indian High Commission in Dhaka on Monday in response to recent remarks made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah "regarding Bangladeshi nationals" during



his visit to Jharkhand.

The Bangladesh MFA's statement has received massive criticism, and it is expected that EAM Jaishankar would have conveyed New Delhi's disappointment over the issue during his meeting with Hossain, which was also attended by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

Even though India continues to bat for normalisation of relations following last month's events and continued targetting of the Hindu community in Bangladesh, the interim government in Dhaka has been accused of making groundless statements

over the past few weeks. Last month, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) dismissed as "baseless" the allegations levelled by Bangladesh's interim government that India is "deliberately" letting more water flow into the neighbouring country.

"We have seen media reports of the opening of Farakka barrage gates that will allow the flow of over 11 lakh cusecs of water downstream of the river in its natural course into the Ganga/Padma river. This is a normal seasonal development that takes place due to increased inflow from heavy rainfall in the Ganga river basin catchment areas upstream," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on August 26.

New Delhi expressed concerns over "fake videos, rumours and fearmongering to create misunderstanding", stating that the entire data, as per protocol, is shared with the concerned Joint River

Commission officials in Bangladesh on a regular and timely basis.

"It is to be understood that Farakka is only a barrage and not a dam. Whenever the water level reaches the pond level, whatever inflow comes that passes It is merely a structure to divert 40,000 cusecs of water into the Farakka canal that is carefully done using a system of gates on the main Ganga/Padma river, while the balance water flows into the main river to Bangladesh," he added while firmly countering the rumours with facts.

There was also intense media speculation about a meeting between PM Modi and Mohammad Yunus taking place on the sidelines of the UN 'Summit of the Future on Monday However, it was not sched uled due to the different arrival and departure timings of the leaders.

Asked about this at a news conference, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said, "The Prime Minister is leaving in a few minutes from now. The Chief Advisor of Bangladesh is not here yet, so there hasn't been any possibility of a meeting on this occasion.

### PM's vision around AI, chips to propel India towards Viksit Bharat: IBM's Patel

IANS

MUMBAI: The vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi around frontier technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors and quantum will propel the country towards becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047, Sandip Patel, MD, IBM India and South Asia, said on Tuesday.

Speaking to IANS on the sidelines of the tech company's event in the financial capital, Patel said that the current investment momentum, coupled with friendly government policies, are testament to PM Modi's determination to make India the global AI

"India is already way ahead in adopting and using AI across businesses and if we can further skill the massive human capital in our country in AI, it will make us the AI capital of the world," the top IBM India executive said.

During his just-concluded US visit, PM Modi met with the top technology and biosciences leaders, including Arvind Krishna, CEO of IBM, saying he was "committed to making India a global hub of semiconductor manufacturing"

and a biotech powerhouse and India's policy is "to promote AI for all, underpinned by its ethical and responsible use"

According to Patel, in order to build safe and responsible AI, the industry needs to make sure that data and insights from AI are owned by its creators while keeping AI bias-free — both through regulation and how we are deploying

"We are continuing to innovate in India, for India and for the world, and will scale our growth trajectory in the country. We have been doing this for the last several quarters and will continue to do so," Patel told IANS. As India's capital mar-

kets undergo a pivotal transformation, the role of AI in enhancing investment solutions has never been more important.

As the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and generative AI (GenAI) surges worldwide. India is set to play a pivotal role in its use to accelerate social and economic progress.

The Prime Minister has encouraged companies to take advantage of India's growth story for collaboration and innovation.

**MUDA** CASE

### CM Siddaramaiah's plea quashed, Governor's prosecution decision upheld

BENGALURU: The Karnataka High Court has quashed the writ petition filed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah questioning the prosecution order given by the Governor in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case.

The bench headed by Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order on Tuesday upholding Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's decision

The bench stated that the private complainants can seek consent for the prosecution and the bench has also underlined that the move to seek permission for consent under Section 17(A) is appropriate.

The bench also stated that the Governor's action in this regard is correct. The development is

likely to create ripples in the state politics. Ahead of the Karna-

taka High Court verdict, security was beefed up around Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's residence here. The Bengaluru Police deputed two platoons of the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) at the CM's

The police have been



directed to be on high alert to avert any untoward incidents, said officials.

had Siddaramaiah sought interim relief in the matter as well as also had demanded the quashing of the Governor's orders.

Now, that the verdict has gone against CM Siddaramaiah, the lower court will initiate legal proceedings such as filing of FIR against him in the MUDA case. This will lead to further pressure on the Chief Minister to tender his resignation.

Sources confirmed that CM Siddaramaiah will now approach the Supreme Court challenging the order by the High Court

against him. The High Court on September 12 completed the

hearing of arguments and

counterarguments on the

writ petition filed by Chief

Minister Siddaramaiah.

While Abhishek Manu Singhvi appeared for the CM, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta represented the Governor's office.

Social activists Pradeep Kumar SP, T.J. Abraham and Snehamayi Krishna had filed petitions against CM Siddaramaiah in connection with the alleged MUDA land scam.

They had claimed that Siddaramaiah had misused his office to create fraudulent documents over 3.17 acres of land near Mysuru city and got 14 sites allotted from the MUDA in the

name of his wife. CM Siddaramaiah had refuted the allegations and maintained that the Congress government would fight politically and legally over the permission for prosecution against him in the case granted by the

### Adani Energy, Adani Green join Utilities for Net Zero Alliance to aid India's Net Zero goal

AHMEDABAD: Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) and Adani Energy Solutions Ltd on Tuesday said ties for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA) to help India accelerate the adoption of renewables and overcome common barriers in the realisation of global Net

Zero ambitions. AGEL in the renewable energy sector and AESL in transmission and distribution have become the first in their respective segments to join this global alliance.

While AGEL will focus on areas like the buildout of clean power, enhancement of energy security and improvement of energy efficiency, AESL will redouble its efforts towards developing a reliable grid infrastructure for green energy transmission and distribution.

"Joining the Utilities for Net Zero Alliance gives an opportunity to collaborate with global peers on advancing the sustainability goals, drive innovation and accelerate the clean energy transition," said Sagar Adani, Executive Director, AGEL.

As India's largest renewable energy player, "we are



committed to delivering 50 GW by 2030 and contribute 10 per cent of the nation's non-fossil fuel energy goal by that year," Sagar Adani

Operating under the guidance of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions, UNEZA was established at COP28 with the adoption of the UAE Declaration of Action.

The alliance brings leading global utilities and power companies under one umbrella, to spearhead the development of renewable energy-ready grids, promoting clean energy solutions, and advancing electrification efforts.

"By joining Utilities for Net Zero Alliance, AESL will be able to leverage on the experience of its global peers and in turn share its insights into building highcapacity renewable energy evacuation networks," Anil Sardana, Managing Director of AESL.

"Given the Adani Portfolio's ambitious renewable energy plans, it is crucial for AESL to establish reliable evacuation networks for uninterrupted renewable energy offtake," Sardana added.

Both AGEL and AESL aim to achieve Net Zero by

Adani Green Energy plans to increase its renewable energy portfolio from the current operational capacity of 11.2 GW to 50 GW by 2030.

The company is developing the world's largest renewable energy plant with a capacity of 30 GW at Khavda in Kutch, Gujarat. For its Mumbai distri-

bution arm, Adani Energy Solutions has set a target to increase the share of renewables in bulk power purchase to 70 per cent by

Additionally, the company aims to reduce its direct emissions by 72.7 per cent by 2030, relative to 2020 levels.

### Sensex hits 85,000 for first time, Nifty trades at all-time high

MUMBAI: India equity benchmarks were trading at an all-time high on Tuesday following positive cues from the Asian and

At 9:48 a.m., Sensex was up 75 points or 0.09 per cent at 85,004 and Nifty was up 25 points or 0.09 per cent at 25,964. It was the first time the BSE's benchmark traded above 85,000.

Sensex and Nifty both made a new all-time high of 85,008 and 25.967.

The broader market trend remained positive. Nifty midcap 100 index was up 147 points or 0.24 per cent at 60,860 and Nifty smallcap 100 index was up 37 points or 0.19 per cent at 19,586

In the Sensex pack, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Nestle, Tata Motors, Power Grid, HDFC Bank, Sun Pharma, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints and NTPC were the top gainers. Bajaj Finance, Infosys, HUL, UltraTech Cement, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Wipro and Bajaj Finserv were the top

Hardik Matalia, Derivative Analyst at Choice Broking said, "After a positive opening, Nifty can find support at 25,850 followed by 25,800 and 25,750. On the higher side, 26,000 can be an immediate resistance, followed by 26,050 and 26,100.

Among the sectoral indices, auto, pharma, metal, media, energy, infra, PSE, healthcare and oil & gas were the major gainers. IT, PSU Bank, fin service, FMCG and realty were major laggards.

Most of the markets in Asia are trading at a brisk pace. Tokvo, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Seoul and Jakarta are trading in green. The US markets closed in the green on Monday.

Other experts said, 'Two trends deserve attention. The serious global geopolitical concern continues to be the Middle East where things are getting worse. Israeli strikes on Lebanon have killed hundreds of people triggering concerns. Crude has inched up. Gold and the volatility index are moving up reflecting anxiety."

"The preference for quality and fair value is getting stronger in India as reflected in the continuous rise in Bank Nifty for the eighth straight session. The return of FIIs into the market in September will aid recovery in frontline banking stocks," they .

# Kerala HC refuses anticipatory bail to Siddique in rape case

IANS

**KOCHI:** In a jolt to Malavalam actor Siddique, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday refused to grant anticipatory bail in a rape case filed against him by

The case against Siddique was registered based on a complaint by an actress who accused him of raping her at the state-owned Hotel in the state capital city in 2016.

This former actress came forward with her complaint soon after the explosive Hema Committee report. which was published last month and brought out the pitiable condition of women in the Malayalam film industry.

Since then there has been a steady stream of complaints from yesteryear actresses against actors, directors and producers in the Malavalam film industry. Siddique got into trouble when the actress, who initially hesitated to file a police complaint, later emailed the State Police Chief alleging that Siddique raped her after she refused to give in to his demands for sexual favours in exchange for a role in

When this revelation came Siddique, who was recently elected as the general secretary of AMMA (Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes) quit the post. Thereafter, the entire committee chaired by President Mohanlal also resigned.

On Tuesday, Siddique strongly put his stance that this particular actress has been harassing him since 2019

by making repeated claims on social media that he tried to sexually misbehave with her at a theatre in 2016, and after the Hema Committee report was published she made the more serious allegation of rape at a different place in the same year.

The Malayalam film industry has suffered badly after the Hema Committee report was published.

A few former actresses revealed their bad experiences and the police were quick to act. The police have registered 11 FIRs

against various film personalities after former actresses revealed to the media how they were exploited. Presently, those who are in the dock

include actor-turned-CPI(M) legislator Mukesh Madhavan, Nivin Pauly, Jayasurya, Edavela Babu, Maniyanpilla Raju, directors Ranjith and Prakash, and production executives Vichu and Noble. Mukesh, Raniith, Raiu, Prakash and

now Jayasurya and a few others have already got relief from the courts from being arrested. Siddique thus becomes the first actor who applied for anticipatory bail but failed to get it, leaving him

■ **◆CM**YK◆ ■

# Good Morning Kashmir

# Can Mian Mehar make his father proud by bagging Kangan for NC for 8th consecutive time

**JAHANGEER GANAIE** 

**SRINAGAR:** Mian Mehar Ali of the National Conference (NC) is contesting the Kangan seat, which has been reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST). This seat has a long family history, having been represented by his father, Mian Altaf and grandfather, Mian Bashir since 1972.

The Kangan constituency is witnessing a competition among six candidates, including Mian Mehar Ali (National Conference), Atta Mohammad Khatana (Apni Party), Mohammad Ayoub Chohan (All Jammu & Kashmir Liber al Democratic Party), Abdul Majeed Baniyea (Republican Party of India - A), Syed Jamat Ali Shah (People's Democratic Party and Gulam Rabani Tadwa (Anarakshit

Samaj Party). With 77,537 registered voters (39,324 male and 38,213 female voters), the main contest, according to analysts, is between the NC's Mian

Mehar Ali and PDP's Sved Jamat Ali Shah. Atta Mohammad Khatana from the Apni Party is also expected to secure a portion of the vote.

Mian Mehar Ali, supported by his father Mian Altaf, who has represented Kangan five times, has an advantage. Mian Altaf's strong political legacy in Kangan gives Mehar a boost. The constituency has been continuously represented by the family since Mian Bashir's win in 1972, followed by Mian Altaf.

The election history of the Kangan legislative assembly constituency reflects a consistent dominance by the National Conference (JKNC). with Mian Altaf Ahmad emerging as a key political figure over the years.

In the 2014 election, the constituency had a total of 69,590 registered electors, of which 54,784 cast valid votes. Mian Altaf, the candidate from JKNC, won the seat by securing 25,812 votes, narrowly defeating his closest



competitor, Bashir Ahmad Mir from the Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), who received 24,380 votes. The victory margin was 1,432 votes, signaling a closely contested battle

In the 2008 election, the number of electors stood at 58,688, with 34,939 valid votes cast. Mian Altaf Ahmad secured the seat for NC, receiving 19,210 votes. Bashir Ahmad Mir of PDP followed with 11,495 votes, and the margin of victory widened to 7,715 votes compared to the

(INC), won with 14,644 votes. Going back to the 2002 His closest rival, Gul Mohd election, the total number of War, an independent candidate, secured 9.952 votes. electors was 50,452, and 26,249 valid votes were counted. with a victory margin of 4,692

Mian Altaf secured a decisive

win with 16,987 votes, defeat-

ing PDP's Ghulam Mohd

Dar, who managed only 5,948

votes. The victory margin in

this election was a substantial

11,039 votes, further solidify-

ing JKNC's dominance in the

total of 38,836 electors and

23.886 valid votes. Mian Altaf

of NC won with a command-

ing 21,553 votes, while his

opponent, Qazi Mohd Afzal

from the Indian National Con-

gress (INC), garnered only

954 votes. The victory margin

was a staggering 20,599 votes,

reflecting the overwhelming

In the 1987 election, the

constituency had 40,784 elec-

tors, and 31,810 valid votes

were cast. Mian Altaf Ahmad,

running as the candidate for

the Indian National Congress

support for NC at the time.

The 1996 election saw a

constituency.

The 1977 election witnessed Mian Altaf's father, Mian Bashir Ahmad of NC winning with 20,808 votes out of 23,898 valid votes cast. The total number of electors in that election was 32,623. Mohd Afzi of the Janata Party stood second with 3,090 votes, and the margin of victory was 17,718 votes.

In the 1972 election for the Kangan legislative assembly constituency, there were a total of 27,885 registered electors, with 20,829 valid votes cast. Mian Bashir Ahmed, the candidate from the Indian National Congress (INC), secured a decisive victory, winning with 16,593 votes. His closest competitor, Ahad Bhat of Jamaat-e-Islami, received 3,974 votes, resulting in a significant margin of 12,619 **ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS** 

### B'la EOs conduct inspection of Exp. registers of contesting candidates

SRINAGAR | Wednesday, 25, September 2024

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: second inspection of expenditure registers of the contesting candidates of all the seven Assembly constituencies of Baramulla district was conducted at Dak Bungalow Baramulla under the supervision of Sidlingappa Teli and Amit Dahiya, Expenditure Observers for the Assembly Constituencies of Dis-

trict Baramulla. The Nodal Officer for district expenditure monitoring cell along with all the 07 Assistant Expenditure Observers and their teams were present in the meeting.

All 101 candidates were notified to submit their expenditure registers for inspection by the District Election Officer Baramulla. Out of 101 candidates only 73 candidates attended the second inspection meeting and submitted expenditure registers for inspection.

The candidates were advised to include all the election related expenditure in their registers and also the expenditure

noted by the AEOs in their register was cross verias per norms. fied and candidates were advised to maintain their registers/ records as per

ECI guidelines. The 28 candidates who neither appeared for the meeting nor produced their registers for inspection, their names were forwarded to the concerned Returning Officers for issuance of Show Cause Notices for noncompliance and for further action in the matter

Next date of inspection is fixed on 28.09.2024 and all the candidates are requested to produce their complete expenditure statement register along with all documentary proof before the inspection committee for inspection. The final reconciliation of expenditure incurred by each contesting candidate will be conducted after polling.

**ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS** 

## Home Voting commences across Bandipora

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

**BANDIPORA:** The Home voting process commenced officially Tuesday across the Bandipora District and will continue until September 26.

initiative is This designed to facilitate eligible PWD voters with 40 percent benchmark disability and Senior citizens above 85 years of age, who are unable to cast their vote on the designated polling day.

A total of 41 teams have been established to conduct home voting smoothly, across the district.

At Bandipora, District Election Officer (DEO) Manzoor Ahmad Qadri along with RO 15-Bandipora Shabir Ahmad Wani flagged-off the Home voting teams of 15-Bandipora AC and at Sumbal, AERO flagged-off home voting teams for the 14-Sonawari Assembly constituency while as at Gurez, SDM/RO 16-Gurez Mukhtar Ahmad flaggedoff the Home voting teams

for 16-Gurez AC The DEO along with RO Shabir Ahmad Wani and Nodal Officer PVC Dr. Naseer Ahmad Baba also inaugurated the postal voting centre at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora to further facilitate the

voting process. The DEO said that 504



tionally, the district has received 888 applications from service voters, leading to the establishment of postal voting centers at the RO level across all three assembly constituencies.

DEO stated that, the home voting and postal voting initiatives are aimed at ensuring that every eligible voter has the opportunity to participate in the electoral process and all arrangements have been meticulously planned to guarantee a seamless voting experience for

evervone He said all prepara-

eligible voters have opted tions, including the comfor home voting. Addi- missioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), have been completed in accordance with Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines. Furthermore, three phases of training for poll staff have been successfully

conducted. The main attraction of the day was the traditional drum beating during the home voting process, which added a festive atmosphere and helped publicize the initiative. This lively display aimed to engage the community and encourage participation in the electoral process.

### **Day-2:** Home Voting, Postal Ballot Voting continues in Kupwara

votes—(KNO)

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

**KUPWARA:** The process of Home Voting for the Assembly Elections-2024 continued on second day Tuesday across all six assembly constituencies of Kupwara District, with home voting teams traversing to remotest and toughest terrains of this frontier district to cover the eligible

This major initiative, specifically, is aimed at enhancing electoral participation among voters aged 85 and older, as well as persons with 40% benchmark disability, as per the provisions set by the Election Commission of India (ECI). This process will continue until September

To ensure smooth operations in Kupwara district. 45 dedicated home voting teams including polling personnel, micro-observers and videographers have been deployed in six assembly constituencies of the district.

The district administration has identified a total of 750 home voters including 360 elderly (85 plus), and 390 (PwD) voters categorized as AVSC (Absentee Voters in Category of Senior Citizens) and AVPD (Absentee Voters with Disabilities) across different polling stations

The provision of home



voting is a progressive measure aimed at empowering voters who encounter barriers to participating in the electoral process at the polling stations. This upholds the Commission's motto of ensuring - No voter is left behind.

By giving home voting facilities to elders and PwDs, it is the Commission's expression of care and respect towards them. Voters who availed the home voting facility at different polling stations of the district have expressed their gratitude and satisfaction for the ECI initiative.

Voting from home takes place with involvement of a full contingent of polling staff and security personnel with secrecy of voting diligently maintained. With this, ECI has taken this decisive step towards facilitating a more equitable and representative democracy, where every citizen's voice matters. regardless of physical limitations or age

Meanwhile, Postal ballot voting for government employees of Kupwara district proceeded smoothly, on second day today, reflecting the efficient conduct of the electoral process, with officials of essential service duties seamlessly exercising their voting rights at the Postal Voting Centers established at Karnah, Trehgam, Kupwara, Lolab, Handwara and Langate. The employees stood in queues enthusiastically, to wait for their turn to cast their votes.

The District Election Office Kupwara has ensured that all necessary arrangements were in place for home voters and employees who applied for postal ballots through Form-12.

The DEO Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan has emphasized the administration's commitment to ensuring inclusivity and transparency.

### **Never accepted abrogation** of Art-370, will challenge it in assembly: Iltija

**WARIS FAYAZ** 

SRINAGAR: Iltija Mufti, the daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti and the candidate from Bijbehara assembly segment on Tuesday said that if voted to power, she will challenge the abrogation of Article 370 in the assembly.

Reiterating her stance against the abrogation of Article 370, Iltija said that she never accepted the abrogation of Article 370, and will prioritize addressing this unconstitutional decision in the assembly. 'The way it was scrapped will be my primary focus,' she said.

"Article 370 was the soul of the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India. she said.

Iltija, who was speaking to reporters in Kupwara during a rally, took aim at the National Conference (NC), accusing the party of historical wrongdoings, including the introduction of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) and the rise of Ikhwan, a counterinsurgency militia.

"Peoples Democratic Party ended that era. It was the NC that brought these things, while we have consistently spoken about Kashmir's sufferings. especially after 2019," she



stated.

In an attack on the National Conference, she called the party a "Choor Jamaat" (a band of thieves) and accused them of betraying the people of Kupwara. "NC did nothing for Kupwara and is responsible for the rigging of past elections and the accession of Kashmir. The people know the PDP's stand before 2019 and after," Iltija said.

She further criticized Omar Abdullah, former Chief Minister and Vice President of NC, suggest ing he is anxious about losing the Ganderbal seat in upcoming elections. "The NC leadership is frustrated and nervous. Omar is under tension over his uncertain future in Ganderbal," she added.

Iltija, PDP's star cam paigner was on her day long visit to Kupwara and was campaigning for the party candidate Favaz Ahmed Mir for the upcoming electoral battle in the region—(KNO)

### Awareness programme on Drug Abuse held in Kulgam

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

KULGAM: Pursuant to the Directions of Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority and on the directions of Chairperson District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kulgam, an awareness programme on NALSA (Legal

Services to victims of Drug abuse and Drug Menace Scheme 2015) and NDPS Act was held Tuesday at Town-The programme as organisos den hall Kulgam.

under the chairpersonship of Chairman DLSA Kulgam, Aijaz Ahmad Khan

and under the supervision of the Secretary DLSA Kulgam, Muzamil Ahmad

The programme was attended by Medical officers, Officers and Officials from Police, Prosecuting officers, LADCs, Members of Juvenile Justice Board,

members of Child Welfare Committee, Members of Bar Association Kulgam, PLVs, staff of DLSA and College students.

The resource persons for the programme included Bari (Senior Prosecuting Officer), Ld. Advocate Arshid Hussain Baba,



Basit Farooq Assistant LADC, Dr. Irshad Ahmad

Clinical Psychologist. The resource persons threw light on various provisions of the NDPS Act and NALSA scheme while emphasizing upon the basic postulates of the scheme and requirement

of the collective efforts for the eradication of the Drug addiction menace.

Secretary DLSA in his speech focused upon the college students more particularly while deliberating upon other officials and said that the real essence of the duty lies in

> submission towards working for humanity at a larger level, and the efforts for eradication of drug menace is one such goal to be achieved. He also said that

the Special Units for eradication of the Drug abuse would be constituted and it will take all stakeholders into confidence as its

members and work for the effectuation and implementation of all measures taken by the Executive for the eradication of the Drug menace and work at grass roots level in order to ensure that there is proper prevention.

### DGP J&K sanctions Rs.2.04 Cr. Special Welfare Relief

Sanctions financial assistance for martyrs daughter

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

SRINAGAR: The Director General of Police, R.R. Swain has sanctioned Rs. 2.04 crore as Special Welfare Relief for NoK of deceased police personnel /SPO who have passed away while in service. He has also sanctioned financial assistance of rupees one lakh for the marriage ceremony of a martyr's daughter. The special welfare relief

of Rs. 22 lakh each has been sanctioned in favour of dependents/legal heirs of deceased Police personnel Inspr. Gurdeep Singh, HC (Tel) Davinder Singh, HC Ram Raj, SgCt Manoj Kumar, SgCt Farooq Ahmad, SgCt Imtiyaz Ahmad, SgCt Gulzar Ahmad Wani, SgCt Imran Favaz and Ct. Vishal Singh. They passed away due to illness while in service.

Rs. one lakh each has been already paid to the families/ NoK deceased personnel for performing the last rites as immediate relief by the PHQ through their concerned Unit/Wing. The amount is sanctioned out of the Contributory Police Welfare Fund and is one among other various welfare measures of Police Headquarters.

The DGP has also sanctioned rupees 06 lakh in favour of the family/ legal heirs of deceased SPO Shri Deepak Sharma, who passed away while he was engaged with the Police department. Out of this amount, rupees 50 thousand was already paid to the family/NoK for performing the last rites as immediate relief. The financial assistance has been given out of the Contributory Police Welfare Fund of SPOs.

Police Headquarters is running many schemes for the welfare of its personnel and their families. There are also schemes for the wards of Police personnel and SPOs. Besides, there are schemes for the NoKs of martyrs, their wards and also for retired Police personnel and their families

### **ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

### Home Voting for PwD Voters Begins in B'la

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

BARAMULLA: The District Administration Baramulla, led by District Election Officer (DEO) Minga Sherpa, has started home voting today on 24th of September, allowing registered voters aged 85 and above, as well as Persons with Disabilities (PwD), to cast their votes from home.

The initiative that shall continue till Septem-

ber 26th, aims to ensure that every eligible voter, regardless of physical limitations, can exercise their democratic right.

In a notable instance, a 115-year-old voter from the Uri Assembly Constituency expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Election Commission of India (ECI) for this special provision. "I am thankful to the ECI for providing this facility, allowing us to cast our vote from home," the voter remarked.

appreciating the accessibility that this initiative offers to elderly and disabled voters.

Dedicated polling teams have been deployed across all seven Assembly Constituencies (ACs) in Baramulla, visiting the homes of registered 85+ and PwD voters. The District Election Office has taken all necessary precautions to ensure that the voting process is carried out safely, securely, and in compliance with electoral guidelines.

### **General Observer inspects Facilitation Centre in Pattan**

**GMK NEWS NETWORK** 

BARAMULLA: In a proactive measure to ensure a transparent and efficient electoral process, General Observer for 13-Pattan Assembly Constituency. Ujjwal Kumar accompanied by concerned Returning Officer, Gulzar Ahmad visited Pattan and conducted a thorough inspection of the Facilitation Centre located at Degree College Pattan Tuesday. He also assessed the Postal Voting Centre (PVC) at the SDM office Pattan.

Speaking on the occasion, General Observer emphasized the importance of a well-organized electoral process, "We are committed to ensuring that every aspect of the electoral process is functioning effectively. It is vital that voters feel supported and informed as they prepare to cast their votes," he stated.

He also highlighted

the significance of accessibility and the need for facilities that cater to all citizens. During the inspection,

the team visited multiple polling stations, engaging directly with voters to gather feedback and address any concerns regarding the upcoming

■ <del>♦</del>CMYK+