

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication



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India Emerges Asia's 3rd Most Powerful Nation



Hardeep Puri Credits PM Modi's Leadership For Ascent

NEW DELHI: The Sydney-based 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

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

Battle Lines Drawn For Phase-2

25.78 Lakh Voters Eligible, 239 Candidates In Fray

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 high-profile 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 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 high-profile 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, Khansahib, 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

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 of the union territory.

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-the-clock digital surveillance. "To facilitate the

Voters hopeful Srinagar Set To Vote After A Decade



REHAN QAYOUM 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, Chanapora, 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,

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

the region. Addressing a press conference here in Srinagar, BJP Rajpora 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

JKPC Condemns Malicious News Report By News Laundry

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

CS Reviews Progress On RDSS Works



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; MD JPDCL/KPDCL; Chief Engineers, representatives

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. Dulloo asked the

...J&K Assembly Elections

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

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.



region. 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 contesting independently. There has also been a significant

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, including 12 who are facing charges related to attempted murder (IPC Section 307) and 15 with cases involving crimes against women, including three facing rape charges (IPC Section 376). With 407 (47%) having education between the 5th and 12th standards,

Can Omar Win Budgam For Nc-Congress Alliance?



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

INOX MOVIES SCHEDULE

Wednesday 25 Sept.

<p>HAIDER (HINDI) (U/A) 12:05PM</p>	<p>STREE 2 SARKATE KA AATANK (HINDI) (U/A) 11:30AM, 02:00PM</p>	<p>VEER ZAARA (RELEAS) (HINDI) (U) 02:30PM</p>
<p>YUDHRA (HINDI) (U/A) 03:30PM</p>	<p>TUMBBAD (RELEAS) (A) 11:15AM, 06:50PM</p>	<p>TRANSFORMERS ONE (3D ENG ATMOS WITH SUBTITLE) (U) 06:30PM</p>
<p>LINES (HINDI) (U) 05:15PM</p>	<p>ANY MOVIE ANY SHOW TICKETS AT FLAT 99 & ₹199</p> <p>*EXCLUDING 3D SHOWS</p> <p>Reciner/Royale Club Offer ends 26 Sept.</p>	

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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 Tuesday, 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 activities

aware, 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 Sharma personally visited several locations in the district, including Khour Salarian, where he interacted with home voters and received feedback on the process. DEO Sharma commended the polling teams for their efforts in ensuring extensive coverage, reaching voters even



in remote areas on this first day of the exercise. The DEO praised the commitment of the teams, acknowledging their hard work in covering the district comprehensively and ensuring last-mile connectivity. He emphasized that no eligible voter should be left behind, particularly those in vulnerable categories.

The home voting process 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.



Pura, Paramjeet Kour, 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 responsibility

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.

SVEEP

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), Khayrul Nisa Bhat (2nd) and Naina Rajput (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, Billaوار, 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 Shivya Gandotra, Pratishta Sharma and Khushi Bhardwaj under the mentorship of Prof. Vinay Lata and Dr. Manmeet Kour.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Massive Voter Awareness Campaign conducted across Rajouri

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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 exercising 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



SVEEP, the team engaged with shopkeepers, workers, and customers, discussing the importance of voting. They also interacted with passengers at the auto stand, distributed informative materials, and answered questions about voter registration and the electoral process. The outreach received a positive reception, with many 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-

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 cam-

paigned 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 Government 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 socially-conscious 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 awareness 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

ing 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 poster-making competition.

GDC Ramgarh celebrates 55th NSS Foundation Day

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

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.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Unscheduled Power Cuts

Many 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.

The Unconditional Love Of A Mother

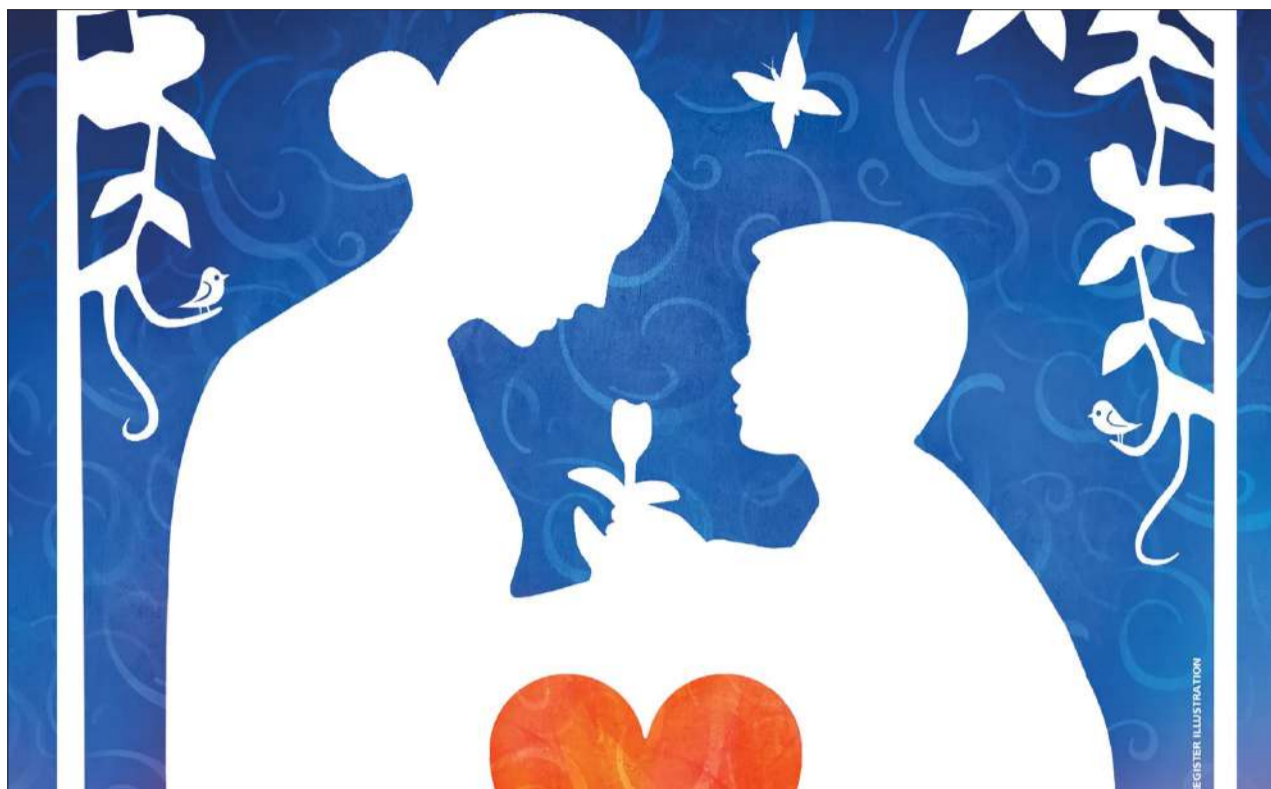


SYED MAJID GILANI

My 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



his classmates, who reported it to 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

patronage. His father, now older, decided to stay home and engage in local business. However, he was dismayed to find his son's behavior beyond 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

caught smoking, and instead of 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 society.

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PITA PAKSHA

Time To Express Gratitude, Reverence To Our Ancestors



DR. SHIBEN KRISHEN RAINA

Pitra Paksha, or Shradh Paksha, is 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 Bhadrpada 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

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 intertwined with theirs.

As we observe Pitra 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 with every act of reverence.

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

An Open Letter To Kashmir, Kashmiris



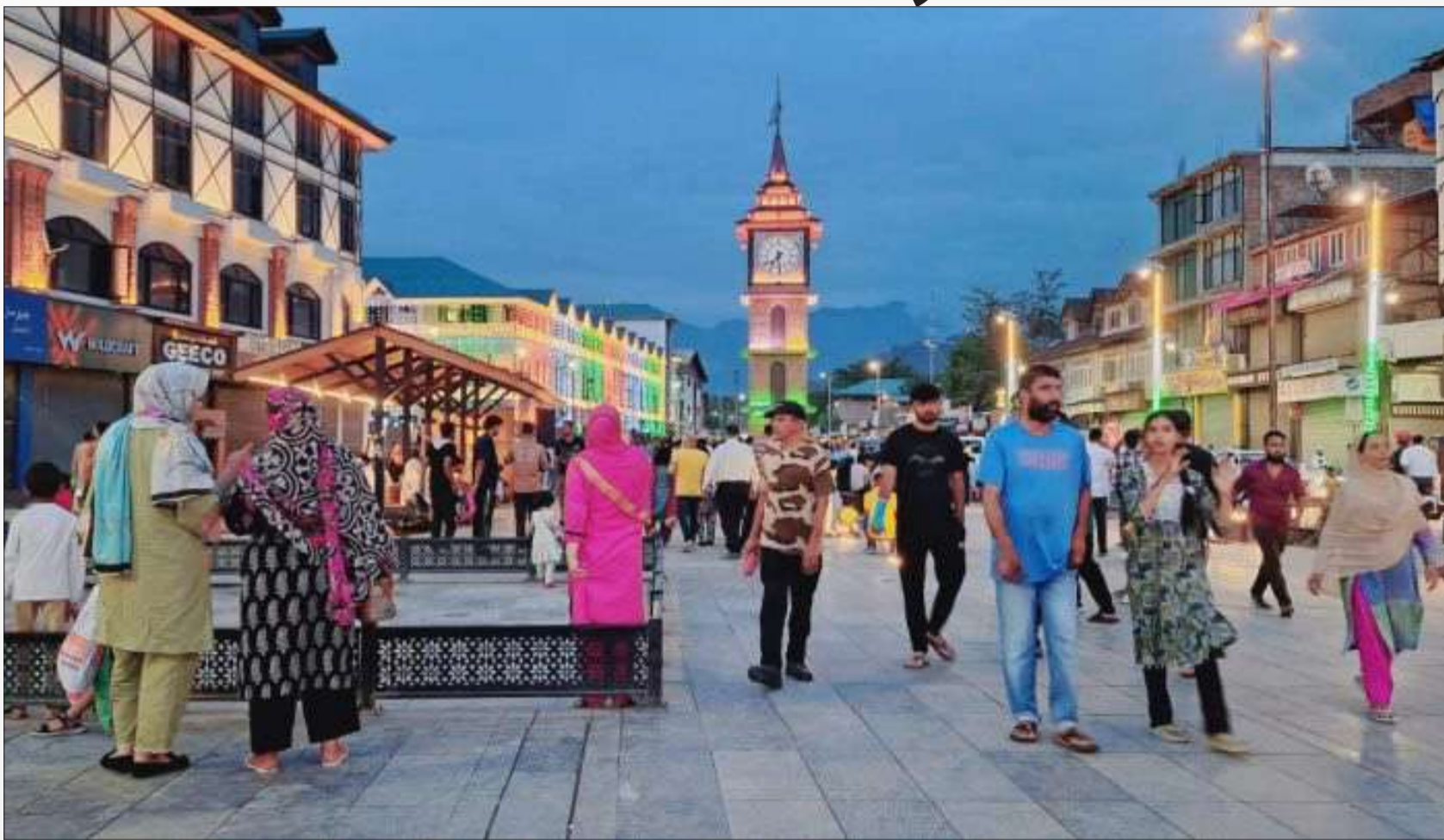
DR SHUJAAT ALI QUADRI

Dear Kashmir and Kashmiris,

Even 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 eyes 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 self-destruction. 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 doomsayers.

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.

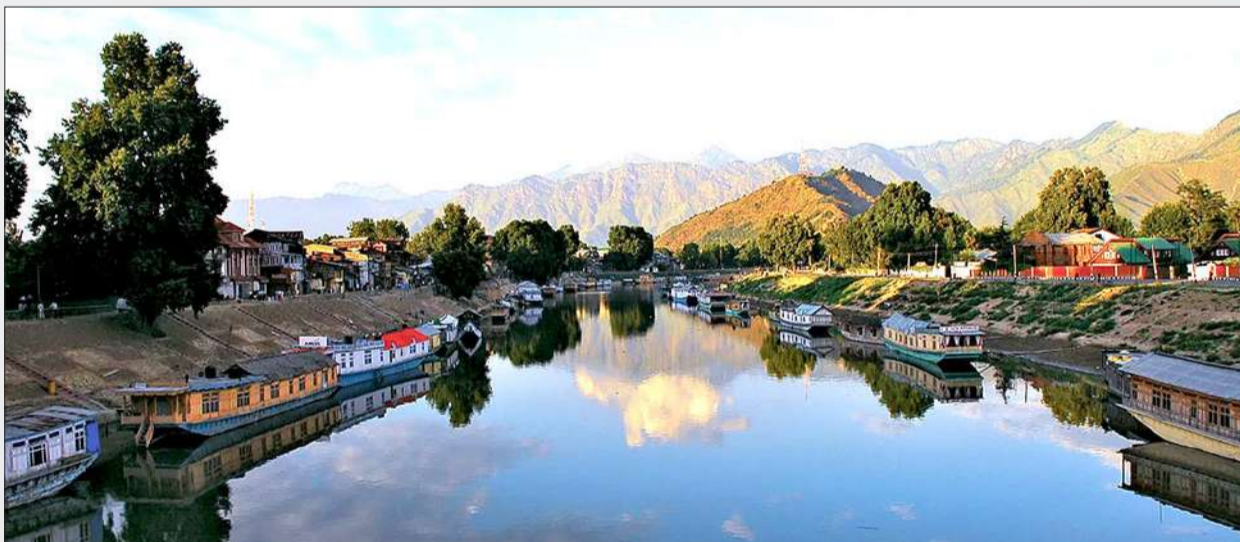
Therefore, dear Kashmiris, you are at a new threshold today. You have to usher in the new dawn from here and wake up in a day that will help you leave the past only in the past. It doesn't mean that the grief will totally disappear and the wounds will heal all of a sudden. In fact, they should not. But, 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 of India)

Understanding Rivers

MOHD ISHAQ 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:)]



Nature 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 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. (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

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 like 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 it is the creation of God who has created us as well.

In today's world, there is no such huge 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.

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Benefits Of Consuming Lassi

Lassi 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 season

- 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.
- 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.

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

summer. Lassi is an excellent 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.

- 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 beverage for the monsoon.
- Prevents stomach infec-**

tions

The rainy season often 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 digestive system during monsoon.

- 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,

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

- 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 continued rise.

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 added.

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 third-largest economy by 2027. Under their leadership, India would never have made it to the top three on any power index."

casting 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 on October 8.

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 unique?"

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)

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 editorial policy?

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.

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 today.

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)

BJP Calls For

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.

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 and 35 A.

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 conflict.

"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.

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 6,355 votes.

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 Assadullah 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)

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 spokesman said.

He said all the polling stations will have a web-

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

CS Reviews Progress

