

'Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy'

10th National Voters Day Celebrated Across Kashmir Division

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: While highlighting the significance of National Voters Day, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Baseer Ahmad Khan today said that voter can change destiny of a nation.

The Div Com said this during a function held here today in connection with the 10th National Voters Day and while administering pledge to new voters, at Government College for Women, M.A. Road.

The Pledge reads "We, the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement."

Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com said the greater electoral participation helps in making good policies which in turn make the roots of democracy stronger.

The National Voters' Day is celebrated all over the country on January 25 every year since 2011 to mark the Foundation day of Election Commission of India, which was established on 25th January 1950.

"Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy" is the theme for this year's National Voters' Day.

Div Com urged concerned officers to



work on mission mode so that maximum people can participate in democratic process.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar who is also District Election Officer Dr Shahid Iqbal Chowdhary also appreciated electoral team and urged them to ensure that they reach to the last voter so that maxi-

mum voter participation is ensured.

Later, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir also distributed Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) among newly enrolled voters. He also felicitated best EROs, AEROs and BLOs for their work.

Joint Commissioner SMC, Nodal Officer SVEEP, Principal Women College,

all Election Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Election Registration Officers (AEROs), Booth Level Officers (BLOs), new voters, and other concerned officials were present on the occasion.

IN KULGAM, National Voters Day was celebrated across the district. Functions were held at various places including schools, colleges, courts, block offices and other government institutions, while the main function was held at Mini-secretariat Kulgam were District Election Officer, showkatAjazBhat, was chief guest.

The function was attended by Dy-DEO, ERO's, Tehsildar and Niab Tehsildar Election, Kulgam, Nodal Officer, SVEEP, District Officers, BDC's, Sarpanch's, Panch's, BLO's and a large number of newly registered voters.

On the occasion, Voter cards were distributed among new voters and pledge administered.

A grand function was also held at District Court complex kulgam and Qazigund which was organized by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kulgam under the chairmanship of Secretary DLSA, MudasarFarooq and Munsif, Riyaz Ahmad Chowdhry.

IN GANDEBAL, National Voters day was organized by District Administration, Ganderal at Mini Secretariat in which District Election Officer Ganderal, Hashmat Ali Khan (DDC) participated as chief guest.

J&K UT's 2020-21 budget to be unveiled in Parliament after Union budget

SRINAGAR: The annual budget of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory for 2020-21 will be unveiled in the Parliament after presentation of Union budget, sources told Kashmir News Observer.

A senior official disclosed that Government of India has conveyed to the administration of J&K that UT's annual budget for 2020-21 and five months of ongoing fiscal will be presented only after presentation of Union Budget. The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union budget for next fiscal on February 01 in Lok Sabha.

Soon after Parliament approved Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, the government started preparations for preparing separate budget for five months of 2019-20 (October

March) and 2020-21 of the UT. In the past few months, officials of Jammu and Kashmir have held several rounds of discussions with Union Ministry of Home Affairs and Union Finance Ministry over the budget. The President of India also gave authorization for expenditure of funds on October 31, the day when J&K and Ladakh separated and commenced functioning as separate UTs.

Annual budget for 2019-20 was passed in December 2018 during the Governor's rule with the State Administrative Council (SAC) headed by Governor Satya Pal Malik approving the budget estimates. The budget of J&K Union Territory requires Parliament's approval because the UT is presently without an elected Legislative Assembly. (KNO)

86,000 teachers from J&K to be trained at primary, elementary levels: Dir School Edu 2-day orientation program 'NISHTHA' concludes

SRINAGAR: The first phase of two-day orientation programme National Initiative for School Heads & Teachers' Holistic Advancement 'NISHTHA' organised by Department of School Education in-collaboration with Srinagar District Administration, Higher Education Department, University of Kashmir and NIT Srinagar concluded here today.

Ten experts from NCERT including Director NCERT, HK Senapati trained Key Resource Persons (KRPs) during the first phase of the programme. State Intuition of Education (SIE) Kashmir and Jammu will be organizing the programmes in rest of phases across Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Director School Education Kashmir Mohammad Younis Malik

said that in the first phase, 500 KRPs from districts of Jammu and Kashmir were trained during the two days of training and these KRPs will later train 86000 Teachers and Head Teachers at primary and elementary levels.

He said the recent result of Class 10 and Class 12 examinations shows that the teachers have done excellent job by putting in their best for the benefit of students. "I hope 'NISHTHA' orientation programme would be a milestone in capacity building of teachers to achieve the goals of imparting quality education," he added.

The Director NCERT said 45 projects e-inaugurated by Union Minister for Human Resources Development, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishankh during the inaugural function of 'NISHTHA'

will help improve the quality of infrastructure in the newly created union territory's education sector.

He said that NCERT will provide all possible

Pertinently, the Union Minister inaugurated 16 projects under School Education Department at a cost of Rs 2468.06 Lakh including Laboratory Block at Boys Higher Secondary School, Anantnag, Double-Storied Building at HSS Nanil, Additional Accommodation for BHSS Zadibal, KGBV at Bela Boniyar Baramulla, Girls Hostel at Mehind Nowshere, Double-Storied Building at GHSS Anantnag, KVGB at Chankhan Sopore, Girls Hostel BHSS Budgam, Girls Hostel GHS Keeri Baramulla, Girls Hostel GHSS Baramulla and KGBV Rakshalina at B.K Pora Budgam.

New technology will revamp cultivation methods in Valley: Dir Agri

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, AltafAjaz Andrabi today visited Kitchen Garden Scheme at Lalmandi to inspect the installation of hi-tech 100-feet five Green Houses.

The high-tech poly house is made of a polycarbonate double layer transparent sheet, equipped with digital water showers, digital heaters and digital clocks, besides a special green coloured net to protect the sapling or crops from excess heat or cold.

The Kitchen Garden has also 90 feet basic, four 40 feet and one 52 feet green-houses which used to fetch seedlings worth Rs 8-9 lacs per year and the new installation will further boost the seedling production. The new Hi-Tech green-houses will double the income of the scheme and will benefit the farming community.

Director Agriculture said that the farmers in Kashmir division have gone hi-tech, using precision farming methods to boost the production of vegetables and poly houses are facilitating early



sapling production.

He said that the Poly Houses have revolutionized the vegetable cultivation and now even in the winter months of January and February fresh vegetables are available in the local markets.

Joint Director Agriculture Inputs, Deepak Kuchroo, Dy Director Central, Amir-ud-din Andrabi, Divisional seed certification officer, Dr. Syed Waseem and other senior officers of the department accompanied the Director.

Several deputations call on Advisor Khan in Srinagar; project various issues

SRINAGAR: Several deputations today called on the Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan at his residence in Tulsi Bagh Srinagar and apprised him about various issues pertaining to their respective areas.

The delegations hailed from different parts of Kashmir, which include Srinagar's Sarai Bala, Amira Kadal and Eidgah areas and Nowshera Khirram of Anantnag district of south Kashmir.

The visiting deputations apprised the Advisor about several issues pertaining to portable water, drainage, roads, sanitation, electricity and other developmental issues in their respective areas.

Advisor Khan gave patient hearing to the visiting deputations and assured them that all their genuine issues would be taken up at the appropriate level for speedy redress.

Landline connections of some mainstream leaders yet to be restored

SRINAGAR: Even as the 2G mobile internet services were restored in Kashmir, some of the mainstream leaders in the Valley on Saturday said that their landline connections are still out of bounds. One of the leaders from National Conference (NC), wishing anonymity said that the landline connections of many of the leaders have not been restored yet.

"We approached the con-

cerned officials following the restoration of landline services in Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370, where we were informed that our connections will not be restored," he said.

He further many of the leaders have also complained of continuous suspension of their respective landline services, saying that the concerned officials must restore the service now. (KNO)

KCC&I demands release of trade, political, religious leaders of Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCC&I) on Saturday demanded immediate release of trade leaders, civil society members, lawyers and political and religious leaders of Kashmir.

KCC&I spokesperson urged the State administration to revisit the policy of release of members of the civil society, business community, eminent lawyers, political, religious leaders and youth kept under preventive detention since the first week of August, 2019. The spokesperson stated that in the interaction with the Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu on the January 02, 2020, representatives of the business fraternity had unanimously urged for the release of all detained persons and had received positive assurances in this regard.

NOTICE

I, Shaziya Akhter D/o Ahmad Ali Mir R/o Khanda Tehsil B.K. Pora Budgam had lost 9th pass certificate issued by Govt. Higher Secondary School Khanda in the year 2003 under admission No. 3417. Now I am applying for duplicate pass certificate of 9th class. Anybody having any objection may contact Principal Govt. Higher Secondary School Khanda within 7 days from the date for publication of this notice.

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Closed)
- Mughal Road - (Closed)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

This Day in History

- 1531 - Lisbon hit by Earthquake; about 30,000 die
- 1589 - Job is elected as Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia
- 1654 - Portuguese troops conquer last Dutch base on Recife
- 1666 - France declares war on England & Munster
- 1697 - Isaac Newton receives Jean Bernoulli's 6 month time-limit problem, solves problem before going to bed that same night
- 1699 - Venice, Poland & Austria sign Treaty of Carlowitz with Ottoman Empire
- 1748 - Britain, Netherlands, Austria & Sardinia sign anti-French treaty
- 1797 - Russia, Prussia and Austria sign treaty
- 1862 - Lincoln issues General War Order #1, calling for a Union offensive, General George McClellan ignores order
- 1905 - World's largest diamond, the 3,106-carat Cullinan, is found in South Africa
- 1934 - Nazi Germany & Poland sign 10-year non-aggression treaty
- 1939 - Francisco Franco's troops conquer Barcelona
- 1940 - Nazis forbid Polish Jews to travel on trains
- 1942 1st US force in Europe during WW II go ashore in Northern Ireland
- 1945 - Soviet forces reach Auschwitz concentration camp
- 1952 - At least 20 people have been killed and 100s injured during riots in Cairo against the British
- 1956 - Porkkala military base returned to Finland by USSR
- 1958 - H Laskow replaces Moshe Dayan on as Israeli minister of Defense
- 1958 - Japanese ferry Nankai Maru capsized off southern Awaji Island, Japan, 167 killed.
- 1959 - Italy government of Fanfani resigns
- 1961 1st woman personal physician to a US President - Janet G. Travell (to John F. Kennedy)
- 1962 - US launches Ranger 3, misses Moon by 22,000-mi (37,000-km)
- 1965 - South Vietnam military coup under general Nguyen Khanh
- 1968 - Israeli submarine Dakar sinks in Mediterranean Sea, 69 die
- 1976 - Israel opens "Good Fence" to Lebanon
- 1978 - Strikers riot in Tunisia, killing about 40
- 1980 - Israel & Egypt establish diplomatic relations
- 1989 - US computer security expert warns of catastrophic virus

HIJRI CALENDAR
30
JUMADA AL-AWWAL
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR
6: 06
ZUHR
12: 42
ASR
4:17
MAGRIB
5:58
ISHA
7:21

From KO Archives

900 Britons Join Fight Every Year Giving Up Luxury To Fight For Kashmir

Dalip Singh & James Clark

LONDON: At least 900 young British Muslims are leaving the country each year to take part in the battle for Kashmir, with many using holidays from good jobs to fight in what they regard as a holy war, an investigation has revealed.

Recruited in mosques, bookshops and community groups, they spend three months being trained in mountain camps on the side of Pakistan border before entering the conflict against India.

Delhi is so angry about the increasing numbers of fighters being trained, and the (POUND) 7m raised in Britain to "defend" Kashmir, that a private meeting has been called in the Indian capital with representatives of the British Foreign Office and MI5, the security service.

Indian officials will demand that Britain take stronger action to stop recruitment and, fundraising, which they claim foes directly to terrorism and sees up to 1,800 Britons making the journey each year.

MI5, which has a special section dedicated to looking into the problem, disagrees with the Indian estimates. However, a security source said: "There are about 900 UK citizens who make this trip for training each year. About 10% of those stay and fight, the rest take their political and religious indoctrination and bring it back to their own communities, mostly for fundraising and recruitment."

He said the service was acutely sensitive to accusations that it was targeting Muslims, but insisted that it was targeting terrorists regardless of colour.

The Sunday Times spoke to three men in north London, all university graduates from middle-class British families, two of whom held down highly paid jobs. All three had trained or fought in Kashmir. Abu Yahya, 27, said: "I have just returned from Pakistan. I joined Islamic camps and met Islamic leaders. There I was trained with movements like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Harkat-ul-Jehad-Islami and Harkat-ul-Ansar. We were trained to use Kalashnikovs, make bombs, everything that an army would need to wage battle."

Izzadeen Abdullah, a 28-yr-old white former Christian with a degree in optical engineering, adopted Islam, had also recently returned. "I crossed the border in Kashmir. I think for any Muslim, the most eagerly awaited opportunity is to kill the enemy. The Indian soldiers don't deserve any mercy and I'm happy to say that I took part in wiping them out."

"We are planning to go there next month. I'm an engineer in fibre optics so I just contract out for a couple of months from a work."

Also in the house was Abu-Ibrahim, a 29-yr-old computer engineer. "You would be surprised to know that there are many computer guys in place like Canary Wharf who are involved in these kinds of activities. I have had training here in the Territorial Army and again in Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan."

The one thing all three have in common is a fear of the government's new anti-terrorism act, due to come into force this year. They believe it will lead to them being jailed in Britain, if they continue to travel to Pakistan and Kashmir. (Courtesy- Sunday Times London.)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 26 January, 2001)