

LOK SABHA POLLS

Rahul, Priyanka To Campaign For Congress In J&K



Agencies

Srinagar: As the electoral battle intensifies in Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress party has rallied an impressive lineup of star campaigners, including top leaders like Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, to bolster its campaign efforts for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. With a keen focus on securing victory in two crucial constituencies, Congress aims to leverage the influence of its prominent campaigners to sway voter sentiment in its favor.

Congress party is fielding Raman Bhalla from the Jammu-Reasi region and Chaudhary Lal Singh from the Udhampur-Doda-Kathua region. While Lal Singh has already filed his nomination papers, Raman Bhalla is scheduled to follow suit on April 2 in Jammu.

A comprehensive list of 27 star campaigners has been released by the party's

Organization General Secretary KC Venugopal, comprising notable figures such as Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Ambika Soni, Sachin Pilot, and others. These campaigners, along with Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, will traverse the state, lending their support to Congress candidates during the crucial phases of the election.

Under the banner of the INDIA alliance, which includes the National Conference and PDP alongside Congress, the party is gearing up to contest on two seats in Jammu and Kashmir. While the National Conference is slated to contest on three seats, official candidate announcements are pending. The alliance strategy entails Congress campaigning for National Conference in Kashmir, reciprocated by National Conference's support for Congress in Jammu division.

The involvement of senior leaders like Dr. Farooq Abdullah and | More on P6

PM Modi Freed J&K From Art 370, Terrorism, Separatism: Thakur

BJP's Jugal Kishore Sharma Files Papers For Jammu LS Seat

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Prime Minister Narendra Modi freed Jammu and Kashmir from the clutches of Article 370, terrorism and separatism which is the biggest achievement of the BJP-led government, Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday said.

Thakur made this assertion as he joined BJP candidate Jugal Kishore, who submitted his nomination papers from the Jammu Lok Sabha seat after a massive road show here.

He said Prime Minister Modi-led government provided new wings of development to Jammu and Kashmir over the past 10 years besides showing that it cannot stay silent on Pakistan-sponsored terror attacks like the previous



regime by conducting surgical strikes across the border.

"Someone travelling with me asked what Jammu and Kashmir has got under Modi? Jammu and Kashmir got freedom from Article 370, stone-pelting, terrorism and separatism while development activities got new wings," the Information and Broadcasting minister said

addressing a public gathering after the road show along Residency Road here.

Talking to reporters later after his public address, Thakur said that Jammu and Kashmir recorded a decline of 75 per cent in terror attacks, 81 per cent in killing of civilians and 50 per cent drop in security personnel casualties under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

"It all became possible when there was a strong government at the Centre," he said, asking people to vote for BJP candidates -- Kishore -- and Union Minister Jitendra Singh (Udhampur parliamentary constituency) -- for the third term.

Amid chants of 'Ab ki baar 400 paar' and slogans in favour of Prime Minister Modi and the BJP, Thakur later accompanied Kishore to the office of the returning officer for the Jammu Lok Sabha seat where the latter filed his nomination papers.

Kishore had won the Jammu Lok Sabha seat in 2014 and 2019 general elections but this time the parliamentary elections are happening for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir after the erstwhile state was bifurcated into two union territories and its special status under Article 370 revoked in August 2019.

In 2019, Kishore defeated Congress candidate Raman Bhalla by a margin of 3,02,875 votes. He | More on P6

Security Forces Hold Flag Marches

Security forces conducted flag marches across the Kashmir Valley on Saturday to instill a sense of security and confidence among the voters ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, officials said.

Of the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir, Anantnag-Rajouri will go to polls on May 7, Srinagar on May 13 and Baramulla on May 20. The marches were conducted by the district police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in various districts, including Ganderbal, Baramulla, Pulwama, Kulgam, Sopore, Shopian, Bandipora and Budgam, officials said. The flag marches are part of an area domination | More on P6

Fresh Snowfall In Parts Of Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Many higher reaches of Gulmarg and Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir received fresh snowfall, while the plains of the valley were lashed by rains, the Met officials said on Saturday.

The higher reaches of Kashmir, including the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, received fresh snowfall during the night, they said.

The Pahalgam tourist resort, in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, received about three inches of fresh snowfall. Some other areas, including Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, also received fresh snowfall, they said.

There was fresh snowfall in the Drass town, along the Srinagar-Leh Highway, in Ladakh Union Territory as well, they added.

The plains of the Kashmir valley, including the summer capital Srinagar, were lashed by rains which continued till morning, the officials said.

The Meteorological Department, in a statement, said the weather would remain partly to generally cloudy with light to moderate rain or snow (in higher reaches) at most places with heavy rain or snow at isolated | More on P6

NC Likely To Field Omar From Srinagar, Mian Altaf From Anantnag-Rajouri



Agencies

Srinagar: National Conference is likely to field Omar Abdullah from Srinagar Lok Sabha segment and Mian Altaf from Anantnag-Rajouri seat.

Sources said that the party has almost finalized the candidature of Omar Abdullah and Mian Altaf from Srinagar and Anantnag-Rajouri segments, respectively.

According to sources, the party could field former minister Mir Saifullah or Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan or Aga Ruhullah from Baramulla Lok

Sabha seat.

National Conference vice-president and former CM Omar Abdullah has recently said that the party would announce its candidates for Lok Sabha polls after Eid.

In the Srinagar segment, which includes eight seats of Srinagar district, three seats of Budgam, two seats of Ganderbal, four seats of Pulwama and one seat of Shopian, National Conference would be locked in a contest with Apni Party and other political parties.

The Anantnag- | More on P6

Dr Farooq To Attend 'Loktantra Bachao Rally'

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah will participate in the INDIA bloc's 'Loktantra Bachao Rally' at the Ramliia Maidan in Delhi on Sunday. "There is a programme of the INDIA bloc at the Ramliia Maidan in Delhi. From the NC, our president Farooq Abdullah will participate in it," party vice president Omar Abdullah told reporters here. Asked about reports | More on P6

'Will Announce Candidates As Per Our Mood'

National Conference Vice President and former Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, unveiled the party's approach towards candidate selection for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, stating NC will announce candidates as per its mood.

Addressing reporters, Omar reiterated that the National Conference would announce its candidates as per its own will. He emphasized that the party retains the prerogative to unveil candidates' names, potentially even on the final day of filing nominations. Omar on being asked whether he will contest the coming Lok Sabha elections further underscored that the decision to contest elections is not solely | More on P6

JAMMU-REASI LS CONSTITUENCY

372 Polling Stations Deemed Sensitive

Agencies

Srinagar: Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu-Reasi parliamentary constituency, stringent security measures are being implemented with the identification of 372 polling stations as sensitive areas. The Election Commission's decision comes amidst the backdrop of delimitation of Lok Sabha seats following Jammu and Kashmir's transition into a Union Territory.

In Rajouri district's Sunderbani-Kalakot constituency alone, 102 out of 124 polling stations have been flagged as sensitive, underscoring the heightened security concerns in the region. Similarly, 53 out of 1,488 polling stations in Jammu district and 16 out of 425 in Reasi district have been designated as sensitive areas.

With the onset of elections in the Union Territory for the first time, authorities are gearing up for robust security deployment across the parliamentary constituency, especially in areas marked as sensitive. Security forces are slated to commence their duties from April 1, ensuring comprehensive coverage to mitigate potential threats, including the risk of Pakistani shelling along the border.

In addition to fortifying sensitive polling | More on P6

12 Candidates In Fray In Udhampur

Agencies

Jammu: Twelve candidates in fray for Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha seat of Jammu and Kashmir, which is going to polls for the first phase of Lok Sabha Elections as no one withdraws nominations in the stipulated time.

The Returning Officer (RO) for the 4-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, Dr Rakesh informed that none of the candidates withdrew his papers and 12 candidates remain in fray for the seat.

Earlier, 15 candidates including BJP's present Member Parliament and MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh and Congress party's candidate and former MP Choudhary Lal Singh along with their covering candidates filed papers. After scrutiny, RO rejected papers of three covering candidates of BJP, Congress and BSP.

Those who remain in fray included Amit Kumar of BSP, Balwan Singh of Jammu Kashmir National Panther Party (Bhim), Dr Jitendra Singh of BJO, Ch Lal Singh of Congress, Ghulam Mohammad Saroori of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Manoj Kumar of Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal, Dr Pankaj Sharma, Rajesh Manchanda, Sachin Gupta, Swarn Veer Singh, mohd ali Gujar and Mehraj Din as Independent.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Dr. Jitendra Singh won from Udhampur with a total of 724311 votes. Vikramaditya Singh, the nominee of the Indian National Congress, received 367059 votes. | More on P6

NEW FISCAL

FD Authorises Release Of 50 % Interim Budget

Agencies

Srinagar: Ahead of the new fiscal, the Finance department of J&K Government on Saturday conveyed authorisation for release of 50 % of the capital expenditure and revenue expenditure of Jammu & Kashmir's interim budget approved by the Parliament in February this year.

In two separate orders, the Finance department today accorded sanction for the authorization of 50% of the interim budget (vote-on-account) 2024-25 under CAPEX and Revenue budget in favour of all the departments/district development commissioners.



According to these orders, the Director Finance(s)/ Director(s) Planning/ Financial Advisor & CAO(S)/ Joint Director(s) Planning and Controlling Officers of all the Departments shall be personally responsible for uploading of approved Work Plans (projects/works/activities) on BEAMS portal with the approval | More on P6

'MANAGEMENT'S ANARCHIST, REBELLIOUS ATTITUDE' DSEK Withdraws Recognition Of Pvt School In Budgam



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Authorities in Kashmir have de-recognised a private school in Budgam district for "anarchist and rebellious attitude" of the management of the institute.

In an order, Directorate of School Education (DoE) has withdrawn the recognition order issued in favour of Foundation World Mammam Budgam, which was issued on November 23, 2021.

The order said Chief Education Officer (CEO), Budgam, had constituted an

inquiry committee to look into various complaints against the school.

However, when the committee approached the school management to ascertain the factual position, the school management kept the enquiry officers, alongwith CEO Budgam, waiting from 10 am to 5:30 pm on February 24, it said.

The CEO Budgam has also intimated that the concerned school management provided documents/material not upto the mark and without seal and signature due to which the committee could | More on P6

Govt To Restore Ancient Martand Temple In South Kashmir

Officers Meeting Scheduled On April 1

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir administration has convened an officers meeting here next week to discuss 'protection, conservation and restoration' of an eighth-century old Martand Sun temple in Anantnag district.

The temple located at village Kehribal area of Mattan, some 63-km south of Srinagar, is considered as the oldest of the Sun temples in the country and a symbol of invaluable ancient spiritual heritage.

It has been declared as a site of national importance by Archaeological Survey of



India (ASI) and also appears in the list of centrally protected monuments.

According to a notice issued by Jammu and Kashmir department of culture, a meeting has been convened at Civil Secretariat in Jammu on April 1 to discuss the matter regarding protection, conservation and

restoration of the ancient temples in Kashmir with installation of Emperor Lalitaditya Muktapada in the premises of Martand Sun temple.

The meeting, to be chaired by Principal Secretary, will be attended among others by Director Archives, Archaeology and | More on P6

HC Closes Contempt Plea Against DC, SSP Baramulla

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has closed contempt proceedings against Deputy Commissioner and SSP Baramulla even as it made known to them the "serious concern" about loss of 79 days of detainee's life by remaining under preventive custody without any legal basis.

In compliance with the court's direction in a contempt petition filed by a detainee—Muneeb Rasool Sherwari, Minga Sherpa, District Magistrate Baramulla, and Amod Ashok, SSP Baramulla appeared before the court of Justice Rahul Bharti.

"This court has made known to the two offices the serious

concern of this court about loss of 79 days of his life by the petitioner by remaining under preventive custody without any legal basis only to earn his release upon intervention of this court when the petitioner came to file the pres-



ent contempt petition apprising this court that despite quashing of his preventive detention in terms of judgement dated 30.12.2023 the petitioner has not earned his release from the custody w.e.f. the date of pronouncement of the judgement reading his detention illegal," the court said, adding, "This court hopes that such like scenario does not repeat again and whenever the preventive detention of a | More on P6



Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name
The Sonny and Gita Mehta Scholarship for Writers 2024

Description: The Sonny and Gita Mehta Scholarship for Writers 2024 is an opportunity offered by the University of East Anglia (UEA) to support aspiring writers from the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East or North Africa to enable them to undertake study in the Department of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing at UEA.

- Eligibility: Open for Indian writers who are native of India and demonstrate outstanding creative writing potential.
- Prizes & Rewards: A tuition fee of £28,500 and maintenance fees
- Last Date to Apply: 01-05-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SOIS6



- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ICRA1

Scholarship Name 3
Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) Internship Program 2024

Description: Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) Internship Program 2024 is an opportunity offered by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India to postgraduate students/research scholars. The objective of this program is to equip interested and motivated students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and engage in Trade Remedies Investigations and Trade Defence Measures.

- Eligibility: Open for postgraduate students/research scholars from recognised universities/institutions.
- Prizes & Rewards: A certificate of completion
- Last Date to Apply: Round The Year
- Application mode: via email or post: to the General Administration Section of DGTR
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/DGCI1

Scholarship Name 2
ICRO Amrit Internship Programme 2024

Description: ICRO Amrit Internship Programme 2024 is a joint initiative of the Indian Potash Limited (IPL) and the National Productivity Council (NPC) under

the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India for Class 12 passed, final-year graduation students, graduates, and diploma holders.

- Eligibility: Open for Indian nationals aged between 18-45 years. Applicants must be Class 12 passed,

final-year graduation students, graduates, or diploma holders with a valid Aadhaar card.

- Prizes & Rewards: A monthly stipend of 6,000 and a certificate of completion
- Last Date to Apply: 01-10-2024
- Application mode: Online Applications Only

'Executives Plan To Invest More In AI For Sustainability'

Press Trust Of India

Nearly two-thirds of top executives surveyed believe that generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be important in their sustainability efforts while 76 per cent of executives plan to increase their investment in this emerging technology for sustainability, a study by IBM Institute for Business Value (IBV) said.

Generative AI can be a game changer for data-driven sustainability, enabling organisations to turn trade-offs into wins, identify improvement opportunities, and drive innovation at speed and scale, the study said.

While 63 per cent of executives surveyed agree that generative AI will be important for their sustainability efforts, 76 per cent say they plan to increase their investment in generative AI for sustainability.

"With AI reshaping industries, integrating sustainability into core business practices add to the long-term value creation. The commitment of businesses to invest in Gen AI for sustainability signals a promising move towards a greener, more prosperous

future, said Sandip Patel, Managing Director, IBM India Private Limited.

Based on a survey of 5,000 C-suite executives across 22 industries and 22 countries including US,



UK, and Japan, the study, Beyond Checking the Box, said if organisations flip the way they operationalise sustainability, they can significantly increase business value. The key is to embed sustainability throughout the business, truly bake it into operations, rather than treat it as an add-on, it said.

Organisations that embed sustainability spend slightly less on dedicated sustainability efforts as a share of their revenue compared to organisations that don't embed.

"Organisations in India that embed sustainability are 41 per cent more likely

to attribute great improvement in revenue from their sustainability efforts and are 90 per cent more likely to outperform their peers on profitability".

It added that many or-

ganisations are approaching sustainability as an accounting or reporting exercise rather than a transformation play.

"Spending on sustainability reporting exceeds spending on sustainability innovation by 38 per cent in India."

In India, 78 per cent of executives surveyed agree that sustainability drives better business results, and 68 per cent agree that sustainability is central to their business strategy. However, almost half (47 per cent) of Indian organisations still struggle to fund sustainability investments, the study noted.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal

Address: Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal-191201

Tel. No.: 0194-2416909 Fax:-0194-2416135 email:-ganderbal.ceo@gmail.com

Subject: - Publication of Final Seniority list of I/C Lab Assistants/I/C Lib Assistants and Qualified Class IV (MTS) staff.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, this office has issued tentative seniority list of I/C Lab Assistants/I/C Lib Assistants and Qualified Class IV (MTS) staff vide no:- CEO/Gbl/Estt-I/NT/37/300-305 dated:- 09/01/2024 for inviting objections from the members of the cadre.

Whereas, after notifying the said seniority list the DDO's have forwarded the service particulars for correction/ inclusion/update of their service particulars; and

Whereas, the matter has been examined and all the necessary inclusions/corrections/deletions/updating have been made and revised Tentative seniority list was issued vide this office No:- CEO/Gbl/Estt-I/NT/37/2333-40 dated:- 14/03/2024 for inviting objections from the concerned;

Whereas, after notifying the revised tentative seniority list, this office received several requests from the DDO's with regard to inclusions/corrections/updating/deletion of particulars in the seniority list.

Whereas, the matter has been examined and it has been detected that some of the officials have enhanced their qualification during service.

Now, therefore, the final seniority list of I/C Lab Assistants/I/C Lib Assistants and Qualified Class IV (MTS) staff is hereby framed/notified and the qualification enhanced during service by these I/C Lab Assistants/I/C Lib Assistants and Qualified Class IV (MTS) shall be subject to the examination and entertainment by the committee constituted by the School Education Department vide Order No:- 188-JK (Edu) of 2024 dated:- 15/03/2024 and also fulfillment of the all conditions laid down in the government order.

The list is uploaded on the official website of this office (www.ceoganderbal.in) and also on official What's app. Group of this office for information of the concerned. The notification in this regard is also published in the local leading news papers through information department for its wide publicity.

(Muzamil Akhtar)
 Chief Education Officer
 Ganderbal

No:- CEO/Gbl/Estt-I/NT/37/
 DIPP-18270/23
 Dated:-30/03/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Name of my daughter in my service records of 15 JAKLI has been wrongly written as Rafat Akhter while her correct name is Rifat Akhtar which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Gh Mohd Najar
 R/o Village Zampora P/O Raya Ich Tehsil Beeru
 Army No: JC595033W , Rank Subidar bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohammad Atta ul Bari Mir To Mohammad Atta ul Bari. In future I will be know as Mohammad Atta ul Bari. If any body having any objection He/ She may contact Passport office Srinagar, Within 7 days of this notice. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.
 Mohammad Atta ul Bari fko

CONDOLENCE



With profound grief, we inform the demise of Zubair Ali Sofi S/o Gh Mohammad Sofi R/o Hanjiwera Pattan. He breathed last on Thursday 28th March 2024. His congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on Monday, 1st April 2024. An Exceptionally a humble being and pillar of our strength he ignited various lives and touched many Hearts with his simpleton attitude. May Allah Bless the departed soul with highest place in Jannatul Firdous.

BEREAVED FAMILY fko

High Court Of Jammu & Kashmir And Ladakh (Office of the Registrar Recruitment at Jammu) NOTIFICATION

No: 544 of 2024/RR/RC Dated:30-03-2024

It is hereby notified for information of all the concerned that the Advertisement Notice No. 04/2019 dated 28.02.2019, whereby the vacancies of Translator were advertised by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, is hereby treated as cancelled.

By Order

(Satinder Singh)
 Registrar Recruitment

No.: 12139-54/RR/RC
 DIPP-18264/23
 Dated: 30.03.2024

High Court Of Jammu & Kashmir And Ladakh (Office of the Registrar Recruitment at Jammu) NOTIFICATION

No:543 of 2024/RR/RC Dated:30-03-2024

It is hereby notified for information of all the concerned that the Advertisement Notice No's. 245 dated 12.06.2012 and 03/2018 dated 10.09.2018 respectively, whereby the vacancies of Librarian (Level-6) were advertised by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, are hereby treated as cancelled.

By Order

(Satinder Singh)
 Registrar Recruitment

No.: 12123-38/RR/RC
 DIPP-18265/23
 Dated: 30.03.2024

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Online Request for Tender For Non Comprehensive AMC of DG Sets Installed at various branches/offices in Budgam

Tender Notice along with Complete Tender document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. March 30, 2024, 16.00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is April 20, 2024, 17.00 Hrs.

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DIPP-NB-6098/23
 DATED: 30-03-2024

Ramazan Fosters Community Spirit Through Roadside Iftar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As the sacred month of Ramadan continues, communities across the valley have witnessed a heartwarming display of unity and compassion through the emergence of 'Street Iftars'.

Local residents, along with various social organizations and NGOs, have come together to organize these gatherings at different places of the valley fostering a sense of togetherness and solidarity during this holiest month of the Islamic calendar (Ramazan). Streets throughout different parts of the valley have been transformed into vibrant spaces where individuals and NGOs offer 'Street Iftar' to pedestrians and commuters to break their fast.

"These Street Iftars not only feed the body but also feed the soul, helping build relationships within

the community," said Sajad, a local.

Moreover, one of the NGOs that organized such a street Iftar told KNO, amidst the hustle and bustle of preparations for these gatherings, their volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that no one goes hungry during this special time.

"From arranging food to setting up Iftar around the street, close to hospitals, the spirit of Iftar and kindness is palpable as everyone comes together to contribute in any way they can," said Mir Aftab, the Founder of Thrive Kashmir NGO.

Speaking about the importance of Street Iftars, he stresses inclusivity and spreading love and compassion to all members of society, regardless of background or belief. "These gatherings remind us of the values of empathy and unity that are central to Ramadan," he added.

Qamarwari Residents Concerned Over Choked Drainage

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Residents of Sheikh Colony, located in Arampora area of Qamarwari, Srinagar on Saturday demanded immediate restoration of drainage system in the locality.

The residents said they are facing severe hardships due to the choked drainage system, which has been inundating the roads frequently.

One of the residents said the situation has become unbearable for them. "Every time it rains, our streets resemble small riv-

ers, making it challenging to commute and carry out daily activities," he added.

Another resident, Riyaz Ahmad stated, "We fear the potential health hazards posed by stagnant water. Mosquito breeding and the spread of diseases are real concerns that need to be addressed promptly."

"We appeal to the concerned authorities to kindly intervene and resolve this issue at the earliest, as our community deserves better infrastructure to ensure a safe and healthy living environment," he added.



Security Agencies Exert Great Effort To Deter Narco Influx In Kashmir: J&K Police

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday said that a concerted effort is being made to put a stop to cross-border narcotics-terrorism in Kashmir and that security agencies across the country have been exerting great effort to deter the inflow of narcotics into the J&K UT.

Addressing a one day awareness program on Drug Abuse in Kashmir, Superintendent of Police (SP) East, Mubashir Hussain Bukhari said the J&K police are committed to put a halt on narco-terrorism, which is aimed to poison the region's youth.

"A major issue that our police and other security agencies have been facing is the influx of narcotics from across the border into Kashmir. But the Indian army, the BSF, and

the J&K police, among other agencies, have been putting a lot of effort into discouraging the supply," said the SP East.

The objective of organizing awareness campaigns at large institutions like SKUAST-K is to reassure young people

don't keep themselves occupied with activities like sports, business, studies, and other things," he added.

When asked about the damage that cross-border drug trafficking is inflicting on young people, SP East said that "Police,

estimated 10 lakh youth both male and female consume drugs in or the other forms in Kashmir.

He said the society in general and the parents in particular have a moral responsibility to educate the youngsters about the ill effects of

Melancholy and inactivity are the two primary causes of drug addiction. Youth become victims of these kinds of problems when they don't keep themselves occupied with activities like sports, business, studies, and other things

that drug addiction is not an option for them.

Bukhari said that J&K Police has been planning such gatherings everywhere to dissuade young people from using narcotics.

"Melancholy and inactivity are the two primary causes of drug addiction. Youth become victims of these kinds of problems when they

Army, and other security forces are on it to eradicate this menace."

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Sheri-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology SKUAST-K, Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganaie said the young generation in Kashmir has been badly involved in drug addiction and that

drug addiction, which, he said, has taken a toll on the younger generation in Kashmir.

"Parents have a primary role in educating their children about the ill effects of drug addiction which has spread its tentacles across Jammu and Kashmir," Prof Ganaie said addressing the program.

Handicrafts & Handloom Department Kick-Starts Exhibition At Emporium Building

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir organized a calligraphy Exhibition at the Government Arts Emporium, Srinagar to spotlight the remarkable craftsmanship of Solih Alnajari, a well known figure in the calligraphy field.

The opening reception attracted a large audience, with visitors relishing the artistic displays and interacting with the talented artists.

Calligraphy over the years is receiving focus and recognition at both the UT and national levels

Speaking at the event, the Joint Director of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, Parvaz Sajad Ganie reiterated the department's commitment to providing a platform for local artisans to showcase their talents and boost sales.

Such initiatives, he emphasized, play a crucial role in preserving the legacy of handicrafts and providing exposure and livelihood support to local artisans.

The department plans to organize many more such exhibitions throughout the valley to connect artisans with both local and global markets.

Orientation Program For NCC Cadets, NSS Volunteers Held IN Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the directions of the District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, an orientation program aimed at empowering NCC Cadets and NSS Volunteers was successfully conducted at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Nishat here.

The program was conducted under the supervision of District Nodal Officer SVEEP/AMF Abdul Hamid Fani as a part of the ongoing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

During this impactful program, both NSS volunteers and NCC cadets were given comprehensive training on how to assist elderly and physically challenged voters from their family or community in reaching polling booths and

casting their votes without any difficulties.

The DEO Srinagar regarding the orientation program marks a significant step towards fostering an inclusive and accessible voting environment for all citizens, especially those who face physical challenges or belong to older age groups.

He added that, as the orientation programs continue to be conducted in schools and educational institutions across the district, it is expected that a greater awareness regarding the significance of voting will be instilled in the minds of the youth, further strengthening the democratic fabric of the nation.

During the orientation program, District Nodal Officer SVEEP/AMF said that these orientation programs will be conducted in all schools that have NSS and NCC units.

JK Bank Main Bazar, Qazigund, Kashmir-192221

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E: qazigund@jkbmail.com W: www.jkbank.net

Possession Notice Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Imtiyaz Ahmad Shah, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 25 August 2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely, Mr. Ashaq Hussain Mir S/O Ghulam Ahmad Mir R/O Panzath, Wanpora, Qazigund, Anantnag and et al to repay an amount of Rs. 1,45,57,703.61/= (Rupees One Crore Fourty Five Lac Fifty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Three And Paise Sixty One Only being the balance outstanding in the accounts of the Borrower as on 31.07.2023 within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/s in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 26th day of March of the year 2024.

The said borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 37,03,181.69/= (Rupees Thirty Seven Lac Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty One And Paise Sixty Nine Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.03.2024 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Mortgage of residential house with land underneath and appurtenant there to measuring 07 ½ Marlas falling under khasra no 1625/31 min, khata no 874, khawat no 307 situated at Mouza Panzath Wanpora Qazigund Tehsil Qazigund District Anantnag standing in the name of Ashiq Hussain Mir S/O Gh Ahmad Mir R/O Panzath Wanpora Qazigund.

Authorized Officer

Dated: 26-03-2024
Place: - Panzath, Wanpora, Qazigund, Anantnag.

- 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
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
20 Ramzan
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4 : 56
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5: 04
Magrib	6:54
ISHA	8: 14

This Day In History

- 1667 France & England sign anti-Dutch military accord
- 1683 - Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I and King John III Sobieski of Poland sign a covenant against Turkey, beginning of the Holy League
- 1814 - Forces allied against Napoleon capture Paris
- 1885 - Great Britain declares Bechuanaland a protectorate
- 1889 - Eiffel Tower officially opens in Paris. Built for the Exposition Universelle, at 300m high it retains the record for the tallest man made structure for 41 years.
- 1905 - Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany visits Tangier, Morocco and proclaims Germany's support of Moroccan independence and equal opportunity for all powers to trade there
- 1943 - US errantly bombs Rotterdam, kills 326
- 1951 - US tanks exceed 38° of latitude in Korea
- 1953 - UN Security Council nominates Dag Hammarskjöld for Secretary-General
- 1954 - USSR offers to join NATO
- 1958 - USSR suspends nuclear weapons tests, & urges US & Britain to do same
- 1966 - USSR launches Luna 10, 1st lunar orbiter
- 1970 - Explorer 1 re-enters the Earth's atmosphere after 12 years in orbit
- 1973 - Muhammad Ali suffers a broken jaw in a shock split-points decision loss to Ken Norton over 12 rounds in San Diego; Ali wins rematch in another controversial split decision
- 1978 - USSR launches Kosmos 1000 navigational satellite
- 1979 - The last British soldier leaves the Maltese Islands. Malta declares its Freedom Day (Jum il-Helsien).
- 1986 - 167 die when Mexicana Airlines Boeing 727 crashes
- 1988 - Pulitzer prize awarded to Toni Morrison for her novel "Beloved"
- 1991 - Albania offers 1st multi-party election in 50 years

From KO Archives

Charar Shrine Reconstruction Project MAT Approves Traditional Model

Observer News Service

Srinagar- The Muslim Auqaf Trust (MAT) today decided to re-construct the holy shrine of great Kashmir saint, Sheikh Noorudin Noorani at Charar-i-Sharief, on its old traditional pattern. The total cost of the project will be around rupees ten crores, a high level meeting of the MAT was told. The meeting was presided over by Farooq Abdullah, who also happens to be the Chairman of the MAT.

According to a government handout issued here this evening, of the total of ten crores, three will be exclusively spent on the construction of shrine. So far, the meeting was told, Rs.43 lakhs have been spent on the construction of the basic structure of the shrine. The traditional model designed by a Kashmir architect, involves 10,000 sq.ft for shrine area and 4,000 sq.ft for the mezzanine floor. The new structure, handout said will have sophisticated improvements like fire-proof system, lighting effects and concrete shingled roof (wooden), glass enclosures around the holy sanctum inside the shrine and motifs designed on traditional pattern.

The MAT also approved construction of school building at Khanyar, construction of Khankah mosque at Makhdoom sahib and many other projects involved renovation and repairs of different Auqaf properties.

(Kashmir Observer, 31 March, 1998)

Need For Schools To Be Health And Wellness Centres

Schools primarily are the places that leave an everlasting impression in the life of an individual. Schools play a pivotal role in the life of young individuals to get acquainted with knowledge, socio-emotional skills including self control and resilience, critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration and their attainment and accomplishment lays foundation for a healthy and progressive future. Access to education and safe and supportive school environments have been linked to better health outcomes. In turn good health is linked to decline in dropout rate and increased educational attainment, educational performance, employability and productivity. World Health Organization (WHO) has long before emphasized the link between health and education and the potential for schools to play a central role in safeguarding student health and well-being. The age specific interventions at the school level inter-alia varied health indicators can meaningfully transform the lives of innumerable individuals.

Dr. Mushtaq Rather



Childhood and adolescence are critical phases of life that are developmentally primed to absorb and process new information and ideas that make it easier for them to modify their behaviour. Hence it is extremely rewarding to work with these age groups and huge public health gains can be realized by investing in them

Issues concerning safety and security of students in and outside the school premises

Corporal punishment: Although physical violence in any form is strictly prohibited in schools across India including our own UT of Jammu and Kashmir, incidents of teachers resorting to physical violence are continuously pouring in from different corners thus threatening the very survival of school going children which thereby acts as a deterrent to pursue their education, leading to increased dropout rate. Corporal punishment leads to direct and indirect physical and mental harm, increased aggression, and antisocial behavior among these children.

Overweight school bag: There is no denying the fact that digital interventions have reduced the paperwork to a great extent, but a student is compelled by school authorities to carry a heavy back load daily, in the name of a school bag, which has led to increased incidences of persistent lower back and spinal deformities at such a young age. The long term backpack weight can result in spinal angulations during the late adolescence stage resulting in severe deformities.

Lack of requisite infrastructure: Although infrastructural expansion has experienced an upward trend in the recent past, dilapidated infrastructure is still a common sight in both government and private institutions. Unsafe roofs, narrow entrances, corridors, staircases and lack of emergency exits often contribute to untoward incidents during anthropogenic and natural calamities.

Food quality: The Mid-Day-Scheme for school going children is very crucial for improving school attendance and literacy rate. However, a number of disturbing incidents of school going children being hospitalized for food poisoning does recur here and there. The incident in Bihar, where 23 children lost their lives, due to suspected pesticide contamination in Mid-Day-Meals is a grim reminder and ordeal of such grave incidents.

Little room for games and extra-curricular activities: Especially in private school going children, children studying in such schools hardly get an opportunity to get grossly involved in co-curricular activities. A continuous busy schedule of regular classes, tests, tuitions and wholly of assignments often results in scarcity of time to play or relax in between, resulting in an exhausted child with extreme stress and strain.

Increased incidences of substance abuse: The consumption of hard drugs by school going children like heroin has increased manifold over the years especially in our part of the world. The data recently tabled by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment projected startling revelation on the nature of drugs being consumed in Jammu and Kashmir. As per the statistical data, Jammu and Kashmir has left behind the state of Punjab in the consumption of heroin. The disturbing irony is that 90% of drugs consumed in Jammu and Kashmir are hard and synthetic opioid drugs like heroin. The students at times consume drugs for fantasy and fascination. They just do it as a means of experimentation. The experimentation leads them to be occasional users and finally they become compulsive users and get badly stuck in the vicious cycle of drug abuse and where returning back to normalcy



There is no denying the fact that digital interventions have reduced the paperwork to a great extent, but a student is compelled by school authorities to carry a heavy back load daily, in the name of a school bag, which has led to increased incidences of persistent lower back and spinal deformities at such a young age

is herculean and next to impossible mostly in case of hard substances.

Screen addiction: No doubt technological tools have revolutionized the way knowledge is being disseminated and assimilated by the end user particularly by the student community. Children are increasingly becoming addicted to spending longer hours with electronic gadgets which seriously compromises with their well being. The children rather than playing meaningfully with their friends and siblings prefer a life of isolation and seclusion grossly engaged with electronic gadgets. This has seriously taken a toll on the physical and mental health of the child. Research has proven that children who remain glued to gadget screens for an extended period of time find it difficult to socialize and usually suffer from lack of creativity and critical thinking.

Child sexual abuse: The horrifying incidents of child sexual abuse is a new norm. The children are subjected to varied forms of sexual abuse even at their residing places. The sexual assault cases are increasingly pouring in bulk from residential cum boarding schools as well as from day boarding schools. Findings from the Study on Child Abuse compiled by the Ministry of Women and Child Development projected that in the age group of 5-12 years, a staggering 52% of children reported some forms of sexual abuse; of these 55% were boys. These findings are worrisome and nullify the notion that boys are safer than girls.

Health related issues: The age group of 10-19 years is regarded as a relatively healthy phase of life. However during this period, children have unique health needs and concerns that have not received adequate attention in policies and programmes. As per the Lancet Commission Report on Adolescents suicides, malnutrition, depressive disorders, tuberculosis were the top four causes for ill health among young people in our country. Approximately 54% of girls and 29% of boys in the age group of 15-19 years are anemic in India. This is even more worrisome in our UT of Jammu and Kashmir, where 76% girls and 68% boys are anemic. As per the findings of National Family Health Survey, only 58% girls in the age group of 15-24 years employ hygienic methods during menstruation, rendering the other lot vulnerable and susceptible to reproductive tract infections(RTI).

Effective mitigation measures

1. To promote health and well being among school

going children, a joint collaborative venture of Ministry of Education and Ministry Of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) was launched by Honorable Prime Minister on 14th of April 2018 but the implementation of the program got delayed due to sudden break out of COVID-19 and the program in Jammu and Kashmir kick started in 2023. The intervention of school and wellness of school going children is based on the health and wellness initiatives, which harmonise diverse programmes such as Adolescence Education Programme, life skills, value education, critical thinking, collaboration with the common objective of promoting holistic development, health and well-being.

2. Childhood and adolescence are critical phases of life that are developmentally primed to absorb and process new information and ideas that make it easier for them to modify their behaviour. Hence it is extremely rewarding to work with these age groups and huge public health gains can be realized by investing in them.

3. The belief to uphold that children are a positive resource and are trusted, appreciated and respected.

4. Respond to diverse and dynamic needs of the learners at every stage of development through flexibility in terms of content, context and processes.

5. Establish an open, non-threatening and nurturing environment to facilitate joyful learning.

6. Empower the learner through participatory and non-judgmental approaches

7. Enable the learner to understand, adapt and negotiate existing and constantly changing realities.

8. Build on the learner's experiences and provide them with opportunities to think critically, analyse and draw inferences.

9. Establishment of dedicated anti-sexual harassment cell at the institutional level.

10. Viable opportunities for students to hold structured dialogue on the issues directly concerning them.

11. Collaborative tie-up with all the relevant stakeholders; be it parents, community, media to let them realize and understand the complexities and reciprocate to the needs and concerns of children in a positive way.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The author is an educator and researcher

India will turn into an ageing society in the next three decades, according to a report in the Lancet. The medical journal has flagged that India's TFR — the average number of children born to a woman — will fall to 1.29 in 2050. One in five persons in India will be above the age of 60 in 2050. The Lancet is not the first to shine a light on this impending demographic shift. Last year, the UN Population Fund's (UNPF) India Ageing Report projected that the number of elderly in India will more than double from 149 million in 2022 to 347 million by mid-century. The challenges of a growing ageing population may well be decades away. However, the young country would do well to prepare for them in advance.

The Lancet report is a message that India's demographic dividend is not for perpetuity. Global experiences could be illustrative for the country's policymakers. In China, for instance,

A Wake-Up Call

the proportion of the working age population crossed 50 per cent in 1987 and peaked around the middle of the last decade. This was also the period when the country registered impressive economic growth. By last year, China's TFR had dropped to a record low and its working-age population had contracted by more than 40 million. The Chinese government's pro-population-growth measures do not seem to be working. In fact, the last 60 years' history of developed nations suggests that once fertility rates fall below the replacement rate, it's almost impossible to

set them back. At 1.9, India's TFR is currently just below the replacement rate, and according to UNPF calculations, the share of the country's working-age population will peak in the late 2030s, early 2040s. Policymakers must, therefore, utilise this window to maximise India's demographic dividend, as China did from the late 1980s till the early years of the last decade. No time must be lost in putting in place measures to overcome skill deficits and plug gaps in the knowledge economy. The challenge will also be to generate jobs outside of agriculture — they

must not be in the low-paid informal sector.

Going ahead, policymakers will also have to ensure adequate social security and healthcare provisions for the growing elderly population and create opportunities to harness their skills effectively. The varying TFR rates across states in India could present the country's planners with a somewhat unique challenge — in fact, there are already signs that parts of south India and west India are greying faster than those in the north. Policymakers must be ready to understand the demographic shift in all its dimensions, and prepare for the change.

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The article was originally published by Indian Express

WISDOM OF ALI

Tips To Help You Live A Fulfilled Life

KO Web Desk

2nd Ramazan marks the martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat Ali (AS). The aphorisms of Imam Ali have attained the climax of brilliance in their splendor and genuineness, because they have comprised the most wonderful thoughts and manners not to mention their eloquence and fluency. Let us now refer to a few examples of these aphorisms.

True Value

Imam Ali (a) says,
The worth of every man is in his attainments.1

Knowledge Is Countless

Imam Ali (a) says,
Knowledge is too much to be counted; therefore, try to take from everything the best of it.2

Opinion Of The Aged

Imam Ali (a) says,
The view of the aged people is more preferable than the eye-witnessing of the youths.3

Enemies Of The Unknown

Imam Ali (a) says,
People are always the enemies of what they ignore.4

Succouring The Aggrieved

Imam Ali (a) says,
To render relief to the grief-stricken and to provide comfort in hardship are the atonement of great sins.5

The Abstinent

Imam Ali (a) says,
Those who truly abstain from the worldly pleasures are those who receive sermons positively when they are said to them and who act upon their certitude. When they face an item of ease, they thank, and when they face an item of difficulty, they act steadfastly.6

Allah's Gifts In This World And The Other World

Imam Ali (a) says,
Verily, Allah the Almighty and All-majestic gives the pleasures of this world to whom He loves and to whom He does not love, but He does not give the pleasures of the other world except to those whom He loves. Sometimes, He gives the pleasures of the both worlds to some people.7

Rest And Fatigue

Imam Ali (a) says,
Rest is very close to fatigue, misery is very close to happiness, and death is very close to life.8

Duty Towards The Friend

Imam Ali (a) says,
The least one can do to one's friend is to stop at (i.e. visit) his grave.9

The Most Helpless Of All People

Imam Ali (a) says,
The most helpless of all men is he who cannot find a few friends during his life, but still more helpless is he who finds such a friend but loses him.10

Sovereignty And Religiousness

Imam Ali (a) says,
Sovereignty and religiousness are brothers of each other that none can dispense with the other. Religiousness is the basis while sovereignty is the guard. Whoever has no basis is destroyable. Whoever has not guard is lost.11

Speech

Imam Ali (a) says,
Had it not been that speech is always repeated, it would have run out.

The World Is Two Days

Imam Ali (a) says,
The world has two days; one for you and the other against you. When the day is for yours, do not feel proud, but when it is against you, you should endure it. Through both of the days, you are put to the test.12

The Ignorant And The Learned

Imam Ali (a) says,
Two men have broken my back: an ascetic man who is yet ignorant, and a learned man who is yet dissolute. The ignorant man seduces people by means of his asceticism, and the learned man alienates them due to his dissoluteness.13

Knowledge-Based Worship

Imam Ali (a) says,
Acts of devotion that lack knowledge are worthless. Knowledge that lacks understanding is worthless. Reading that lacks reflection is worthless.14

Humorous Sayings

Imam Ali (a) says,
Seek rest for your hearts and inquire about humorous wise sayings, because, just like bodies, hearts may become bored.15

Contemplation

Imam Ali (a) says,
Awaken your heart by contemplation, take away your sides from sleep, and fear Allah your Lord.16

Imploration For Forgiveness

Imam Ali (a) says,
I am amazed at one who leads himself to perdition while he has the means of salvation; that is imploring Almighty Allah for forgiveness.17

The Matched Things

Imam Ali (a) says,
Fright is always matched to disappointment and shyness is always matched to deprivation. An opportunity passes just like the passing of clouds. Wisdom is the lost of the true believer; therefore, take wisdom no matter what its source should be.18

The Soldiers Of Allah

Imam Ali (a) says,
The strongest of the soldiers of your Lord are ten: (1) the unshakable mountains, (2) iron, which cuts mountains, (3) fire, which melts iron, (4) water, which extinguishes fire, (5) the clouds that are made subservient between the heavens and the earth and the carry water, (6) wind, which scatters the clouds, (7) son of Adam (i.e. human beings) who can undermine wind by the covering of his dress or by anything else and thus he can keep on his way, (8) sugar, which overcomes son of Adam, (9) sleep that overcomes sugar, and (10) care, which overcomes sleep. As a result, the strongest of the creatures of Allah the Almighty and All-majestic is care.19

The Most Favorable Act Of Worship

Imam Ali (a) says,
The best devotional acts are silence and expectation of relief.20

Regarding The Brethren-In-Faith

Imam Ali (a) says,
Do not rupture your relationship with a friend on the basis of doubt, and do not alienate him before you blame him.21

Nice Words

Imam Ali (a) says,
He whose words are nice will incidentally acquire the other's affection. The Imam (a) then cited this poetic verse:
Such simple words like 'good morning' and 'good evening' implant affection in the heart of the noble people.22

The Envious Are Restless

Imam Ali (a) says,
An envious man can never find rest. A bored man cannot be befriended. An impolite man cannot find the other's affection.23

The Self-Possessed

Imam Ali (a) says,
The first prize a self-possessed person can gain due to his self-control is that all people always stand to his side against the impetuous.24

The Discerning And The Foolish

Imam Ali (a) says,
It sometimes happens that a shrewd man misses the target while the foolish hits it.25

The Ansar

Imam Ali (a) says,
By Allah, the Ansar nurtured Islam with their generous hands and eloquent tongues as exactly as a one-year-old calf is nurtured.26

The Least Duty Towards Allah

Imam Ali (a) says,
The least of your binding duties towards Allah is that you should not use His graces to you for committing acts of disobedience to Him.27

Disadvantages Of Disunity

Imam Ali (a) says,
Beware of disunity, because those who separate themselves from people will be the share of Satan in the same way as a sheep that separates itself from the herd will be the share of wolves.28

Suppression Of Rage

Imam Ali (a) says,
Swallow your rage, because I have not seen any other swallow better than it with regard to the end result.29

Good Mannerism

Imam Ali (a) says,
Good mannerism is the title of the faithful believers' Record of Deeds.30

Beyond Illusions

Imam Ali (a) says,
Allah is always unlike whatever can be imagined by illusions.31

The Rabble

Imam Ali (a) says,
We seek Allah's protection against the people who cannot manage any of their affairs when they gather and who are not distinguished when they scatter.32

Categories Of People

Imam Ali (a) says,
People are of three types: One is the scholar and divine. Then comes the seeker of knowledge who is also on the way to deliverance. Then (lastly) come the common rot who run after every caller and bend in the direction of every wind.33

Categories Of Quran Reciters

Imam Ali (a) says,
The Holy Quran will be recited for three purposes: some people will recite it for the sake of Almighty Allah, another category of people will recite it for gaining worldly profits, and a third category of

people will recite it for using it in disputations. However, the three categories of people will attain their purposes despite their variety.34

Warning Against Joking

Imam Ali (a) says,
Every joke that one makes will reduce his reason one bit.35

Funny Wording

Imam Ali (a) says,
Beware of mentioning any funny wording, even when you report others' words.36

Politeness

Imam Ali (a) says,
Good mannerism is the substitute of high lineage.

Refraining From Prohibitions

Imam Ali (a) says,
He who is keen to nobilities of character must refrain from violating the prohibitions.

The Abstinent From Worldly Pleasures

Imam Ali (a) says,
The more pleasant the worldly pleasures are in the sight of a true abstinent, the more he becomes separated from them.

Ignorance About Defects



Imam Ali (a) says,
The most destructive sins are to ignore about your own defects.

Perfect Chastity

Imam Ali (a) says,
Chastity in its perfect feature lies in satisfaction with the minimum subsistence.

Good Opinion

Imam Ali (a) says,
He about whom people have good opinion will always be under their sights.

The Most Manifest Nobility

Imam Ali (a) says,
The most manifest aspect of nobility is to be faithful to your friends in luxury and hardship.

Characteristics Of The Lewd

Imam Ali (a) says,
The lewd is the one who slanders when he is enraged, tells untruth when he is pleased, and beguiles when he covets.

Proper Confession

Imam Ali (a) says,
Proper confession demolishes the outcome of sinning.

Standing The Friends' Slips

Imam Ali (a) says,
Tolerate the slips of your friend, because you will need him when your enemy jumps on you.

Spending That Is Never Wasted

Imam Ali (a) says,
Your wealth that you spend on what familiarizes you with the accuracy of your state is never wasted.32

Economization

Imam Ali (a) says,
Economization is easier than immoderation, and avoidance of intruding in unconcerned affairs is more tractable than excessive interfering in the issues of others.

Oppressing People

Imam Ali (a) says,
The worst provisions to the Promised Day are to assume oppression of people.

Appreciation Of Graces

Imam Ali (a) says,
An advantage that is appreciated will never expire,

and a grace for which ingratitude is shown will never endure.

Good Manners

Imam Ali (a) says,
Too many are the dignified persons whom are humiliated due to their bad manners and too many are the humble ones whom are dignified due to their good mannerism.

Experience

Imam Ali (a) says,
He who does not benefit from experiences will be easily cheated, and he who challenges the truth will be knocked down.

Termination Of Lifetime

Imam Ali (a) says,
If the termination of lifetimes were to be known, expectations would be reduced.

Consultation

Imam Ali (a) says,
He who counsels the men of intelligence will be shown the true way.

Satisfaction

Imam Ali (a) says,
He who satisfies himself with the little will dispense with the much, but he who does not dispense with the much will be in incessant need for the trivial.

Putting The Hopes

Imam Ali (a) says,
He who puts his hopes in a certain person will always fear him, and he who fails to recognize the reality of something will find faults with it.

Assumption Of Continuity

Imam Ali (a) says,
He who has been sure of something but suspicion occurs to him afterward must assume to continue doing what he is sure of, because certainty cannot be cancelled by suspicion.

A Faithful Believer Tires Himself

Imam Ali (a) says,
A true faithful believer tires himself while all people are at rest with him.

Laziness

Imam Ali (a) says,
The lazy will not be able to carry out any of their duties towards Allah the All-exalted. Treasures of Paradise Imam Ali (a) says,
The following three matters are within the treasures of Paradise: (1) to conceal the alms when they are given, (2) to conceal the misfortunes, and (3) to conceal the ailment.

Need, Dispensing With, And Doing Favors

Imam Ali (a) says,
Feel needy for a person, and you will be his prisoner. Dispense with any person and you will be equal to him. Bring any person under necessity for you and you will be his leader.

Magnanimity

Imam Ali (a) says,
Magnanimity is part of the nobility of character, while reminding someone of the favors done to him corrupts the character.

Negligence Of Friends

Imam Ali (a) says,
To neglect the friends results in rupture of relationships.

Seeking For Sustenance

Imam Ali (a) says,
Seek sustenance, for it will be guaranteed for those who seek it.

The Best Of Wealth

Imam Ali (a) says,
The best of wealth is to forsake asking from people, while the most evil feature of poverty is to stick to submission to others.

Experiments

Imam Ali (a) says,
Had it not been for learning from experiments, all paths would have been ambiguous.

Excessive Expectation

Imam Ali (a) says,
He who depends excessively on expectations will fall short to work.

The Most Grateful And The Least Grateful

Imam Ali (a) says,
The most grateful of all people is the most satisfied, but the worst ungrateful for the graces is the most covetous.37

Respite Of Allah

Imam Ali (a) says,
Almighty Allah gave such long respite to Pharaoh although he had claimed godhead, because it was easy (for people) to visit him and he used to serve the needy with food.38

Mirror Of Character

Imam Ali (a) says,
Whenever a person conceals a thing in his heart, it manifests itself through unintentional words from

his tongue and through the expressions of his face.39

Custody Of The Family Members

Imam Ali (a) says,
A husband can be a real custodian of his family members only after he does not care for the kind of food he provides for himself and does not care for the kind of clothing he may dress.40

Source Of Pleasance

Imam Ali (a) says,
Within the source of the pleasance of a person are that his wife is agreeable with him, his sons are pious, his friends are righteous, and the source of his sustenance lies in the region where his family members live.41

Generosity

Imam Ali (a) says,
Generosity covers all defects.42

Beauty Of Men And Beauty Of Women

Imam Ali (a) says,
Beauty of men lies in their outward appearance, while beauty of women lies in their ornaments.43

Evil Characteristics

Imam Ali (a) says,
Do not be like him who does not show gratitude for what he begets and covets for increase in whatever remains with him; he orders others not to do what he himself does, and commands them to do what he himself does not do; he loves the virtuous but does not behave like them, and hates the vicious but he himself is one of them; he dislikes death because of the excess of his sins, but adheres to that because of which he is afraid of death.44

Modesty Before The Rich

Imam Ali (a) says,
He who visits a rich man and humiliates himself before him because of his richness will have wasted two thirds of his faith.45

Almsgiving

Imam Ali (a) says,
When poverty afflicts you, you must then trade with Allah through almsgiving.46

The True Noble

Imam Ali (a) says,
The true noble man does not humble himself when he is in hardship and does not act brutally when he is in luxury.

Repentance

Imam Ali (a) says,
The last days of the lifetime of the faithful believer can be beyond value if he makes up what he has missed and revives what he has deadened.

This World And The Other World

Imam Ali (a) says,
This world is won by wealth while the other world is won by deeds.

Fear From Humiliation

Imam Ali (a) says,
As they fear from humiliation, people are actually driving humiliation to themselves.

Silence

Imam Ali (a) says,
Silence is sometimes more expressive than speaking.

Patience

Imam Ali (a) says,
Patience is a riding animal that never stumbles.47

Verification Of The Authenticity Of Reports

Imam Ali (a) says,
When you hear a (reported) tradition, you must test it according to the criterion of intelligence not that of mere hearing, because relaters of knowledge are numerous but those who guard it are few.

Readiness For The Hereafter

Imam Ali (a) says,
He who recollects the distance of the journey will make preparations for it.

Significance Of Knowledge

Imam Ali (a) says,
Knowledge dispels the excuse of those who advance excuses.

Deprivation Of Knowledge

Imam Ali (a) says,
When Allah intends to humiliate a person, He denies him knowledge.

Words Of The Wise

Imam Ali (a) says,
When the utterance of the wise is to the point, it serves as a cure; but if it is wrong, it proves like an illness.

Anger

Imam Ali (a) says,
Anger is a kind of madness, because the victim to it regrets it afterwards. If he does not regret, his madness is confirmed.

Kind Acts

Imam Ali (a) says,
Kind acts are more compassionate than kinship.

All references can be accessed on the full version of the article on Al Islam's website

The article was originally published by Al Islam

Colossal anaconda's death shocks scientific community

In a devastating turn of events, a colossal anaconda has been discovered dead in the Brazilian Amazon, with evidence pointing to a fatal gunshot wound. This tragic loss has rocked the scientific community, leaving experts and conservationists mourning the loss of the world's largest snake named 'Ana Julia' after hearing it was 'shot dead by hunters' on Sunday.

The deceased snake, although initially speculated to be the largest anaconda ever documented, has been confirmed by Professor Bryan Fry, a renowned snake researcher, as a southern green anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*). This clarification dispels misconceptions arising from media reports linking the deceased snake to the largest anaconda discovered in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

The world was introduced to the awe-inspiring scale of these creatures through the recent discovery of the Northern Green Anaconda, a new species found



by a team of 15 international biologists. This groundbreaking discovery, made in the Amazon's Orinoco basin, unveiled a snake measuring over 7.9 meters in length and weighing more than 200 kilograms. The identification of this new species was a pivotal achievement in the scientific community, marking a high point in the career of esteemed biologist Professor Freek Vonk, who expressed deep sorrow and outrage at the

news of the anaconda's demise.

She was as thick as a car tyre with a human-sized head – and first gained fame after TV wildlife presenter and Dutch biologist Professor Freek Vonk, 40, was filmed swimming next to her. Professor Vonk shared his profound grief and anger upon learning of her tragic fate. He took to Instagram to express his pain, stating, "With a lot of pain in my heart, I would like to let you know that the mighty

big anaconda I swam with was found dead in the river. I have heard from various sources that she was shot dead, although there is still no official confirmation on the cause of death."

He further expressed his disbelief and sorrow, emphasising the unique beauty and significance of this animal. The circumstances surrounding her death, reportedly at the hands of hunters, have sparked widespread condemnation and raised urgent concerns about the preservation of these vital creatures.

The loss of 'Ana Julia', a creature of unparalleled magnificence, has cast a shadow over the Amazon Rainforest and beyond. The implications of her untimely death extend beyond the individual tragedy, impacting the delicate balance of biodiversity in this vital ecosystem. As the world mourns this irreplaceable loss, the urgent call to protect and preserve these remarkable creatures grows louder.

Deepfakes: When you can't trust your eyes anymore

Deepfakes are threatening privacy and security. Detection methods using deep learning aim to combat this but there's a long way to go.

It started in 2017 when Reddit users uploaded sexually explicit videos using the faces of women celebrities superimposed onto adult film actresses' bodies.

The emergence of such disturbing videos was a result of a sophisticated deep learning algorithm known as "deepfake". It sent shock waves through the world, threatening privacy and societal security.

Within a year, Reddit and other online platforms banned these deepfake porn videos but the problem does not stop there. This advanced technique enables the replacement of one person's likeness with another's.

Some popular examples include applying filters to alter facial attributes; swapping faces with celebrities; transferring facial expressions; or generating a new selfie based on an original photo.

The malicious use of

deepfakes has the potential to cause severe psychological harm and tarnish reputations, marking it as a powerful tool capable of inciting social panic and threatening world peace. The development of robust deepfake detectors which are trained to identify the distinct features that distinguish a fake image from a real one, is crucial.

Traditional approaches focus on analysing inconsistencies in pixel distribution, leading to unusual biometric artefacts and facial textures, such as unnatural skin texture, odd shadowing, and abnormal placement of facial attributes, which serve as key indicators for deepfake detection.

However, the evolution of deep learning technology, such as diffusion models, transformers, and Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), has made conventional approaches vulnerable.

GAN is the leading technique in deepfake generation. It consists of two models: a generator that creates images and a discriminator that attempts to

distinguish whether the image is real or fake. Initially, deepfake images might display noticeable flaws in pixel distribution.

Yet, guided by feedback from the discriminator, the generator learns from its successes and failures to refine its technique. Over time, through continuous training, the generator becomes increasingly adept at producing indistinguishable images.

As the digital landscape evolves, the battle against deepfakes has ushered in a new era of detection methods. These are increasingly focusing on deep learning approaches rather than undergoing the tedious process of manually crafting features.

These methods utilise a "black box" approach through convolutional neural networks for feature extraction. This approach allows the model to automatically learn and derive the discriminative features directly from the training data or input features via deep neural networks, streamlining the deepfake detection process.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Rahul, Priyanka

Omar Abdullah from the National Conference is expected to further bolster Congress's electoral prospects, particularly in rallying support for Raman Bhalla in the region.

The Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory will be held in the first five phases on April 19 (Udhampur), April 26 (Jammu), May 7 (Anantnag-Rajouri), May 13 (Srinagar) and May 20 (Baramulla). The counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

PM Modi Freed

defeated Congress candidate Madan Lal Sharma by over 2.57 lakh votes in 2014.

Thakur said the Modi government is "strongly behind the security forces which is evident when there were attacks on our forces".

"The previous government would have done nothing but our government went across and carried out the surgical strikes to pin them down there," he said, referring to the surgical strikes in response to the killing of 18 soldiers in the Uri terror attack in September 2016 and aerial strikes by the IAF deep inside Pakistan following a terror attack on a CRPF convoy that killed 40 jawans in February 2019.

The minister said the Centre ensured flowing of 'Vikas ki Ganga' across Jammu and Kashmir where the work on the railway line and new highways is going on very fast besides setting up of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and various other prestigious institutes like the IIM and IIT, new projects which will ensure massive employment generation and large scale investment which is in the pipeline.

Earlier, he said the travel between Jammu and Srinagar used to consume 15 hours but now the travel time has reduced to four to five hours, while the world highest Railway bridge Chenab bridge' along Udhampur-Baramulla-Srinagar Railway Line (USBRL) has been completed as the country is inching closer to connect Kashmir with Kanyakumari through railway network.

The Katra-Delhi expressway, which was never thought of by the Congress over the past six decades of its rule, is being built to facilitate the Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims, he said, highlighting various achievements of the government in space and other fields over the past 10 years.

Thakur said when Prime Minister Modi took over in 2014, the country's economy was in shambles but his hard work ensured India's

economy jumping to the fifth spot in the globe and the BJP government is eyeing to take it further up and to the third position during the next five years.

"During India's G20 presidency, Modi made a push for a new economic corridor which will connect India with Europe. This will also facilitate goods from Jammu to reach Europe," he said.

Targeting the Congress, the minister said big scams like 2G and fodder scam came to light before 2014 but after Modi took over, he showed how a clean government is run with the same officials.

Meanwhile, Kishore while asking people to extend their support to him said the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, is "moving fast on the development path" under Prime Minister Modi.

"Modi restored honour of the country, took historic decisions which were pending for decades," he added.

The Jammu Lok Sabha constituency is going to polls in the second phase on April 26. The last date to file the nominations is April 4 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is April 8.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina and other senior party leaders, including former ministers and legislators, also attended the road show and then addressed the public meeting, seeking votes for Kishore.

Security Forces

exercised and saw the participation of senior officers and jawans, they added.

A police spokesperson said the objective of the flag marches was to instil confidence in the voters of a secure and harmonious environment, thereby enabling them to participate in the electoral process without any fear.

372 Polling Stations

stations, measures are being taken to thwart any disruptive activities by anti-national elements in certain areas. The administration has devised a comprehensive security plan, deploying special armed security forces, along with personnel from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, to maintain law and order throughout the electoral process.

In Reasi district, where 2,34,706 voters are registered, stringent security arrangements will be enforced, with a deployment of 13 companies of special armed security forces and 44 companies of armed security personnel. Jammu district will witness the deployment of

three thousand police personnel, 496 sections of armed security forces, and 41 companies of special armed security forces to ensure a peaceful voting environment.

With 11,78,431 registered voters in Jammu district alone, and additional voters in Samba and Rajouri districts, authorities are leaving no stone unturned to guarantee the safety and security of voters and election officials alike. As the electoral machinery gears up for the polling day, efforts are underway to uphold the democratic process and uphold the integrity of the electoral system in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

12 Candidates

The Bharatiya Janata Party secured a majority of 61 percent in the polls. Similarly, in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Dr. Jitendra Singh had won from Udhampur, securing 4,87,369 votes. He defeated then Congress stalwart Ghulam Nabi Azad of Indian National Congress with a margin of 60,976 votes. Azad got 4,26,393 Votes. (KNO)

NC Likely To Field

Rajouri seat comprises seven segments of Anantnag district, three seats of Kulgam, one seat of Shopian district, four seats of Rajouri and three seats of Poonch.

There were earlier reports that the former chief minister and president of Democratic Progressive Azad Party could contest from the seat. Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti is also contemplating to contest from the segment.

In Baramulla segment, the contest would be between arch-rivals National Conference and Peoples Conference.

This segment is spread over seven seats of Baramulla, six of Kupwara, three of Bandipora and two of Budgam district. (KNO)

'Will Announce

his prerogative but would be determined by the party's directives. Stressing on adherence to party protocols, he stated that the National Conference leadership would deliberate and finalize candidates based on the prevailing political climate. "Apart from Sajad Lone, no one has announced candidature. Why are you after us to announce it? We will do it as per our own mood and will," Omar told reporters.

Fresh Snowfall

places during the night. There is a possibility of intermittent light

rain or snow at a few places on Sunday, after which the weather is likely to stay dry till April 5, they said.

Dr Farooq To Attend

that he would contest the Lok Sabha polls from north Kashmir's Baramulla constituency, the junior Abdullah said rumour-mongering happens during the election time.

"Whether I contest the elections or not, or from where do I contest, this is not my personal choice, this will be a decision of the NC. Whether the party wants to give me the mandate or not, and from which seat, I leave it up to the party and I cannot say anything on that," he said.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the party would announce the names of its candidates when it is in the mood to do so.

"Why are you so desperate to know who our candidates would be? Which party has announced candidates for the three seats in Kashmir except for Sajad Lone. You are only after the NC as if everyone is waiting for us.

"We will announce it when we are in the mood to (do so). It could be after the notification or even on the last day of filing of the nominations," Abdullah added.

Govt To Restore

Museums (J-K), superintendent of Archaeologist (incharge) ASI (Srinagar circle).

Thousands of pilgrims including Kashmiri Pandits visit the temple every year and have been demanding its restoration.

In May 2022, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha took part in "Navgrah Ashtamangala Pooja" at the temple which was protested by ASI as "violation of rules" for not seeking required permission. However, J-K administration defied the pooja citing rule 7(2) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, which states that this should not apply to any event held "in pursuance of a recognised religious usage or custom".

Built on the top of a plateau, the temple ruins and related archaeological findings revealed that it was an excellent specimen of Kashmiri architecture, which had blended the Gandharan, Gupta and Chinese forms of architecture.

The temple has a colonnaded courtyard, with its primary shrine in its centre and surrounded by 84 smaller shrines, stretching to be 220 feet long and 142 feet broad total and incorporating a smaller temple that was previously built.

HC Closes Contempt

detenu gets quashed, the Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir acts with reasonable dispatch to ensure that the detenu person is released from the custody without unwarranted loss of time."

Subsequently, the court closed the contempt petition "without prejudice to the right of the petitioner, if any, to avail appropriate legal remedy against the defaulting/erring official or authority for illegal detention suffered by him post quashing of his detention order."

FD Authorises

of competent authority by or before 20th April, 2024.

"All the District Development Commissioners shall furnish the District Plans (project/work/activity wise) after seeking approval of competent authority by or before 30th of April, 2024," reads the orders.

It further states that in respect of district sector projects, CPO(s)/AO(s) of each district shall be responsible for uploading of the work plans on BEAMS portal once the same is approved by the competent authority within the stipulated time

DSEK Withdraws

not ascertain the factual position owing to the non-cooperation of the school management.

The order said the school has not shown any inclination towards considering or implementing suggestions and has never taken the departmental representative on board for the official business of the school till date which is mandatory as per standing norms.

The CEO Budgam and other officers of the department have recommended strict action against the Foundation World School, Mamat, Budgam, it said.

It has been frequently observed that the management of the school does not implement the instructions issued by competent authorities from time to time "thus reflecting an anarchist and rebellious attitude of the school management", the order said.

"The delinquent attitude exhibited by the Management of Foundation World School, Mamat, Budgam is highly objectionable and has been taken seriously by the undersigned," the order by the DoE Kashmir, said.

It said the "persistent delinquency" by the school authorities necessitates immediate action to be initiated against the said institution.

27th year OF PUBLICATION

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OR SCAN

Watermelon Sales Remain Low Despite Food Safety Dept Clearance

Agencies

Srinagar: Despite receiving clearance from the Food Safety Department, watermelon sales continue to be low in Kashmir this year. Several vendors, speaking to the news agency, said that while sales have slightly improved after the clearance, they still remain significantly lower compared to last year. "This decline is due to the claims made by a few doctors regarding the artificial ripening of watermelons, and also the adverse weather conditions," he said.



Mohammad Ramzan, a vendor, said even his own family members refrained from consuming watermelon after reports emerged about artificial ripening. Despite the clearance from the food safety department, reluctance among consumers

continues, especially during Ramadan when watermelon consumption is traditionally high.

Other fruit vendors echoed similar sentiments, saying that the claims of artificial ripening had a detrimental impact on watermelon sales. Bashir Ahmad Bashir, chairman of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, said that despite the department's clearance, sales are still down by approximately 40 percent.

The decline in sales was witnessed when Dr Wajahat, a clinical oncologist, cautioned against consuming artificially ripened watermelons due to potential health risks, including cancer. His social media post on March 08 went viral and garnered support from fellow doctors.

Subsequently, the food safety department collected hundreds of samples from various districts for testing and concluded that nothing adverse was found and that watermelons are safe for consumption.

However, the lingering effects of the initial claims made by doctors continue to impact consumers, which led to the low sales of watermelons in Kashmir—(KNO)

J&K Bank Provides Special Bus To Zeba Aapa Institute Under CSR



KO News service

Srinagar, Mar 30: With a view to facilitate convenient transportation services to the persons with disabilities particularly specially-abled children, J&K Bank today donated a 30-seater school bus under its CSR Program to Humanity Welfare Organization Helpline (HWOH) for the differently-abled students enrolled at its Zaiba Aapa Institute of Inclusive Education.

The Bank's General Manager Syed Rais Maqbool handed over the symbolic key of the school bus to the Chief Functional Officer of HWOH Adil Rashid Vaid at Bijbehara Anantnag in presence of DGM Ashok Gupta, Zonal Head Anantnag Khurshid Muzaffar and other officials of the Bank and representatives of

the NGO.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Rais Maqbool said, "As evidenced by its track record, J&K Bank has always taken lead in supporting the needs of different sections of society, especially those who require extra help and care. At J&K Bank, we believe in empowering every individual to reach their full potential, and this initiative testifies our commitment."

"Today, we feel pleased to hand over a 30-seater bus under our Corporate Social Responsibility initiative to a credible organisation led by Padma Shree Awardee founder cum Honorary Chairman (HWOH) Javed Ahmad Tak. This bus will serve as a lifeline for specially-abled children, ensuring their safe and secure transportation to and from school", he added.



Special Training Imparted To Soldiers Ahead Of Amarnath Yatra

Agencies

Srinagar: Preparations are underway to ensure the safety and security of devotees embarking on the revered Amarnath Yatra in 2024, with a particular focus on disaster management and rescue operations. The Mountaineering Rescue Team of Jammu and Kashmir is actively engaged in training activities in the Nad area of Samba to facilitate the smooth passage of pilgrims through the challenging terrain.

Anticipated to commence at the end of June and span over two months, the Amarnath Yatra draws millions of devotees from across the country to seek the blessings of Baba Barfani. Given the rugged and inaccessible terrain, the authorities are vigilant to prevent accidents and address any emergencies that may arise during the pilgrimage.

According to the news agency, comprising 1300 trained soldiers, the Mountaineering Rescue Team is well-equipped to mitigate the challenges encountered by pilgrims along the route. Rigorous training programs are

“Anticipated to commence at the end of June and span over two months, the Amarnath Yatra draws millions of devotees from across the country to seek the blessings of Baba Barfani

conducted to hone the skills of team members, many of whom have previously undertaken life-saving missions during past yatras. Presently, personnel from various security forces, including police, NDRF, and paramilitary units, are undergoing specialized training in the hilly areas of Nad, Samba. Notably, 260 soldiers and officers, spanning seven batches, have already completed their training, with additional batches currently undergoing rigorous instruction. The training regimen encompasses a wide array of skills essential for disaster manage-

ment, including rescue operations in the event of landslides, floods, fires, and road accidents. Personnel are trained in rope bridge construction, safe extraction of injured individuals from hazardous locations, and other life-saving techniques tailored to the challenging terrain of Jammu and Kashmir.

While adverse weather conditions, particularly snowfall along the Pahalgam and Baltal routes, may temporarily impede progress, security forces remain on standby at entry points to both routes. As snow melts and conditions improve, efforts to enhance travel infrastructure and logistical arrangements will accelerate to ensure a seamless pilgrimage experience for devotees.

The formation of the Mountaineering Rescue Team in 2009 marked a significant milestone in disaster preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra. Over the years, the team has continually refined its capabilities, with approximately five thousand soldiers receiving specialized training. Their dedicated efforts have saved numerous lives during emergencies—(KNO)

Police Review Security Plan For Udhampur Lok Sabha Constituency

Agencies

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday reviewed its security plan for the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency which is going to polls in the first phase on April 19.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi Range, conducted the parliamentary elections preparedness review at a meeting with senior officers at Udhampur district headquarters, a police spokesman said.

He said all relevant and concomitant aspects were discussed in detail, including the security plan for polling booths (as per sensitivity of the location), security of the strong room, collection and distribution centre of electronic voting machines (EVMs), transport and route plan and induction and de-

induction of central paramilitary forces.

The communication plan, law and order, SOP in case of any exigency, surveillance over the activities of overground workers (OGWs), surrendered and released terrorists, history

keep an eye on social media to avoid its misuse, monitoring of movement of polling parties, accommodation of CAPF and security plan for venues of public meetings and arrangement for procession and rallies.

Focus on keeping an eye

“The communication plan, law and order, SOP in case of any exigency, surveillance over the activities of overground workers (OGWs), surrendered and released terrorists, history sheeters and trouble-mongers were also discussed in detail during the meeting

sheeters and trouble-mongers were also discussed in detail during the meeting, the spokesman said.

He said the meeting also chalked out the strategy to

over subversive activities by anti-national elements and proper reporting channels by strengthening the police control rooms (PCR) was also emphasised, he said.

Judicial Academy Hosts Training On "New Criminal Laws"

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: J&K Judicial Academy organized two day training programme on "New Criminal Laws" at J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad, here Saturday for Judicial Officers of Kashmir Province and UT of Ladakh, Prosecution Officers, Police Officers and Officers from Forensic Science Laboratories of Kashmir Province including Research Assistants of High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Srinagar Wing.

The training programme, organised under the stewardship of Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, was inaugurated by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh in presence

tional Law University, Delhi, who is the Chairperson of Committee for reforms in Criminal Laws. The Committee was made to focus on safety, security and welfare of Indians and integrity of the nation.

He also gave an overview of the three new laws; Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA) and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) and highlighted that these new laws are in tune with the spirit of the Constitution and have been introduced in keeping with the aspirations of 'we the people'.

Elaborating further Justice Kumar said that laws of British-era were aimed at punishing and enforcing allegiance to foreign rule whereas,



of Sakal Bhushan, an eminent lawyer from Jammu now practising in Supreme Court of India who was the resource person in the training programme.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, in his inaugural address, pointed out that earlier Indian Penal Code, as the name suggested, was to penalize the Indians. He said that overhauling of these laws was a long pending demand of the society and the government observed that this is the right time to revoke these laws.

The government entrusted the job to reform criminal laws to Professor Ranbir Singh, founder Vice Chancellor of Na-

the soul of new laws is Indian-ness and for the first time our criminal justice system will be governed by the laws of India, made by the Indians and for the India. He further highlighted that these new laws are not just to punish but to impart justice with equal consideration to the rehabilitation of the victim and provide justice to one and all particularly the weak and marginalized.

Justice Kumar added that the new way of inflicting punishments like community service reflects changing sentiments of public. It's not just about punishing people but also about making them

Avalanche Warning Prompts Precautionary Measures In Kangan

Agencies

Ganderbal: In view of the recent weather forecast and advisory issued by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar regarding the heightened risk of avalanches, the authorities in the Kangan sub-division of Ganderbal have taken proactive measures to ensure public safety.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), an order issued by the Sub Divisional Magistrate Kangan states that in light of the "avalanche warning with medium danger level likely to occur above 2200 meters in Ganderbal", the General Manager/Project Manager APCO/NHIDCL has been directed to keep the Z-Mohr tunnel open for safe movement.

This includes facilitating the movement of people, government employees, laborers, and machinery, while maintaining close coordination with police authorities.

Traffic will be directed through the Z-Mohr Tunnel as the road condition at Hung is deemed unsafe for travel. Violations of this order may result in penal action due to the anticipated risk to life.

Man Shot Dead By Uncle Over In Poonch

Jammu: A 32-year-old man was allegedly shot dead by his uncle in a border village in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Saturday.

Joginder Singh, an ex-serviceman who is currently a member of the village defence guard, had an argument with his nephew Gagandeep Singh (32) over some domestic issues at their house in Dara Dullian around midnight, the officials said.

Joginder Singh opened fire from his licensed rifle in a fit of rage, killing the victim on the spot, they said.

Two Drug Smugglers Booked Under PIT NDPS in Baramulla

Srinagar: Acting tough against drug peddlers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Saturday said to have booked two notorious drug smugglers under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla after obtaining formal detention orders from competent authority.

The notorious drug smugglers namely Irshad Ahmad Wani son of Ghulam Rasool resident of Pandithpora Bala Tangmarg, Baramulla & Mohd Tajamul Masoodi son of Badar-ud-Din Masoodi resident of Bagander Pampore, Pulwama have been booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from

the competent Authority. The booked drug smugglers have been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Balwal Jammu, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

Pertinent to mention here that many cases are registered against these drug smugglers and were involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of Solinda, Khaipora, Tangmarg & other areas of District. Despite their involvement in many FIRs, they did not mend their activities and were again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth.

Property of Narco-smuggler Attached in Uri

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police attached a double-storied residential house of a hardcore narco-smuggler in Uri area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday.

"Continuing its action against drug peddlers, Police in Baramulla attached properties (double-storied residential house worth approx. Rs. 30.00 lacs) belonging to notorious drug peddler namely Azad Ahmad Mir son of Ab Aziz Mir resident of Dardkote Uri, District Baramulla," reads a statement.

PHC Shifts To A New Building In Awantipora, Lacks Doctor

Srinagar: Authorities in Hari Parigam area of Awantipora shifted the PHC in a new building after six years but the authorities are yet to post a doctor there.

Locals from Hari Parigam Awantipora told news agency, that the PHC building in their area had been lying defunct for the last six years and the existing primary health facility was running out of rented accommodation.

They said that the hospital building was completed years ago with a huge amount of money spent on it but due to unknown reasons it was left abandoned. They said that the building was used by drug addicts causing inconvenience to people.

They said that after repeated requests to the authorities, the hospital has been shifted to a new building.

They said that the hospital now has good space and can have testing facilities available but there is a need for staff at the hospital.

They further added that there is no doctor at the hospital as of now and only immunization and first aid facilities are being provided at the facility.

Mukhtar Ahmad a local resident said that they are thankful to the government for constructing a big building for the hospital and now shifting it there

He said that spending crores in absence of staff, especially doctors is of no use and there won't be any benefit for the patients.

Locals requested higher ups to post a male and female doctor at the hospital so that they won't have to take long routes for minor ailments.

JKCA Sub-Committee Approves Players' Participation In Local Tournaments

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Sub-Committee of Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association has approved the permission for its players to participate in local tournaments and leagues with a rider that there will be restrictions to players for non-participation in unrecognized tournaments.

A notification issued by the JKCA states that the Sub-Committee of JKCA has approved the permission for JKCA players to participate in local tournaments and leagues recognized by the Association.

"The Organizers of the Tournament/League need to approach JKCA in writing seeking recognition for the Tournament, JKCA, based on the merit and criteria laid down by the Association, will grant permission to organizers of these Tournaments," the notification reads.

The notification further states that the particulars of such tournaments will be displayed on the JKCA website www.jkca.tv, based on which players can participate in that particular tournament. A committee member of the association said that the notification also underscores the enforcement of restrictions on players found in violation of this directive for appropriate disciplinary action, as outlined by the Association.

"The restriction on players for non-participation in unrecognized tournaments will continue, and defaulters will be liable for suitable action," adds the notification. (KNO)

AIFF Member Arrested For Assaulting Women Players In Goa Hotel

All India Football Federation executive committee member Deepak Sharma was arrested by Goa police on Saturday for allegedly physically assaulting two women players, an official said.

Two footballers of Himachal Pradesh-based Khad FC, taking part in the Indian Women's Football (IWL) League second division here, had alleged Sharma, the owner of the club, had barged into their room and physically assaulted them on the night of March 28.

Pakistan Cricket Board Wants To Bring Babar Azam Back As Captain

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has offered Babar Azam captaincy in the white ball formats but the star player has not yet made his decision, sources have claimed.

It has been learnt that Babar has set down conditions for accepting the captaincy, including having a say in appointment of coaches. Babar has conveyed that he should give the reins of the side in all three formats.

The national selection committee, though is divided on the issue.

Shaheen Afridi Contemplates Quitting As Pakistan T20 Captain

Disappointed that he was not involved in discussions concerning Pakistan cricket and his future as T20 skipper, fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi is contemplating stepping down as captain.

The source said Shaheen was disappointed that he was not kept in loop as PCB chief held discussions with the national selectors and Babar Azam this week to discuss the T20 World Cup, appointment of coaches and captaincy.

Shaheen lost the T20 series in New Zealand 1-4 and also couldn't repeat his magic with Qalandars.

Man City v Arsenal: Stones, Walker Ruled Out, Pep Confirms

Defending champions Manchester City will be without defenders Kyle Walker and John Stones when they host Arsenal in a crucial Premier League showdown on Sunday. The two Englishmen were reportedly injured on international duty. On the positive side, midfielder Kevin De Bruyne has trained this week and is expected to play. First-choice goalkeeper Ederson is doing "much, much better," manager Pep Guardiola said.

City sit third in the table on 63 points with 10 matches left to play.

Real Kashmir Ease Past NEROCA 3-0 In I-League Game At Srinagar



Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC dished out a fine performance to outclass NEROCA FC 3-0 in the I-League on Saturday. The result relegated the Manipur outfit to the second division following a poor season.

Goals from Real Kashmir's Gnohere Krizo (35'), Hyder Yousuf (45') and Shaheer Shaheen (67') sealed the fate of NEROCA FC in the league.

This loss left the Orange Brigade in 12th place, with a total of 13 points from 21 matches. Their record of four wins, one draw, and 16 losses reflects

the challenges they faced throughout the season.

The other team to have been relegated is their city rivals TRAU FC.

Real Kashmir, on the other hand, finally notched up a win after playing out consecutive draws in their last four matches. They also extended their unbeaten streak to nine matches.

The last time the Snow Leopards had lost a match in the league was against Rajasthan United FC back on February 9.

The win took them to second spot in the standings even though they are out of the title race. They now have 40 points from 22 matches with 11 wins,

seven draws and four losses.

The Snow Leopards dominated from the outset and created a flurry of chances before taking the lead in the 35th minute.

Carlos Lomba launched a long ball from the deep towards the direction of Krizo.

The Ivory Coast striker controlled the ball with his head and surged past two NEROCA players Baoringdao Bodo and Ronaldo Nongthombam to set himself up in a one-on-one position with goalkeeper Khoirom Jackson Singh.

With the custodian coming off his line, Krizo intelligently chipped the ball over Jackson's head to open the scoring.

Real Kashmir doubled their advantage at the stroke of half time.

Kashmir defender Shaheer Shaheen saw Yousuf making a run on the overlap and sent a long ball forward.

Yousuf beat the offside trap brilliantly with a well-timed run before bringing down the aerial ball with a deft touch and unleashing a skilful left footer to score in the 45th minute.

The script didn't change much in the second half as Real Kashmir extended their lead through a set piece.

Jeremy Laldinpuia floated in a corner from the left and an unmarked Shaheen scored with a header at the far post.

IPL 2024: Delhi Capitals Take On Chennai Super Kings



Press Trust of India

VISAKHAPATNAM: Delhi Capitals will be aiming to re-jig their out-of-depth batting order by bringing in the flamboyant Prithvi Shaw in the mix against defending champions Chennai Super Kings, in what could be safely termed as a 'battle of unequals' in Sunday's Indian Premier League match.

In T20 format, reputations do go for a toss but DC in their last four meetings haven't been able to get past CSK and

the margins of defeat -- 91, 27 and 77 runs respectively paints a sorry picture.

If CSK once again looks like a team to beat with all its bases nicely covered, it has been quite the opposite for the Ricky Ponting-coached DC, which has been outplayed in the both departments of the game.

CSK got an uncapped Sameer Rizvi for Rs 8.40 crore and the two sixes in his first IPL innings against Punjab Kings showed why the franchise was desperate to get

him on board.

Among all franchises, DC probably has had the weakest talent scout program and it is paying a huge price.

The gulf between domestic cricket and IPL once again became evident with Ricky Bhui, the highest scorer in Ranji Trophy with 902 runs in the just-concluded season, fairs poorly in their last game.

There is too much on the plate of David Warner, who is well past his prime and skipper Pant, who will take some time to find his groove.

DYSS Organises Various Sports Activities In Zone Doru



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department Of Youth Services And Sports organised various sports activities in Zone Doru on Saturday in disciplines of Chess, Carrom and Badminton for girl students of all age groups at HS Shankerpora. The students of various institutions of Doru participate in these

activities.

In U-14 girls competitions, 35 students participated in Carrom, 10 in Chess and 20 in Badminton. U-17 events saw 25 students compete in Carrom, 10 in Chess and 10 in Badminton. The prizes were distributed among winners and runner-ups by ZPEO Doru Bashir Ahmad Dar in presence of various officials.

SRH's Explosive Form Threatens GT

Agencies

A depleted Gujarat Titans bowling attack will have to raise its game by quite a few notches if it intends to stop a marauding Sunrisers Hyderabad team fresh from its record total against Mumbai Indians, in the upcoming afternoon IPL match here on Sunday.

Sunrisers are coming

here on the back of breaking the ceiling for all time IPL total when they plundered 277 against Mumbai Indians to secure their first win of the season.

First time skipper Shubman Gill's Titans, who started off with a win at home against Mumbai Indians, on the other hand slipped in Chennai in their previous game.

Captain Pooran, rookie Mayank dominate middle overs as LSG get off the mark

Agencies

Justin Langer has arrived in the IPL. It took just one game of tired old T20 cricket, and the consequent heavy defeat of course, for Lucknow Super Giants to burn that book of conservative T20 cricket and play with much higher intent. As a result they didn't have the ideal players operating in the death overs of each innings, but they had done enough damage in the middle overs on both occasions to win by 21 runs.

The 103 that LSG scored in the middle overs is the second-highest in their history; both the efforts featured Nicholas Pooran and Marcus Stoinis batting a higher number of balls unlike in the first match when they were held back for the death overs. With the ball, LSG unleashed Mayank Yadav's extreme pace - highest being 155.8kmph - and awkward bounce to take five wickets for 84. As it turned out, they lost out on some runs in the final few overs and had to bowl Krunal Pandya in the 19th, but the game was over by then.

The first step - either made easier by a quad strain or a huge tactical move considering how it is near-impossible to remove Indian captains - was to give the captaincy to Pooran, leaving KL Rahul with just batting responsibilities.

The enterprising start

It would be indulging in pop psychology to say if that meant Rahul batted with more intent because he had only one field to make an impact in, but the change was there for all to see. Having taken the dew on by batting first, LSG needed all the intent from everyone. Rahul began attacking from the fourth ball he faced, didn't stop after hitting a six and a four in the next over, and Quinton de Kock batted the way he usually does.

The intent might have resulted in two wickets but LSG managed 54 runs in the powerplay.

Pooran, and best-laid plans

The first two overs after the powerplay suggested it might be difficult to take down spin, but in the third, Stoinis, batting much earlier than in the last game, punished Rahul Chahar's errors in length brutally with two sixes, and got out trying for a third six in the same over.

The introduction of Pooran as early as in the ninth over meant Kings took off both their spinners despite Harpreet Brar's four-run first over and a decent record against left-hand batters this IPL.

Two overs in, it was plain why spin was taken off. Pooran slogged a wrong'un from Bishnoi over the longer boundary for a six followed by a cut for four in front of square and then just a nonchalant loft back over his head for another six.

The slightly slower finish

This kind of batting can, at times, result in wickets. LSG had played only three overseas players in the first XI so their choice of the fourth would be between Ashton Turner and Naveen-ul-Haq. When de Kock fell in the 14th over for 53, or when Pooran did in the 16th for 42, LSG didn't make any panicked move, trusting Naveen over the limited marginal impact a batter could make over Krunal and Ayush Badoni.

Krunal did his part of the job well by scoring 43 off 22. The last nine balls got LSG only 10 runs, but they had effectively decided the extra runs they could have got off such deliveries was not worth giving up middle-overs runs for.

Under the lights, a bit of dew, and nice medium pace to work with, Shikhar Dhawan and Jonny Bairstow made a quick start to their chase, taking 61 in the first six overs. Dhawan got to a fifty off just 30 balls, the exact required rate to win the match. Like Stoinis did after the spin slowdown in the first innings, Bairstow broke the shackles with two sixes off Bishnoi in the ninth over.

Enter Mayank Yadav

Langer is not the only who "arrived" on Saturday night. Mayank is a 21-year-old fast bowler from Delhi who has had to struggle with injuries. LSG scouted him and looked after him while he was injured during the Ranji Trophy season. When they unleashed Mayank, Kings needed to go at pretty much the same asking rate as at the start of the innings and had all their wickets in hand.

They weren't quite prepared for the unerring pace of Mayank, though. He kept bowling uncomfortable lengths, went past 155kmph, and took out three batters, all three with the short ball, all three late on the shot. Bishnoi did his job at the other end, bowling the 11th over for just three. Mohsin Khan kept the pressure up.

Ashwin Sounds Off Fans Over Booing Hardik

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Veteran spinner R Ashwin came out in vehement support of besieged Hardik Pandya after the Mumbai Indians captain was subjected to venomous reception by fans across Ahmedabad and Hyderabad.

Ashwin squarely blamed the prevailing atmosphere of "fan wars" and "cinema culture" for the hostile treatment of Pandya by the spectators and in social media spaces, which started after the all-rounder replaced Rohit Sharma as MI captain ahead of IPL 2024.

"Fan wars should never go this ugly a route. One should remember which country these players represent - our country. So, then what warrants a cricketer getting booed? 'I don't understand. If you don't like a



player and boo a player, why should a team come out to issue a clarification," Ashwin said on

his YouTube Channel while answering a question from one of the viewers.

Pandya had to go through a hostile round of booing during their season opener against his

former side Gujarat Titans as the fans vented their sense of betrayal.

The 30-year-old also suffered a similar treatment by fans at Hyderabad, a neutral venue, in the match against the Sunrisers.

"This is cricket, and there is a prevalent cinema culture. I know there are things like marketing, positioning and branding, I agree with all that. But I don't believe in all this, but it's not wrong to indulge in either," said Ashwin.

The experienced off-spinner said neither the player nor the Mumbai team management owed an explanation on the issue, but urged the fans to be more rational in their behaviour.

"Neither has any role to play. Neither the franchise nor the player has a role to play in this at all. I think the responsibility and the onus lies on the fans," he said.