

## General Observer Baramulla PC reviews election preparedness meeting at B'la

**BARAMULLA, MAY 06** : General Observer for 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency (PC), Deependra Singh Kushwah today chaired a comprehensive meeting of officers to review the preparations for the seamless conduct of Lok Sabha Elections 2024 to be held in 1-Baramulla PC on 20th of May.

The meeting was attended by the Expenditure Observer, 1-Baramulla PC, Sita Ram Meena; Police Observer, 1-Baramulla PC, Ravi Shankar Chhab; Returning Officer 1-Baramulla PC, Minga Sherpa; District Election Officer Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; SSP Baramulla, Amod Nagpure; SSP Kupwara, SSP Bandipora, Security Officer and Nodal Officers from individual districts.

During the meeting, the General Observer was comprehensively briefed by the representatives of the individual districts encompassing 1-Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency regarding the various arrangements implemented by the administration to facilitate the smooth conduct of the electoral process. The RO, 1-Baramulla PC,

gave a detailed presentation about the implementation of Model Code of Conduct in the district Baramulla, AMFs



at designated Polling Stations, Specialized Training for the Polling Personnel, Material Management Plan, Secured Strong Rooms and Dispatch Centers, Route Plans and Vulnerability Mapping, installed FSTs, VST and MCMCs and other aspects for the conduct of Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

Similarly, the DEO Kupwara, in her presentation, provided detailed insights into the preparations done

provided presentations, appraising the chair about the comprehensive security arrangements put in place by the police department for the peaceful conduct of the elections. While taking first hand appraisal, General Observer expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made by both civil and police administrations for the elections and urged them to continue this coordinated approach throughout the election period to ensure flawless and efficient conduct of Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

The Expenditure Observer, Sita Ram Meena, instructed the concerned nodal officers of Expenditure Monitoring teams to maintain accurate expenditure records of the candidates and collaborate effectively to ensure a level playing field for the contesting candidates. The Police Observer, Ravi Shankar emphasized the critical need for strict security measures during the MCC period, instructing police officials to maintain constant vigilance throughout the election period to ensure free, fair and peaceful Lok Sabha elections.

The SSPs from all the districts of 1-Baramulla PC also

measures taken at the district level to ensure smooth conduct of the elections. Furthermore, Nodal Officers from Bandipora and Budgam districts briefed the meeting on the measures undertaken by the administration for the Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

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## Poll staff imparted Election Training in all ACs of Srinagar

**SRINAGAR, MAY 06** : As part of the training schedule to familiarize Polling Staff with necessary skills to carry out Election duties efficiently, the District Election Office Srinagar today organised a training session for the Polling Staff at Amar Singh College, here.

The Training session was held under the supervision of District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Returning Officer (RO), 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency. Addressing the participants, the DEO briefed the Officers thoroughly about the responsibilities during the forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024 and highlighted the importance of election training to the polling staff.

The DEO said that training is pivotal to familiarize the staff with EVM &

VVPAT operations and get acquainted with the necessary knowledge and skills for effectively carrying out their duties during the electoral process. He said training enables polling officials to understand the election sys-



tem and learn handling and operation of EVMS to ensure an error-free election process.

He also educated participants about their roles and responsibilities in the fair and free conduct of elections.

On the occasion, the DEO also reviewed the welfare

measures for the Polling Staff and directed the concerned to ensure all required measures are taken well in advance.

During the training, collection of polling material, collection and installation of EVMS, setting up of polling

stations and commencement of polls were thoroughly discussed with the trainees. The process of sealing, installation and functioning of the EVMS was also demonstrated by the master trainers.

Deputy District Election Officer, Mir Imtiyaz ul Aziz; Assistant Returning Officer

(ARO), Chanapora, Mudasar Ahmad Phamda, other Officers/Official and Master Trainers were present on the occasion.

Similar training sessions were also held at other designated places for other Assembly segments of the District under the supervision of respective Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) during which the Master Trainers imparted hands-on training to the participants and acquainted them with the necessary knowledge of EVM handling and operation.

The Polling Staff were acquainted with essential skills and knowledge to ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process. Participants actively engaged in interactive sessions and practical demonstrations to enhance their understanding and proficiency in handling diverse scenarios.

## DE&CC organises career Counseling Session at GDC Kishtwar

**KISHTWAR, MAY 06** : District Employment and Counseling Centre (DE&CC) in collaboration with the Career Counseling and Guidance Cell of Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar, organized a highly beneficial one-day counseling session titled 'Pathways Forward' in the Conference Hall of the College.

Held under the guidance of AD Employment Mamata Sudershan and in presence of the College Principal, Prof. Basharat Iqbal and Convener of Prof. Asma Javaid, the program was coordinated by Prof. Sonika Sen, Head of the Department of Sociology.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Asma Javaid, setting an inspiring

tone for the day's proceedings. Key Resource Person,



Chandan Manhas shared valuable insights with students about cracking the Civil Services Exam, emphasizing the significance of rigorous writing practice for mains and cultivating confidence for the personality test. Meanwhile, Vijay Yadav

representing Employment Office (DE&CC) Kishtwar & NCS, delivered an engaging

fits of availing schemes of the department were also shared. The students were

## Conduct Audit of Infrastructure in Govt. Schools of J & K: BADC

**Jammu, May 06** : All Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK-BADC), a registered organization working for the well-being of Border dwellers and tribals of J & K, has demanded a third-party audit of infrastructure in government schools of Jammu and Kashmir.

The organization in its demands has stated that the infrastructure in J & K government schools is in very poor condition since long but unfortunately the con-

cerned officers of the education department are not paying any heed to the repeated demands of the students and their parents.

BADC has called for social audit of buildings and other infrastructure of the government schools including their classrooms, staff rooms, libraries, laboratories, washrooms, drinking water facilities, playgrounds, availability of seating arrangements, and electric equipment like light systems and fans, etc.

Dr. Shazad Ahmed,

Chairman of the BADC and former Vice-Chancellor, while justifying the demand for social audit of government school buildings and other infrastructure, said that though the condition of government schools across J & K is not praiseworthy but the condition of Government schools in Border and remote areas is even worse.

Dr. Shazad informed that during his interaction with the border residents, students, and teachers, everyone complained of poor infrastructure and had demanded

up gradation there. The BADC Chairman has requested the secretary education department to hold thorough audit of schools and issue necessary instructions for up gradation in a phased manner keeping in view the availability of resources.

He also suggested the education department to approach companies and corporates to build the infrastructure of educational institutions under CRS, Corporate Social Responsibility

## Mohammad Altaf Dar expresses concern over the passing of Roznama Wadi Kashmir's Editor-in-Chief Mohammad Shafi Khan

**Srinagar, May 06** : Mohammad Altaf Dar, a renowned socio-political activist and esteemed senior trade union leader, has voiced his profound concern over the untimely demise of Mohammad Shafi Khan, the Editor-in-Chief of Roznama Wadi Kashmir. Khan's passing has left a significant void in the journalistic community, and his contributions to the field will be deeply missed. Altaf Dar, known for his unwavering commitment

to social justice and labor rights, acknowledged Khan's invaluable role in shaping public discourse and upholding journalistic integrity. He emphasized Khan's dedication to truth-telling and his relentless pursuit of fairness in reporting, which earned him widespread respect and admiration.

Expressing his condolences to Khan's family, colleagues, and the entire journalistic fraternity, Altaf Dar highlighted the importance of

preserving Khan's legacy. He urged fellow activists, union leaders, and media professionals to honor Khan's memory by continuing to uphold the principles of journalistic ethics and integrity.

In these challenging times, marked by evolving socio-political landscapes and shifting media dynamics, Altaf Dar emphasized the need for unwavering commitment to truth and transparency. He reiterated his solidarity with the journalis-

tic community and pledged to continue advocating for press freedom and the rights of journalists.

As the nation mourns the loss of a distinguished media figure, Mohammad Altaf Dar (Rajbagh) stands in solidarity with all those who knew and admired Mohammad Shafi Khan. His legacy will endure as a beacon of journalistic excellence and a testament to the power of principled reporting in advancing societal progress.

## Sopore Law College Hosts Legal Awareness Programme in Collaboration with University of Kashmir

**Sopore, May 06** : In a bid to promote access to justice and legal empowerment in the region, Sopore Law College today organized a legal awareness programme under the initiative "Establishment, Revival and Operation of Legal Aid Clinics in Jammu and Kashmir", in collaboration with the University of Kashmir. The event took place at Saloosa Kreeri and aimed to provide free legal awareness and information to marginalized communities in the area.

The programme included interactive sessions on various legal issues, rights awareness, and the importance of legal literacy. Legal experts and students from Sopore Law College, conducted lectures to educate community members about their legal rights and responsibilities.

Community members were encouraged to seek legal assistance from the



newly established legal aid clinics in the region, which provide free or low-cost legal services to those in need. The clinics serve as a crucial resource for individuals who cannot afford legal representation, offering support and

guidance in navigating the justice system. Participants at the legal

programme expressed their gratitude for the initiative, noting the importance of legal literacy in understanding and asserting their rights. They emphasized the need for more such programmes to be organized

regularly to ensure that marginalized communities have access to legal support and information.

The collaboration between Sopore Law College and the University of Kashmir in organizing this legal awareness programme highlights the commitment to promoting access to justice and legal empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir. By working together to establish and sustain legal aid clinics, stakeholders in the region can help to address systemic inequalities and empower individuals to secure their rights and advocate for justice. Overall, the legal awareness programme at Saloosa Kreeri serves as a stepping stone towards creating a more just and equitable society, where all individuals have access to legal support and the tools they need to protect their rights.

## Community Unity: Thousands including Socio-political leaders Visit Fire-Hit Idara Tehqiqat e Islami in Anantnag

**-SUHAIL DAR**  
**Anantnag, May 06** : Several socio-political figures visited Idara Tehqiqat e Islami (Islamic Research Institute) in Anantnag town a day after a devastating fire damaged the institute.

On Sunday, a devastating fire had engulfed Idara Tehqiqat e Islami in the south Kashmir town causing losses worth lakhs of rupees and damaging nearly 15,000 books.

Among the thousands of people who visited the institute were PDP President Mehbooba Mufi, PDP leaders Mehboob Beg, Abdul Rehman Veeray, Javid Ahmed Sheikh, JKNC leaders Mian Altaf Larvi, Peerzada Mohammed Hussain, Advocate Hashim Hussain, Apni Party leaders

Hilal Ahmed Shah. The Jammu Kashmir administration and Police



were on their toes, helping the institute in the cleaning and combing operations. Police teams from Anantnag stayed vigilant and ensured the safety and security of everyone, including the

students. The administration of Idara Tehqiqat e Islami

thanked the political, social leaders, local Fire Service personnel, Police, administration on this occasion. "We are really thankful to the locals who visited the institute in massive numbers

to control the fire.

The Police and administration did their best to prevent the students, staff, and the general public from any harm." Maulana Irshad Attari, the principal of the Institute, said.

Among the religious and social outfits that visited the institute were Minhaj ul Quran International, Dar ul Uloom (Deoband), Dawat e Islami, Karwan e Islami, Sout ul Awliya, Traders Federation Anantnag, South Kashmir Transporters Association, Truck Drivers Association, Tehreek Imam Ghazali, among others.

Thousands of people, including businessmen and others, made donations to the school where more than one thousand students are pursuing Islamic and English mediums of education.

## Fire Department rebuts claims of fire tender shortage

**SRINAGAR, MAY 06** : Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services, today countered the news item published in an Urdu daily about the deficiency of 100 fire tenders in Jammu and Kashmir.

A rebuttal issued here today by the department stated that the figures have wrongly been projected while carrying out the news item.

In this regard, the department has clarified that during last 6 years 486 deaths have not caused exclusively by fire incidents. Out of these, only 82 deaths have

been reported in fire incidents while the remaining 404 deaths have been reported in anti-terrorist operations/ encounters, vehicular and other accidents besides suicidal deaths in which Fire & Emergency Services attended for search and rescue operations, added the department.

The document added that the department of Fire & Emergency Services is presently spread over 180 Fire & Emergency Stations where Fire Tenders and other fire fighting appliances and equipment are

deployed/ commissioned as per the requirements/ norms laid down by SFAC, Union Ministry of Home Affairs, which promptly and efficiently responds to each and every fire call.

It is because of such effective, prompt, efficient response and continuous fire safety awareness programmes being conducted regularly since August, 2022 that the number of fire incidents decreased by 23% in 2023 as against the fire incidents in the corresponding year 2022 besides saving precious lives and public property worth crores,

adddedthe rebuttal. Moreover, it said that so far the department has conducted about 4636 fire safety awareness programmes in which 593449 persons have been imparted first aid fire safety training to act as first responders in case of any emergency.

To upgrade efficiency and further strengthen the capability of Fire & Emergency Services in J&K, the department has shown the further requirement of 100 Fire Tenders to upgrade and enhance the existing fleet, the statement added.

## CEO flags off mega bicycle SVEEP rally at Budgam

**BUDGAM, MAY 06** : Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K, Pandurang K Pole today flagged off a mega bicycle rally under SVEEP at Sports Stadium Budgam.

District Election Officer (DEO), Budgam, Akshay Labroo and SSP Budgam, Nikhil Borkar were also present on the occasion. The rally participated by hundreds of school going children raised awareness on right to exercise franchise.

The participants carried ply cards pasted on their backs, and loud speakers mounted vehicles generated awareness on importance of voting.

The rally passed through main road Budgam and culminated a Mirgund Chowk. Later, CEO also chaired a

SVEEP programme at Sheikh-Ul-Alam Degree College Budgam.



Speaking on the occasion, Pandurang K Pole highlighted the importance of voting

and said that every vote matters and it is a finger on the EVM which decides the

future. The CEO urged young voters to ensure their partici-

partion in elections for strengthening of democracy and exercise their right to franchise during the ensuing elections. Pandurang K Pole called for encouragement of other eligible voters and ensure every voter casts his/her vote during elections.

Earlier, CEO also launched a plantation drive under SVEEP at the college. DEO Budgam, while speaking on the occasion, said that youth participation in election is important for democratic strengthening.

Various students and renowned artists performed during the SVEEP programme for awareness generation on importance of voting. SSP Budgam, Nikhil Borkar, CEO, Principal SAM GDC were also present on the occasion.

## DC Doda reviews Revenue Department's Public Services, Land Management

**DODA, MAY 06** : Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, on Monday chaired a meeting of the Revenue Department to review the status of public services in the district.

The meeting, held in the conference hall of the DC Office Complex, focused on several critical areas, including tehsil-wise status of mutations, jama bandhi, demarcations, aks, garduri, attestations, and farad status. He sought meticulous details from revenue officials of tehsil Doda, Gundoh, Khara, Gundna, Chilly Pingal, Thathri, Bhella, Bhalla, Cherralla, and Assar.

ACR, Sunil Bhutyal, presented a detailed overview of the revenue matters. Discussions included the digitization status of revenue records. It was informed that

354 out of 400 masavies have been digitized across the district. The meeting also



reviewed the status of the auto-appeal portal and online services for the public. The DC directed tehsildars to ensure proper utilization of funds and encouraged coordination with SDMs and

ACDs for effective execution of revenue-related tasks. Another key focus was

eviction of encroachment on state land in the tehsils. The DC directed tehsildars to ensure that encroachment on state land, especially along nallas and large drains, is stopped to prevent natural

calamities like floods.

The DC set a two-week deadline for retrieving encroached state land and mandated regular updates at subsequent meetings.

The meeting also addressed the status of Change of Land Use (CLU) cases, industrial land requirements, and the implementation of the e-office process in tehsils. The DC urged weekly meetings to monitor CLU cases and directed that e-office implementation be completed within a stipulated time frame.

The meeting was attended by ADC Doda, Sudershan Kumar, ADC Bhardwah, Sunil Kumar, and other key revenue officials, who discussed the importance of resolving pending cases and ensuring efficient land management across the district.