

# Zero votes polled in Kanyari Bandipora as residents boycott elections over unfulfilled promises

**Rayees Shah**

**BANDIPORA:** The entire village of Kanyari in the Hajin area of Bandipora is grappling with landlessness, a condition that has persisted for decades despite political promises. During the assembly elections held on Tuesday, the villagers recorded zero votes, boycotting the polls in protest against a decade of neglect and unfulfilled commitments from political parties. Frustrated by continuous disregard for their needs, residents accused politicians of only appearing during election campaigns and failing to deliver on their promises afterward. The community has long suffered from a lack of basic amenities, including proper road connectivity and access to clean water. "We are landless people, and political leaders only come



around during election time, making empty promises. Our village is still deprived of essential services, and we will not cast our votes until our issues are resolved," a resident expressed while speaking to The Earth news Mohammad Shafi, the Sarpanch of Kanyari, emphasized the ongoing struggle for land rights, referencing the "land for landless" scheme. "Since 1951, we have been

voting, with every political party promising us land as we are a landless community. We were given documents for five marlas of land under the land for landless scheme, but the application of land never happened. This time, the entire village has decided to boycott the elections," he stated, reflecting the deep-seated frustration over unfulfilled land commitments. Residents also highlight-

ed the impact of the 2014 floods, which exacerbated their plight. "We have been promised land after the floods, and we live in a flash flood-prone area, yet we are still awaiting the government's commitment to settle us in an alternative location. They don't allow us any construction, and they haven't provided us with an alternative site," another local resident lamented.

The villagers remain resolute in their decision to abstain from voting until their demands are addressed. They have called on higher authorities, including the Deputy Commissioner of Bandipora, to intervene and resolve their longstanding issues. "We urge the higher authorities to take immediate action and address our concerns," the villagers appealed, underscoring their determination for change. As the assembly elections unfold, the silence at the polling booths in Kanyari village speaks volumes about the community's disenfranchisement and the struggle for land and basic rights in rural areas of Kashmir. Boycotting the polls or exercising the right to vote may be a matter of choice in urban areas of Kashmir, but in the rural regions of the valley like Kanyari, it becomes a necessity.

# Archives Deptt facilitates visit of specially abled children to SPS Museum Srinagar

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** In a first of its kind initiative, the department of Archives, Archeology and Museum under the supervision of its Director, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today facilitated an extensive visit of specially abled children of Abhinandan Home to SPS Museum Srinagar to acquaint them with the rich cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir. The programme was themed around the tag line "I am Special" to make these children feel special and unique. The department organized the tour for nearly 120 children along with their staff and interpreters. The children and the staff of Abhinandan Home were provided with specially designed caps as a memorabilia with tag line printed on these 'I am Special'. The Director elaborated that the objective behind organizing this visit was to convey to the children that they are in no way lesser than a normal child but they have been gifted with special



virtues and qualities which makes them unique. The specially abled children presented a cultural programme by singing National Anthem in sign language and playing Rouf and song (Mere Papa) to the best of symphony without music or any beat but by simply listening to the beats and rhythms of their souls. It is also a message to the society and the parents to fully support, encourage

and handhold these children towards better future and the institutions associated to roll out special initiatives and programmes for such children. The Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K appreciated the efforts of the Principal and staff of Abhinandan Home in shaping these children in a wonderful manner and helping them to evolve their embedded qualities.

# DLSA Budgam advocates for Cleanliness, Swachh Bharat

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**BUDGAM:** In a remarkable display of commitment to the principles of cleanliness and sustainable living, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority spearheaded a stellar 'Swatchata Abhiyaan' at District Court Complex, Budgam. Under the leadership of Chairman DLSA, Budgam, O.P. Bhagat and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam, 'Swatchata Abhiyaan' witnessed enthusiastic participation of dedicated staff members of DLSA, Budgam, members of the Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), Penal Lawyers, devoted Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and diligent officials from the Municipal Committee Budgam.



The event commenced with an inspiring cleanliness drive within the District Court Complex Budgam, setting the tone for a cleaner and greener environment. Participants in a collective effort to clean and beautify their surroundings took up brooms to sweep away the debris of neglect, breathing new life into the surroundings. Speakers on the occasion emphasized that cleanliness is not just a virtue; it is a way of life. "It reflects our commitment to a healthier

and more sustainable future. This initiative is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our community and our unwavering commitment to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi", they said. The speakers also said that it is a reminder that the path to a cleaner and greener world begins with each one of us. "We must prioritize waste segregation and efficient management as part of our daily lives, for it is through these small steps that we can make an enormous impact," they added.

# Div Com reviews arrangements for Kashmir Marathon

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting here to review the arrangements for the historic Kashmir Marathon event. Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez; Commissioner, SMC, Dr Owais; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din; Director Floriculture, Saleem ul Rehman; Director Tourism, Raja Yaqoob; Director JKTCDC, Director Health Services Kashmir, SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic, officers of R&B, Sports Council, PHE besides Chewang Motup (Padma Shri Awardee) were present in the meeting. The meeting held threadbare discussion on the arrangements at the Starting & Closing venue of Marathon at Polo Ground, Sri-



nagar and along the route to facilitate participants. On the occasion, Div Com directed the health department to make comprehensive arrangements of critical care ambulances at

Polo Ground, deploy medical teams with necessary equipment at the venue and other stations along the route. Besides, he directed for a dedicated centre to be

established at SMHS Srinagar for the Marathon Day to cater serious medical emergencies and looping other adjacent health institutions. He also instructed LCMA & NDRF for deploy-

ment of water ambulances to remain prepared to provide medical assistance in exigency. He also exhorted the Director Tourism to involve the services of volunteers at different stations for the success of Kashmir Marathon. VC, LCMA was instructed to ensure operation of fountains while R&B and SSC departments were asked to ensure smooth & clean surface of the roads by filling up potholes, removal of debris and coloring of speed breakers. Div Com issued directions to KPDCL to ensure lighting of the venue and uninterrupted supply of electricity to ensure time reading devices and other equipment function glitch free. He instructed the Director Tourism for establishing the Control Room at TRC for effective communication and close coordination among different departments for the smooth conduct of Marathon.

# Gandhi Jayanti celebrations held at GDC Khansahib

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**BUDGAM:** On the eve of 'Gandhi Jayanti', which is also observed as the International Day of Non-Violence, the NSS unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Khansahib today organised a seminar on the theme 'Gandhism and the Contemporary World.' The program began with an introductory address presented by college Principal, Dr. Nargis Bano. She highlighted various techniques adopted by Gandhiji during his struggle against colonialism and racism. Dr. Sajad Padder, NSS Program Officer presented a paper on Gandhism and the Contemporary World. He spoke on the relevance of Gandhiji's teachings in dealing with the modern world problems. In his speech, he said, 'Gandhiji's influence transcends national boundaries. From the Dalai Lama to Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, all



of them employed Gandhian techniques in fighting against injustice and discrimination. Non-violence is not an act of cowardice but a weapon of the strong. In the Gandhian scheme of things there is no place for violence, prejudice,

hate or poverty". Dr. Abdul Waheed Bhat, HOD History, also threw light on Gandhian philosophy and urged the participants to read and understand Gandhi for a better tomorrow. Two college students, Mar-

sah Mohi-ud-Din and Mehro-ul-Nisa also spoke on non-violence and truth. The program ended with the vote of thanks presented by Prof. Waheed. No:-PR/DDI/SGR/24/2359/ DLSA Budgam for identifica-

tion of 'MACT & Matrimonial Cases' to be listed in Lok Adalat on October 19 BUDGAM, OCTOBER 01: As per plan of action/Lok-Adalat calendar for the year, 2024, issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authority Budgam is scheduled to conduct Lok-Adalat on 'MACT & Matrimonial Cases', on 19th of October, 2024 at District Court complex Budgam. The said Lok Adalat shall be held for amicable settlement of MACT & Matrimonial Cases, pending in the courts at various levels. In this connection, all concerned Ld. Advocates as well as persons/parties who desire to get their MACT & Matrimonial cases to be settled through the said Lok-Adalat may approach concerned courts, for referring their aforementioned nature of cases to the said Lok-Adalat for their amicable settlement by or before 14-10-2024.

# DEO Bandipora assesses facilities for smooth polling process

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**BANDIPORA:** The District Election Officer (DEO) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Harmeet Singh and Additional Deputy Commissioner Zaffar Husson Shawal, on Tuesday conducted an extensive visit to various polling stations of Bandipora and Sonawari Assembly Constituencies to assess the facilities available there. On the occasion, the DEO visited polling stations including Nowpora A&B, Ajar A&B, Kaloosa, Ayathmulla, Markundal, Naidkhai, Pink polling station Hajin, Blue polling station HS Bagh Bandipora and various others. The DEO assessed the facilities provided to both polling staff and voters, ensuring that all necessary arrangements were in place during



the polling besides overseeing the poll process. During the visit, the DEO took stock of the polling process, emphasizing the importance of a smooth and transparent electoral experience. He expressed his commitment to facilitating a fair election, highlighting that the well-being of voters and the effectiveness of poll staff are top priorities. He said that all arrangements have been made to facilitate smooth polling, in-

cluding the establishment of an integrated control room to monitor the electoral process through webcasting to ensure transparency and for immediate response to any challenge that may arise during polling day. The DEO also visited DCRC Sonawari and took stock of arrangements for receipt of EVMs and other polling material. The DEO was accompanied by DIO Bandipora and other concerned officers.

# DEO Srinagar imparts training to officials for counting Postal Votes

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The District Election Office Srinagar conducted an exhaustive training session for Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants and Micro-Observers on Tuesday whose services will be utilised for counting of Postal Votes in Srinagar which is scheduled on October 08, 2024(Tuesday). The training session was held on the directions of District Election Officer (DEO), Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex where Master Trainers carried out a detailed training sessions to prepare skilled and competent manpower for the counting of Postal Votes for



eight Assembly Constituencies in Srinagar. During the sessions, the participating employees were taken through sensory training particularly on procedure and safety measures to be taken during the process of counting of Postal Votes. In addition to this, they were also trained how to handle emergencies, maintain discipline and to address issues of security and privacy on the day of

counting. Coordinator Trainings, Dr. Manzoor Reshi, while delivering his session, stressed on strictly following the rules and procedures established by the Election Commission of India (ECI) during the counting of Postal Votes in district Srinagar. While dividing the participants in different groups, a Mock Exercise was conducted for counting ETBPS/Postal Votes, visualising the

entire process of counting Postal Votes. The employees were also oriented towards holding free and fair counting while strictly following the on-going Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in the district. The employees were also given instructions for effectively managing and handling Postal Voting Documents and other Stationary items for transparent counting of votes.

# GCOE celebrates Gandhi Jayanti

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** In a series of vibrant events, Government College of Education (GCOE), M.A. Road, Srinagar celebrated the 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, marked as Gandhi Jayanti with a grand Declaration Contest, an On-Spot Painting Competition, and Quiz Competition. Organized by the Nodal Principal for Kashmir Division Colleges, these activities honored Gandhi's legacy and explored the relevance of his philosophy in today's world. The day began with a Declaration Contest, held in the college's auditorium, centered on the theme, 'Truth and Non-Violence: Relevance of Gandhian Philosophy in Contemporary Times.' The contest brought together top orators from various colleges, who had previously secured first-place positions in their respective lead college

competitions. The event was inaugurated by the Nodal Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, who emphasized the relevance of Gandhian principles in addressing modern challenges such as conflict, inequality, and environmental degradation. The chief guest, Prof. (Dr.) Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Director of Colleges, encouraged the youth to uphold Gandhi's teachings of truth and non-violence in their lives. Participants eloquently highlighted how Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence continues to inspire modern movements for justice and civil rights, while others reflected on the significance of truth in today's era of misinformation. The judging panel, comprising distinguished professors from various institutions, selected the top three winners: Ayaan Aijaz from GDC Boys Anantnag, Amana Muzaffar from A. S. College, Srinagar, and Seerat Bhat from GDC Boys Baramulla.

**CHOUBARSI**

*Your guidance and love keeps lighting up our lives*

**Choubarsi of our beloved Late Smt. Sudesh Devi will be Performed on Thursday 3rd of October 2024 at Satya Narayan Mandir Near Kol Kandoli, Nagrota**

**Shej : 12:00 PM**  
**Priti Bhoj : 2:00 PM ONWARDS**

**Deeply Remembered By :**

Sh. Girdhar Lal Sharma (Husband)	8493874074
Sh. Acharya Govind Ram (Son)	7006931191
Sh. Mannohan Sharma & Smt. Pooja Sharma (Son & Daughter-in-Law)	9906099937
Aash & Tanay Sharma (Grand Son) and All Family Members.	