

Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



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More News and Analyses



The newlyweds making the right start by availing their democratic right to ensure a prosperous future.

Accompanied by his friends, dressed in traditional attires, a groom decked up in sherwani and colourful headgear was among the first to cast his vote at a polling booth in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur as the first phase of the Lok Sabha election began on 19 April.

Polling started at 7am amid inclement weather conditions in the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency, spread over the five districts of Udhampur, Kathua, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar.

The groom got married close to the election date and soon afterwards exercised his right to vote at a polling booth set up on the premises of the Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes Development Corporation Limited in Udhampur town.

He insisted: "Voting is our right and must be done on priority." He requested voters to come out in large numbers. Meanwhile, another newly married couple, Sahil and Radhika turned up in wedding costumes at a polling station in a school at Udhampur.

"We got married yesterday and I told my husband that we should vote. My vote is not here but I accompanied him," the bride said. – PTI

EMPOWERMENT SECTION

FIRST TIMERS, NEWLY WEDS BECOME EARLY VOTERS

RAJOURI JUDGE: PARENTS' PRIDE



Bhawana Kesar, a tailor's daughter, has become the first female judge from the Rajouri District after clearing the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service (Judicial) Examination.

Kesar expressed her elation after achieving this milestone – 'It is a matter of happiness for my parents that their daughter has come so far. I hope to be an inspiration for others, going forward.'

She added, 'I am delighted that my dream to clear the civil service (judicial) exam has come true...My parents worked very hard to support my studies. It didn't matter that my father is a tailor and my mother a homemaker, as they supported me every step of the way.' — Financial Express



EDUCATION SECTION

ARAGAM; INDIA'S LARGEST BOOK VILLAGE

REVIVING TRIBAL TRADITIONS

Aragam village (Bandipore District), situated on the banks of Wular Lake (Asia's largest freshwater Lake) has been transformed into a book village due to collaborative effort between Sarhad, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Pune and the government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The NGO designated Aragam as a book village a few months ago. This is a spectacular milestone for a remote village occupied by tribal families, historically lacking educational opportunities.

Now, several houses in the area display books on diverse subjects, making the village an attractive destination for those travelling there to study and gain knowledge.

Siraj Uddin Khan, a doctorate student, has been instrumental in the transformation of a remote village to a book village.

Khan carried out a door-to-door campaign to make this initiative come to life.

Anwar Ahmed (the village head of Aragam) has acknowledged Khan's immense contribution to the overall project. — *Frontline*



GIRLS LEARN TO DESIGN GUJJAR DRESSES

Young girls from the Gujjar tribe of the Aragam village, Bandipore, are learning their traditional Gujjar style of fashion design in large numbers, mastering the art of Sozni – embroidery, knitting and tailoring — and making handmade exquisite jewelry. Graduates use different kinds of needles, knitting sweaters, socks and caps.

The Gujjar population of J&K speak the Gojri dialect and mostly lies in hilly areas across the Union Territory. — *AWAZ*



TOURISM SECTION

FORMULA F4 CAR SHOW LEAVES FANS AWESTRUCK

MOST SCENIC CIRCUIT IN WORLD

On 17 March 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi showered praise on the first-ever Formula-4 car racing event.

He tweeted ‘This is very heartening to see. It will help further showcase the beauty of Jammu and Kashmir. India offers great opportunities for motorsports to thrive and Srinagar is right on top of the places where it can happen!’

This historical event was a 11.7kilometre race from Lalit Ghat to Nehru Park in Srinagar. It aimed to promote tourism. Authorities had levelled the racing surface, black-topped the potholes, installed security barricades, deployed medical teams with ambulances, fire extinguishers and secured the event through drone surveillance.

The race was organised under the guidance of the Tourism Department and in collaboration with the Indian Racing League and Formula-4.

Several professional Forumula-4 drivers performed stunts, interacted with fans and encouraged those who expressed their desire to establish an illustrious career in areas such as Formula car racing.

According to the event organisers, this event celebrates resilience and unity. – India TV News



Locals in Srinagar were treated to a memorable racing show on March 17. Supercars zoomed past awestruck fans during the first ever Formula 4 racing event. The Boulevard road at the foothills of the Zabarwan mountain range is one of the most scenic circuits in the world.