## 27 year of publication KASHMIR OBSERVER

Saturday 20 April 2024 | Srinagar | Vol: 27 | Issue: 93 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

Sabha elections.

bly polls.'

"We voted for develop-

ment, security, and for

employment generation. These issues will also re-

verberate during assem-

Jammu and Kashmir is

presently run by the Lt

Governor-led adminis-

tration after the PDP-BJP

The Union Territory of

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#### Agencies

Srinagar: Rains lashed plains of Kashmir while higher reaches received fresh snowfall for the second straight day on Friday. The downpour brought the mercury down in the valley while the weatherman has predicted an improvement in the weather conditions from Friday night.

Several higher reaches including Sadhna Top, Pir Ki Gali, Zo-jila, Sinthan Top, Razdan Pass and Tulail in Gurez received fresh snowfall while the plains summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir, were lashed by the intermittent rainfall. Although the weather

conditions are expected to improve gradually from Friday night, Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Khan said that the possibility of rains at scattered places on April 20 cannot be

ruled out. From April 21-25, he said the weather is expected to remain generally dry while the possibility of afternoon thundershower | More on P6

#### National Highway Closed

ammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside vorld, was blocked due to mudslide at Mehad, Ramban and shooting stones at Kishtwari Pather, Banihal, officials said. Earlier the | More on P6

#### Woman Dies In House Collapse

50-year-old woman died after her 'Kotha' (mud house) collapsed due to a mudslide in Kokernag belt of South Kashmir's Anantnag on Friday. An official said that a mudslide, caused by incessant rains at Takiya Magam, Kokernag, damaged a Kotha belonging to Abdul Hamid, son of Abdul Rehman Ahanger. During the incident, | More on P6

### Overstaying In Govt Accommodations **Eviction Notices Issued**

# Udhampur LS Seat Witnesses High Voter Turnout Voters Call For State Polls Before Sep 30

#### **Press Trust Of India**

Udhampur: In the first major electoral battle in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, the Udhampur constituency witnessed enthusiastic voters' participation as the seven-phase Lok Sabha polls began Friday. The electors said they now want assembly polls to be held before the September 30 deadline

set by the Supreme Court. The Udhampur constituency recorded more than 65.08 percent voting till 5 pm, with officials saying the final turnout figures would be higher as data from remote locations and ballot papers

are compiled. "People voted with enthusiasm despite pouring rain. And you will see the enthusiasm reaching its crescendo during the much-awaited assembly elections," said Satosh

Bandari, a voter from the

Kishtwar, appealing to the June, 2018 with the national party pulling out of the alliance. The last Election Commission to announce assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir afassembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were ter the completion of Lok

held in 2014. While the voters mostly talked about the issues related to their rights, de-velopment and national agenda, they also listed out certain demands: restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, holding of assembly elections, as well as Urban More on P6



#### 'Silent Village' Votes **For Special School**

he residents of Dhadkahi, known as the "silent village" in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district due to its large deaf-anddumb population, exercised their right to vote in the Lok Sabha polls on Friday in the hope of getting basic amenities, such as roads, water, healthcare facilities and education. "We have voted to garner support for our long-standing | More on P6

#### Women Throng 'Pink Booths'

mid multi-tier security arrangements, 'Nari Shakti' A (women power) was on display at the all-women staffed booths known as 'pink booths', in the Doda district of the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency. These 'pink booths' attracted more women voters, especially from the Muslim community. As polling began this morning, a large number of | More on P6

ANANTNAG-**RAJOURI LS SEAT 25 Candidates File Nominations** 

#### **Press Trust Of India**

Srinagar: A total of 25 candidates have submitted nomination papers from Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency, which will go to polls on May 7, officials said on Friday. "A total of 28 nomination pa-

pers have been received. Three candidates have submitted two nomination papers each, so we have 25 candidates," Anantnag Deputy Commissioner Syed Fakhruddin, who is the returning officer of the constituency, said.

He said the scrutiny of the nomination papers will be done on Saturday. April 22 is the last date for withdrawal of nominations.

The allotment of poll symbols will be done on April 23, Fakhruddin said.

The key candidates from the constituency are former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti, se-nior National Conference (NC) leader Mian Altaf, Zaffar Iqbal Manhas of the Apni Party and Mohammad Saleem Parray of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP).

There are also candidates from smaller political parties and several | More on P6

### PDP Releases Manifesto For LS Polls **Will Become Voice Of J&K, If Elected: Mufti**

#### **Press Trust Of India**

Srinagar: People's Democratic Party (PDP) candidates, if elected, will raise the issues of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and become their voice in the Parliament, party chief Mehbooba Mufti said here on Friday. Mufti made the remarks at

a press conference at the party



headquarters while releasing the | More on P6

'Unilateral Decisions In Kashmir

eople's Democratic Party president Mehbooba said that the main purpose of the PDP to seek votes is to tell the country through parliament that



## **To 42 J&K Politicians**

#### Agencies

The Estates Srinagar: Department of Jammu and Kashmir has issued showcauses notices of eviction to 42 political figures. The department issued these notices on the directions of the Court.

These politicians continued to occupy the Government bungalows, even after being directed by the Estates Department to de-occupy them.

The Estates Department evicted hundreds of people mostly working journalists from their quarters but failed miserably to evict influential politicians both in Kashmir and Jammu.

After the abrogation of Article 370, some media houses were rendered office-less by the Estates Department.

Some of the political and social figures as per the news

agency Kashmir News Trust who have been issued show cause notices include Ghulam Nabi Azad, Muzaffar Hussain Beigh, Kavinder Gupta, Sajjad Gani Lone, Moulvi Imran Raza Ansari, Sat Sharma, G.M. Saroori, Sunil Sharma, Abdul Gani Vakil, Abdul Majid Padder, Hakeem Muhammad Yasin, Ravinder Raina, R.S. Pathania, Sharma, Vibodh Pardeep Gupta, Daleep Singh Parihar, Ravinder Sharma, Neelam Langeh, Shoaib Nabi Lone, Haji Abdul Rashid, MS Panditpuri, Raja Manzoor, Nizam-u-Din Bhat, Mir Muhammad Fayaz, Zafar Igbal Manhas, Abdul Rahim Rather, Bashir Ahmed Dar, Muhammad Amin Bhat, Sofi Yousaf, M.Y. Tarigami, Yasir Reshi, Surinder Ambardar, Muhammad Abbas Wani,

Shafiq Mir, Shilpi Verma, Tariq IGP



## **SRINAGAR BOAT TRAGEDY Day 4: Frantic Searches** For Missing Amid Pouring Rain

**M** Ahmad

#### Agencies

Efforts

Srinagar: Despite incessant rains and wet weather conditions, the rescue operation to retrieve the missing bodies of three persons enters its fifth day with unwavering efforts from rescue agencies and local volunteers. The three missing persons

include Showkat Ahmad, who sacrificed his life to save his son, Haziq Showkat, and another minor boy, Farhan Parray. Reports said that despite the challenging weather, civilian volunteers, rescue teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Indian Army's MARCOS were tirelessly

continuing the operation in the Jehlum waters. As of now, no traces of the missing individuals have been found, they said. Abdul Rashid, ASI SDRF, said the efforts to retrieve the bodies continue despite the adverse weather conditions. "It has been raining since yesterday, and we are continuing our searches to locate | More on P6

nspector General of Police V.K Birdi on Friday said that all efforts are underway All Possible to recover the three persons gone missing after a boat capsize incident here on Tuesday. Birdi, talking to the media, said that the search operation is continuing amid inclement weather conditions. "All efforts are being made to recover the **Underway:** three missing bodies to bring respite to the grieving families," Birdi said. "Nothing new can be said as of now given as we continue to look for the | More on P6

Srinagar: The High Court of

J&K and Ladakh has closed a

public interest litigation (PIL)

concerning potential pollution

of Bonar Nallah. This tributary

of the Jhelum River receives

water discharged from the

Kishanganga power project before flowing into Wular Lake

in Bandipora district of north

with the law to ensure that no

environmental damage has

Pollution Of Bonar Nallah Due To KGHP

what BJP did in 2019 is not acceptable. Unacceptable' Addressing an election | More on P6

### **Gujjars, Bakarwals Move HC Against Pahari Inclusion In ST**

#### Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: A group of activists from the Gujjar and Bakarwal community has filed a writ petition before the

High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh against the government for granting the tribal status of Paharis and other communities in Jammu & Kashmir.

In February this year, the Lok Sabha, passed the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023,

granting scheduled tribe status to the community. The bill provides reservation in jobs, educational institutions. A month later, the LG admin-

istration approved 10% reservation for them and added 15 new castes in the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The move was seen as an attempt to please the community ahead of Lok Sabha

elections. The Gujjar and Bakarwal community are up in arms against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led government for | More on P6

## **J&K Govt Proposes DA Hike For Employees, Pensioners**

Ahmed Keen,

Seeks Election **Commission's Approval** 

#### Agencies

Srinagar: In a proactive move aimed at fortifying the wellbeing of government employees and pensioners/family pensioners across Jammu and Kashmir, General Administration the Department has initiated a concerted effort by submitting a proposal to the Chief Electoral Officer.

The proposal seeks approval from the Election Commission of India for a significant revision in Dearness Allowance (DA) rates, with the intention of enhancing them from the current 46% to 50% of basic pay/basic pension,



recent developments in central government policies, wherein Dearness Allowance rates for central government employees have been increased, as indicated by the Office Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Finance. In light of these developments, the Jammu and Kashmir administration is keen on aligning its policies to ensure parity and equitable treatment for its employees.

As per the letter, the proposal, with a projected annual financial implication of 626.88 crore, underwent meticulous scrutiny and discussion in a Screening Committee meeting.

Recognizing the significance

pecially considering the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and the subsequent enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, the department has deemed it imperative to seek guidance and approval from the Election Commission of India. | More on P6

Kashmir. However, a division bench of of timely implementation, es-Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi made it "clear" that Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Board "will undertake necessary steps in accordance



**HC Orders Strict Monitoring For Environmental Damage** 

occurred, and if any damage has occurred, the relevant authorities will take appropriate steps and actions as required by law.

"In the absence of any specific denial or material indicating a breach of environmental safeguards, we do not deem it

necessary to continue with this PIL and accordingly, the same is closed," the court said while hearing the PIL filed in 2020 regarding pollution of the Bonar Nallah at Chandagee by dumping construction material and other refuge on the embankments. The PIL had also sought the Court's direction to suitably compensate the residents of the project affected area whose residential houses got damaged due to blasting while constructing Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project (KGHP).

It had also sought court direction to the authorities concerned to engage the uneducated youth of the project affected area [Non land occupied] as they have been rendered without any source of livelihood.

"The contesting respondents, specifically respondent No. 2 (Chairman & Managing Director, NHPC) and respondent No. 7 (General Manager, NHPC), who have been assigned the task of construction of Kishanganga | More on P6



## KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>™</sup> | ∩ Srinagar | Saturday | 20-04-2024

## **'Comorbidities Contribute To Increased Expenditure On Drugs In Elderly Patients'**

Press Trust Of India

Iomorbidities, prolonged hospitalisation, inappropriate medicines, polypharmacy and parenteral medicines being prescribed contribute to increased expenditure on drugs in elderly patients, stated a study. The study titled 'Pharmacoeconomics of medicines used for geriatric individuals in a tertiary care hospital in Delhi', which was published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR) in February, stressed on the need for framing a drug policy for them along with a surveillance on spending on prescribed medicines in view of the rising number of geriatric inpatients.

The hospital-based observational study, which included 1,000 geriatric inpatients aged 60 years and above, was conducted in the Department of Medicine and Pharmacology, Maulana Azad Medical College and associated Lok Nayak Hospital, New Delhi.

Data were collected regarding demographic characteristics, prescribed medicines, expenditure incurred on medicines, appropriateness of medicines prescribed and adverse drug reactions (ADRs).

Geriatric inpatients comprised 41.3 per cent of the total individuals admitted in the ward during the study period.

A total of 8,366 medicines were prescribed in 127 formulations. The total expenditure on prescribed medicines was Rs 1,087,175 with a per capita expenditure of Rs 1,087.

Parenteral medicines accounted for 91 per cent of the expenditure on medicines. Maximum expenditure (70 per cent) was incurred on 11.9 per cent of the medicines prescribed. The per capita expenditure was significantly higher in individuals with comorbidities and those who had a longer duration of hospital stay, the study found.

About 28.1 per cent prescriptions were inappropriate. Also ADRs (140) were observed in 139 (13.9 per cent) inpatients. Individuals with inappropriate medicines prescriptions and ADRs had a longer duration of hospital stay and more number of



specific policies for healthcare, including medicines, are needed for the elderly. In this study, since most of the medicines were provided free by the hospital, the out of pocket (OOP) expenditure was fairly low 5.75 per cent) compared to that of some international studies where OOP expenditure on prescription medicines was higher (18 per cent), they said.

Individuals with gastrointestinal disorders had the highest per capita expenditure on medicines followed by those with genito-urinary disorders.

The National Health Policy 2017 recognised the healthcare needs of the rural geriatric population and specified that primary healthcare should include geriatric care.

Both the central and state governments have started social insurance schemes and government-based voluntary insurance

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The world's largest social insurance launched by the Government of India as part of Ayushman Bharat is Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in 2018. In this scheme, all families belonging to the poorest, lowest 40 per cent of the population are eligible to get a benefit of up to Rs five lakh each family per year for secondary and tertiary care.

Ayushman Bharat replaced two earlier schemes: the centrally funded Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and the Senior Citizens Health Insurance Scheme (2016). The disaggregated data about these and other social insurance schemes, especially with regard to the geriatric population, are not available, they said.

They stated that in the absence of data, t is difficult to comment on the impact of the benefits of these schemes on the geriatric population.

(in Rs)

300

Yatra

افس آف دی ایکزیکٹومجسٹریٹ درجہاول بخصیل واگورہ

افس آف دی ایکریکٹومجسٹریٹ درجہاول بخصیل واگورہ

فيظاحمه ملك ولدمحمه سلطان ملك ساكه موضع والكلخ ضيل واكور ضلع باره مولد كےاوالدان ماد به حفيظ كي

ريخ پيدايش 2014-60-09اورڅمد كفايت ملك كې تاريخ پيدائش 2018-11-21 جاب

ے اپنے اولا دان کی پیدائش سرٹفکیٹ نکانی مطلوب ہے اگر کسی شخص یا شخاص کوکوئی عذریا اعتراض

وتو دہ سات یوم کے اندر پیش کرے معیاد گزرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگاہ۔

باره بيجم دختر محدر مضان شاه ساكنة تكبيروا كورة ضلع باره موله كاوالدمحد رامضان شاه ولد لال شاه ساكنة تكبير

اگورہ مورخہ 1991-05-04 کوفوت ہواہے اب اس کی ڈیتھ (Death) سرتفکیک نکانی

طلوب ب الرکش شخص بااشخاص کوکوئی عذر بااعتراض ہوتو وہ سات یوم کے اندر BDO افس

اِگورہ انتخصیل افس واگورہ میں پیش کرے معیاد گزرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں

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Ŵhat is available is that the house-

holds' share, including insurance contributions, constitutes 71 per cent (Rs 320,262 crore) of the current health expenditure (CHE) share. Moreover, the total pharmaceutical expenditure is 37.9 per cent of the CHE," they said.

"In view of the above, a multi-pronged strategy is required to take care of the health and, specifically, medicine needs of geriatric patients. Financial aid through enhanced pension schemes, social insurance schemes, access to low cost, quality essential medicines is one such multi-component approach.

"A drug policy specifically focussing on geriatric pharmacotherapy would take care of the medicine needs as well as costs for the rising number of geriatric individuals," the researchers said.

The researchers recommended a drug policy with special considerations for geriatric individuals be formulated, healthcare providers be made aware of rational prescribing for the elderly, a system for monitoring drug use with an economic assessment of the same be put in place in the public health systems and pharmacovigiance for monitoring of ADRs in the elderly.

As per census 2011, India is home to almost 100 million people over 60 years comprising the geriatric age.

The share of India's geriatric population is projected to increase to 19 per cent of the global geriatric population by 2050, almost 300 million in number according to the United Nations Population Division. Most patients in this age group have comorbidities requiring multiple medicines, the study said.

Healthcare costs are of particular concern for the elderly population who may be economically dependent and physically less able. It has been estimated that the healthcare costs alone put approximately 63 million people at risk of poverty every year. It has been observed that households with elderly family members spend 3.8 times more on health than families with no elderly persons.

It has been projected that by 2030, 45 per cent of healthcare burden will be borne by the elderly in India.



### **2nd Anniversary Of**



Qula nafsin Zai-e- Katul Mout (Every soul has to taste of death.) It is heard to believe that a year has passed since you left us all alone. Nazia Hassan, D/o Ghulam Hassan Bhat of latiwaza Lar, ganderballeft for heavenly abode on April, 2022 (17th Ramzanul Mubarak). The bereaved family is in deep shock as the departed soul was so young to die, but death keeps no calander and every sol has to taste death one day.Your death has left a void in our family which is difficult to fill and impossible to forget. Your parents have always been thinking about you and talking about your good and friendly nature. There is hardly any time when your parents does not had missed you, dearly Nazia we know you are in heaven with the highest place and you will be enjoying he bountries of almighty Allahin paradise. We still pray Subhana wa talllah decorate your aakhrikah in the highest ranks of jannah. On your first anniversary we pray to almighty allah toprovide you highest standards and levels in the janat-ul-firdous and give your parents, brother, sister and all nears and dears the patience to bear the ire-placeable loss of your separation.

Family Members Gh Hassan Bhat, Taja, Nazir Áhmad, Rayees Ahmad, Haleema inf

#### **Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class**

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

#### **Public Notice**

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Jannat Binti Ismail D/o Mohamad Ismail Mir R/o Jamia Mohalla Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with vertified date of event (birth) as 21-06-2021 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. Executive Magistrate 1st Class fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no: 0212040000673 from my father's name Abdul Aziz Rather S/o Mohd Subhan Rather R/o New Colony Wagoora to my name Mohd Assadullah Rather S/o Abdul Aziz Rather R/o Wagoora as my father Abdul Aziz had passed away . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the PDD Sub Division Wagoora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohd Assadullah Rather S/o Abdul Aziz Rather

kri

ز نیابت پلہا کن منوان:۔ درخواست منجانب فاضل نورالدین ولدنورالدین تا نتر ےساکنہ پلہالن تا نتر ے پورہ سبت اجرائي EWS سرڤنيکيٹ اشتهار هرخاص وعام

Union Territory Of Jammu And Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Division Qazigund Email: qazigund phedivision@gmail.com(Phone No./Fax No. 01931-295040)						Office Of Advocate Yakoob Hussain Sofi J&K High Court Srinagar CHAMBER NO. 07 MUNSIFF/JMFC AT BUDGAM Cell No. 9906517553,9419068005 In the case of. 1. Showkat Ahmad Wani S/o Ghulam Mohi ud din Wani R/O Lalpora Beerwah tehsil Beerwah.		
YATRA 2	024-25 E-NITNo.01 OF2024-24dt.18.04.2024,issu	edunderNo/PHEQ/190-210	) Date:18	.04.2024			2. Bashir Ahmad Sheikh S/o Mohammd Sultan Sheikh . R/o Hazarpora Aripanthan Tehsil Beerwah. Caveator	
fromrep	on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territor utedandresourcefulBidders/Firms/Companies/ of all clas ntioned below: -						V/S Public At Large Non-Caveators IN THE MATTER OF: Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A of C.P.C. The Caveaters have reasons to believe (apprehension that period	ſ
SL No	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs Time of in Lacs comple-		Class of Contrac-	M.H	Cost of Tender doc.	Caveators have reasons to believe/apprehension that non- Caveator (s) may file a suit/application/petition or any other type of proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court, District	

	at base Camp Walnut Factory Levdoora Qazigund during vatra under SANJAY 2024-25						
2	Stabilization of RWM of WSS MalporaMangalporaBrawrie feeding transit camp at FCI Godown Mir-Bazar and con- struction of approach road leading to Service reservior- Tankipora during vatra under SANJAY 2024-25	13.861	30 days	41583	CEE/DEE	Yatra	800
3	Drilling of 125mm dia Tube wells for security establish- ments inside Migrant Colony Vessu as an alternate arrange- ments including harnessing arrangements all complete PHE Division Oazigund (Under Sanjay 2024-25)	14.99 -	15 days	44970	CEE/DEE	Yatra	800
4	Providing water supply facilities to Shri Amarnath JiYatries at base Camp FCI Godown MirBazar during the year 2024 SANJAY 2024-25	7.91	15 days	23730	DEE/CEE	Yatra	500
5	Construction of 0.05 lac gallons RCC Sump at Lower Munda for security establishments during yatra under SANJAY 2024-25	2.835	15 days	8505	DEE	Yatra	300

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmentalwebsitewww.iktenders.gov. inasper scheduleofdatesgiven below.

Critical dates : 10.

01	Date of Issue / Uploading of Tender Notice.	19.04.2024
02	Start of Downloading	19.04.2024
03	Bid Submission Start Date	19.04.2024
04	Bid submission end date	29-04-2024 4.00PM
05	Date & time of opening Bids(online)	30.04.2024 10.00AM
	(-141/24 d: 19-04-2024	Executive Engineer, J.S PHE Division Qazigund

نائب تحصلدار

نائب تحصلدا

dated: 19-04-2024

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Providing water supply facilities to Shri AmarnathJiYatries 3.927

It is for the information of general public that My Motorcycle bearing Regd no: JK07BU 8665 was stolen Opposite District Hospital Shopian . If anybody has any information regarding the said motor cycle he is requested to share information on below given address Zubair Ahmad Malik S/o Mohd Yaseen Malik R/o Sidiqabad Shahlatoo Meemandar Shopian Cell: 9797051510 FKO

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no: 0212040008685 from my father's name Abdul Sadiq Rather S/o Lassa Rather to my name Abdul Qayoom Rather S/o Sadiq Rather R/o Shimlaran Tehsil Wagoora as my father Sadiq Rather had passed away on 05-03-2024. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the PDD Sub Division Wagoora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Abdul Qayoom Rather kri S/o Sadig Rather R/o Shimlaran Tehsil Wagoora

caveators and in such eventuality. the caveators will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveatorsmay be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any other or direction. Seal & Signature

Courts, Revenue Courts or any other forum may succeed in

obtaining some relief/order at her back/ex-parte against the

bmg Yakoob Hussain Soft

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/o Wagoora Baramulla is applying for upgrade Contractor Card BEE class in the office of chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Kashmir. Any person having objection in this regard may please submit it in the office of Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood control Kashmir within seven days after that no objection shall be entertained.

> از نیابت شانلس پٹواری حلقہ نو گام جناب عالى

ی میں حکم راض یوں ہے کہ سائل/سائلہ سمیرہ پاسین دختر عبدالرشید بٹ ساکنہ لوُٹھہریتی کپہاؤخصیل شانکس ضلع اننت ناگ نے درخواست بایت حصول RBA دی ہوئی ہے۔اس بارے میں بعد تحقیقات پایا گیا ہے کہ سائل (سائلہ کا کنبہ پندرہ سالوں سے دھ ہذا میں راہائش پذیر ہے پیچھیے پندرہ سالوں سے سی بھی افراد کنبہ نے دھ ہذا سے تا حال ترک سکونت اختیار نہیں کی ہے سائل اِسائلہ کے کنبے کی ذات بروئے ریو نیور یکارٹر بٹ ذات ۔۔۔ اندراج ' ہے تا حال کسی بھی ریکارٹر میں تبریلی ذات نہیں کی ہےسائل اسائلہ کے کنبہ کی تفصیل بذیل ہے۔

تمبرشار	نام وولديت	عمر سال	پېشه	آمدني مهواره		
1	گل محمد بٹ	56	سرکاری ملازم	LPC		
2	عبدالرشيد بث	28-مال	مزدوری	4000		
3	ارشاداحمه بث	27	مزدوری	4000		
4	نبفه بيكم	54	گھریلوکام			
5	سميره ياسين	29-يال	,			
6	الفت زوجه ارشاداحمد	25	-			
7	محمه ظهمان ولدعبدالرشيد	60اه	شيرخوار			
8	محمد صيدولدار شاداحمد	ol5	1			

کنبہ زیر بحث کودھ ہذا میں رقبہ قعدادی سے موجود ہے جس سے کنبہ زیر بحث کی سالا ندآ مدنی LPC ہے اس طور سے کنبہ زیر بحث کی سالا ندآ مدنی مبلغ پندرہ ہزارہ پیہ تیک ہےاور غیر زرعی LPC روپیہ تک ہےاسطور سے سائل سمبرہ میاسین دختر عبدالرشید بٹ RBA سرٹفیکیٹ حاصل کرنے کاخواہاں ہے پس رپورٹ بغرض مزید کاروائی گزارش ہے۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک در داست بغرض حصول EWS سرٹفیکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیرکا روائی ہےاس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی پاہالن کا سکونت دار ہے اور والد سائل کا مکان رہایتی 26x19 وجود ہے جبکا کل احاط 494 مربد فٹ بنتا ہے اور صحن 19c18 جبکا کل 152 مربہ فٹ بنتا ہےا سکےعلواہ والد سائل کو دھر ہذا میں ایک کنال باغ خشکی موجود ہے کنبہ کی مہوارہ آمدنی 7800 تک ہے ۔ سرٹفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کہ اگر سی شخص کو کوئی عزریا ا متراض ہوتو وہ بعد مشتہرا خبارسات دن کے اندرا ندرآ پنے عذر پاعتر اض ودالت ھذا کودفتر ی ادقات کے دوران پیش کر س۔ بعد گز رے میعاد کو پی عذر ماعتر اض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصيلدار FKO

> از نیابت شانگس پٹواری حلقہ نوگام جناب عالى

ں یوں ہے کہ سائل/سائلہ اولیں یاسین ولد محمد یاسین بٹ ساکنہ صیل شانکس ضلع اثبت ناگ نے درخواست با پت حصول RBA ی ہوئی ہے۔اس بارے میں بعد تحقیقات پایا گیا ہے کہ سائل اسائلہ کا کنبہ سلسل رق ہری جن کا درخ سف جنہ کی جنہ ہیں۔ پندرہ سالوں سے دھ ہذا میں راہائش پذیر ہے چھلے پندرہ سالوں سے سی بھی افراد کنبہ نے دھ ہذا سے تاحال ترک سکونت اختدار نہیں کی ہے سائل اِسا کیلہ کے کنبے کی ذات بروئے ریونیور یکارٹر بٹ ذات سے اندراج ہے تاحال کسی بھی ریکارٹر میں تبدیلی ذات نہیں کی ہےسائل اسائلہ کے کنبہ کی تفصیل بذیل ہے۔

نمبرشار	نام وولديت	عمر سال	يبشهر	آمدنی مہوارہ
1	محمد یاسین بٹ	52	سرکاری ملازم	LPC
2	رياضه بانوز وجه محمر ياسين	50	گھریلوکام	-
3	روکی جان دختر محمد یاسین	26	زرتعليم	
4	راہی یاسین دختر محمہ یاسین	26	ز رتعلیم	
5	اوليس ياسين ولدمحمه ياسين	22	ز رتعلیم	

لنبه زیر بحث کوده مذامین رقبه تعدادی سے موجود ہےجس سے کنبه زیر بحث کی سالاندآ مدنی LPC ب اس طورت کنبه زیر بحث کی سالاندآ مدنی مبلغ دس لا کارو پیدتیک ہےاور غیر رعی LPCرو پی تک ہے اسطور سے سائل اولیں یاسین ولد محمد یا سین بٹ RBA روں ۲۰۰۲ دوچید بی روٹ وی کی جات ہے۔ سرٹیفید حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے کپن رپورٹ بغرض مزید کاروائی گزارش ہے۔ نائب بخصیلدار

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يوگاه۔



## KASHMIR OBSERVER | Srinagar | Saturday | 20-04-2024 U

## 324 Cases Of Crime **Against Women Registered** In Srinagar Since 2019

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: In the past more than five years, at least 324 cases of crime against women have been registered in district Srinagar.

According to the official figures available here, under the Crime against Women (CAW) head, at least 324 cases of crime against women have been registered in district Srinagar from 2019 to January-31-2024 including one dowry case in the year 2022.

This information was revealed by the Public Information Officer (PIO) in a reply to Right to Information (RTI) application filed by the activist M.M Shuja.

According to the official figures, in the past more than five years, the highest number of cases registered under

the Crime Against Women (CAW) head in Srinagar was in the year 2023 wherein at least 113 such cases have been registered.

Similarly, the lowest numbers of such cases in the region were registered in the year 2021.

The official figures reveal that in the year 2019 at least 48 cases of crime against women were registered in Srinagar under the crime head CAW followed by 47 cases in 2020. In the year 2021, at least 41 such cases registered in the region followed by 70 cases in 2022 and 113 in 2023.

It further reveals that in the first month of 2024; at least five cases of crime against women were registered in Srinagar under the crime head CAW—(KNO)



Due to the heavy traffic flow towards Tulip Garden, an ambulance transporting a patient was stranded in a massive traffic jam on Boulevard Road on Friday amidst rainfall. KO Photo by Abid Bhat

## Not Leopard, But Wild Cat Spotted In Zakura, Say Wildlife Authorities

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The wildlife department on Friday clarified that the animal spotted in Zakura area was wild cat (Felis chaus) and not leopard.

A senior wildlife official informed that the reports and CCTV footage suggest the presence of a leopard-like animal in the vicinity; a team was promptly dispatched to verify the claim during the night hours.

"After thorough spot verification and cross-checking of CCTV videos, it was established that the animal sighted in Bilal Colony Zakura was indeed a wild cat," the official confirmed.

The official stated that, furthermore, samples of the animal's pug marks were collected and compared with earlier recordings from Elahibagh area and that the analysis led to the conclusion that the same wild cat had been previously observed in Elahibagh and surrounding areas.

"It is now confirmed that there was no leopard in the area. Our observations indicate that this is the same wild cat. which has been roaming in the vicinity. We are taking measures to trap the animal by placing a cage," the official added.

The official said that the clarification by wildlife should end the panic in the area, urging residents to maintain caution always during morning and evening hours while venturing out-(KNO)

## **69 Militants Killed In Srinagar** In Five Years, Official Data Reveals

200 Odd Militants Arrested, No Killing In 2023

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: In the past more than five years, at least 69 militants have been killed in district Srinagar while more than 200 militants have been arrested in the area.

According to the official figures available here, at least 69 militants have been killed in district Srinagar from 2019 to January-31-2024 The official, however, said

that in the year 2023 and in the first month of 2024, no militant was killed in the district.

It further said that from 2019 to 2023, at least 204 militants were arrested. However, till the first month of 2024, no militant was arrested in district Srinagar.

HAPPY MILIND

#### **The official** figures reveal that in 2019 at least four militants were killed in Srinagar followed by 22 in 2020. In the year 2021, at least 24 militants were killed followed

This information was revealed by the Public Information Officer (PIO) of district police

Srinagar in a reply to Right to Information (RTI) application filed by the activist M M Shuja.

The official figures reveal that in 2019 at least four militants were killed in Srinagar followed by 22 in 2020. In the year 2021, at least 24 militants were killed followed by 19 militant killings in 2022. The official figures further reveal that in 2023 and till month end of January-2024, no militant was killed in Srinagar district.

According to official figures, from the year 2019 to 2022, the lowest number of killings of militants in Srinagar was in the vear 2019 and highest numbers of militants were killed in the year 2021-(KNO)



## **This Day In History**

- 1611 First known performance of Shakespeare's tragedy Macbeth at the Globe Theatre.
- London, recorded by Simon Forman
- 1650 Dutch East India Company (VOC) management sets new guidelines
- 1657 Battle in Santa Cruz Bay, Tenerife: English fleet under Robert Blake sinks Spanish silver fleet
- 1689 The former King James II of England, now deposed, lays siege to Derry
- 1702 Comet C/1702 H1 approaches within 0.0437 AUs of Earth
- 1792 France declares war on Austria, Prussia & Sardinia
- 1809 Napoleon I and French forces defeat Austria at Battle of Abensberg, Bavaria
- 1862 The first pasteurization test is completed by Frenchmen Louis Pasteur and ClaudeBernard. 1910 - Halley's Comet passes 29th recorded perihelion at 87.9 mn km
- 1915 The Armenians rise and seize the Turkish town of Van, which they hold until Russians
- relieve them on 19 May; thousands of Armenians are killed
- 1916 German-British sea battle off Belgian coast 1940 - 1st electron microscope demonstrated (RCA), Philadelphia, Pa
- 1958 Morocco demands departure of Spanish troops 1961 - American Harold Graham makes 1st rocket belt flight 1962 - NASA civilian pilot Neil Armstrong takes X-15 to 63,250 m 1965 - People's Republic China offers North Vietnam military aid 1967 - US Surveyor 3 lands on Moon 1967 - US planes bomb Haiphong for 1st time during Vietnam War 1968 - Pierre Trudeau sworn in as Canada's 15th **Prime Minister** 1972 - Apollo 16's Young & amp; Duke land on Moon with Boeing Lunar Rover #2 1983 - Soyuz T-8 launched; mission aborted when capsule fails to dock

## Bhartiya Krishak Samaj Holds **Maiden Meet In Srinagar**

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Bhartiya Krishak Samaj on Friday held its maiden meet

Krishak Samaj, M.Y Zargar said that the forum has been made with an aim to highlight the problems and issues of the farmer community.

by 19 militant killings in 2022

in Srinagar, the summer capital of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir Vice President, Bhartiya

He said that the forum demands uniform charges in cold storage houses and other issues.

		NORTHE	RN RAILWAY					
NOTICE INVITING TENDER								
	e Chief Medical Superintendent Northern Railway, Firozpur Cantt for and on the shalf of the President of India, invites tenders for the following work							
Name of Work			r for Local Purchase of medicines onal Railway hospital Firozpur (Pun					
Completion	Completion period      Two year from the Date of starting.        App. Cost of the work      Divisional railway hospital Firozpur Rs.57,00,000/- Per year							
App. Cost of t								
Earnest mor	ney		Rs.114000/-					
	ast date and time of submission 16.05.2024 up to 17.00 Hrs tender on IREPS portal							
Date of oper	ning		17.05.2024 at 11.00 Hrs					
No.43-Med/	Firm Reg	gistration/ FZF	R Dated:- 18/04/2024	,				
	SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1179/24							

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY** Azadi <sub>Ka</sub> **E-Tender Notice**

Dy.CE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites Open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-09.05.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. and closing date-09.05.2024 up to 17:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed agains Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

<u> </u>										
	Tender Type	Tendering Sec	tion	Bidding System						
	Open	GSU		Two packet system						
Date	of Uploading Tende	rs	Bid Starting D	)ate	Bid Closing Date/Time					
	.04.2024/ 11:51 Hrs. .04.2024/ 16:19 Hrs.	25.04.2024 25.04.2024		09.05.2024/ 15:00 Hrs. 09.05.2024/ 17:00 Hrs.						
S.No. Tender No. Details of Tender										
	OP-03-GSU-FZR- 2024-25	I ' '	gradation/Improvement of Anantnag Good Shed HL-BRML Section under ADEN/BAHL.							
1.	Advertised Value (Rs.) E		arnest Money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer Period of		Period of Completion				
	10,92,67,796.66/-		6,96,300/- 90		Days	08 Months				
	Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".									
	OP-04-GSU-FZR- 2024-25	ogradation/Improvement of Pampore AHL-BRML Section under ADEN/BA								
2.	Advertised Value (Rs.) E		arnest Money (Rs.)	Validit	y of Offer	Period of Completion				
	12,72,55,794.18/-		7,86,300/- 90		Days	08 Months				
	Similar Nature of w	han tracl	k work".							
Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.										
No.: Ol	No.: OP-03 & 04-GSU-FZR-2024-25 Date: 18.04.2024 1165/2024									
	SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE									

Aspire. Strive. Achieve HAPPY AND HEALTHY MINDS خوشحال اور صحت مند ذبن

> ہمارے پاس پیشہ ور اور تربیت یافتہ ماہرین کی ٹیم تجربہ کار ماہر نفسیات کی سربرایی میں مختلف اقسام کے نفسیاتی اور منشیات امراض سے چھٹکارہ پانے کے لیے سماج کے متاثرہ افراد کی مدد کے لیے دستیاب ہیں۔

درج ذیل ذینی صحت سے وابستہ مسائل پہ قابو پانے کے لیے رجوع فرمایئں:

ALEANT Y

- عصبانیت اور زهنی تناؤ کا درمان
- بھیانک حادثات اور واقعات کے بعد آنے والا ذھنی عارضات، مثلاً بدخوابی، شدید تشویش اور واقعات کے بارے میں قابو میں نہ ہونے والے خیالات ۔ (PTSD)
  - انفرادی ترقی اور مثبت تبدیلئ کی خاطر اپنے فیصلوں پر عملدرآمد کرنے کا عمل
    - اداسی کی کیفیت۔
    - ذبنی پریشانی کے آثار
    - منشیات کی لت پر قابو پانے کے لۓ مشاورت
    - خودکشی کے انتہائی اقدام سے روکنے کی مشاورت

مفت ذینی مشاورت کے لۓ پیر سے یفتہ، صبح 10 بجے سے شام 5 بجے تک رابطہ کریں۔



HPVT فارمیسی بلڈنگ، دوسری منزل -دریش کدل چوک، سری نگر، جموں و کشمیر

- 1983 Soyuz T-8 is launched (lands 2 days later)
- 1988 US accuses Renamo of killing 100,000 Mozambiguians
- 1993 Uranus passes Neptune (once every 171 years
- 1994 Serbian army bombs hospital in Goradze Bosnia, 47 killed•
- 1994 Sohail & amp; Inzamam make world record ODI partnership of 263

## From KO Archives 'Onus Both On India, Pak For Safe Bus Travel

#### **Observer News service**

EW DELHI - Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today said that it is the joint responsibility of India and Pakistan as also the local authorities on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) to ensure full security cover to passengers of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service.

"Notwithstanding the recent dastardly attempt to disturb the bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad by terrorists, the people of Jammu and Kashmir came out on the streets as one to welcome this gesture of reconciliation." he said addressing the Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security here.

"I hope the terrorists and extremists in the region have grasped the mood of the people and will not try to disturb this bus service again." he said.

Singh said it was the joint responsibility of the governments of India and Pakistan and the local authorities on both sides of the LoC to work together in providing full security to passengers.

(Kashmir Observer, 20 April, 2005)

Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com



## **Fragmented Politics**

As the Lok Sabha election campaign gains momentum in J&K, the once-united opposition finds itself fractured and scrambling to maintain relevance.

**RIYAZ WANI** 

## "

The NC's decision to contest the upcoming elections

independently, retaining its stronghold in the Kashmir Valley while extending support to Congress in Jammu, reveals a move to safeguard its traditional base. In response, the PDP has opted to vie for seats in the Valley, further fragmenting the opposition vote

espite the advancing parliament election campaign in Jammu and Kashmir, the atmosphere on the streets is shorn of any excitement. Most of the campaign is confined to social media and media interactions. There have been no major public rallies despite the apparent normalcy, nor have any of the issues that have been raised resonated with people. It is not that there aren't issues that concern people but the parties are choosing not to touch them. The reason may be that some of these are too hot to handle and could have personal consequences for the parties and the politicians. Instead, they are making do with the blame game and muck-raking against rivals, some dredging up decades-old history so as to avoid dealing with the present. Biggest current issue so far is the alleged support of the BJP to some parties and the latter's inability to dispel the impression.

People on their part remain largely indifferent, making it challenging to gauge their partiality towards any party. It has now been ages since Kashmir has witnessed a visible wave in favour of any party or a politician. The parties have mostly won for the simple reason of being the default option for the voters.

That said, the ongoing polls remain crucial for Kashmir: they are the first major electoral exercise being held following the repeal of Article 370 in 2019. And over the past five years, Kashmir has more or less altered beyond recognition in almost every aspect. Mainstream politics has transformed too, with not just new political actors emerging on the scene but its frame of reference has also changed. Many issues that they freely raised have become taboo. Similarly alliances forged in recent vears have come unstuck.

As the Lok Sabha election campaign gains momentum, the once-united opposition finds itself fractured and scrambling to maintain relevance. This fragmentation, coupled with the BJP's strategic maneuvering, presents a formidable advantage for the ruling party at the centre.

The unraveling of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), reflects the deep-seated divisions within the opposition ranks. Originally formed with the lofty goal of advocating for the restoration of Article 370, the PAGD has devolved into little more than a memory, with its constituent parties failing to even convene, let alone pursue their shared objectives. The National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), both integral members of the PAGD, have begun charting independent courses driven by their own political calculations - more so, the NC which was the first to announce candidates for the three parliamentary seats in the Valley.

The NC's decision to contest the upcoming elections independently, retaining its stronghold in the Kashmir Valley while extending support to Con-



gress in Jammu, reveals a move to safeguard its traditional base. In response, the PDP has opted to vie for seats in the Valley, further fragmenting the opposition vote. Also, smaller parties aligned with or perceived to be close to the BJP, such as the People's Conference, Apni Party, and Democratic Azad Party, have entered the fray, diluting the opposition's strength and inadvertently bolstering the BJP's electoral prospects.

Despite the absence of a visible wave of support for any party, including the BJP, in J&K, the saffron party stands to benefit from the opposition's disarray. The political landscape, stifled since the revocation of Article 370, has left little room for dissent or alternative narratives, playing into the BJP's narrative of unapologetic Hindutva. However, beneath the surface, simmering discontent persists, particularly in Jammu, where concerns over job losses, land rights, and identity loom large.

In Ladakh, the transition to union territory status has exacerbated feelings of alienation, with locals apprehensive about the influx of outsiders and the potential erosion of their cultural and economic autonomy. Figures like climate activist Sonam Wangchuk have emerged as voices of resistance, highlighting the need to safeguard Ladakh's rights. However, whether such grassroots movements will translate into electoral outcomes remains uncertain.

As heavyweight politicians like Dr Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, and Ghulam Nabi Azad vie for electoral success, the stakes are high not only for their respective parties but also for the broader political landscape of J&K. For Azad, in particular, the election presents an opportunity to resurrect a faltering political career, while for Mehbooba, it is a chance to stem the tide of desertions plaguing her party. Similarly, for the Abdullahs, the election is a test of their political dominance in the face of BJP's ascendency.

The fragmented opposition, internal discord within alliances, and the BJP's adept political maneuvering have combined to tilt the electoral scales in favor of the saffron party in Jammu and Kashmir. While discontent simmers beneath the surface, the lack of viable alternatives and the BJP's default advantage in Jammu division may prove decisive in shaping the outcome of the upcoming elections. As the political landscape continues to evolve, the only certainty is the uncertainty that pervades the region's electoral politics.

*Views expressed in the article are* the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer

ew Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party is expected to win a third consecutive term - but fall well short of its 'abki baar, 400 paar' target - in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, according to NDTV's poll of opinion polls.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance is expected to win 372 of the 543 contested seats, and the Congress-led INDIA could get 122, with the remaining 49 going to parties not allied with either side.

The predicted final result may not be a surprise, given the NDA - its charge led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a third consecutive time - is already seen by many as the clear winner, but the numbers suggest a narrowing of the gap between the ruling party and the opposition since 2019.

#### Health Warning: Opinion polls often get it wrong.

The 365 seats the NDA is expected to win this year represents a 3.4 per cent increase over its 2019 result; it won 353 seats (the BJP got 303) and the Congressled United Progressive Alliance) got 90.

The NDA's 2019 score was five per cent up from the 336 it won in the 2014 election.

The BJP's primary rival - the UPA in 2014 and 2019 and INDIA in 2024 - went from 60 in 2014 to 90 in 2019, an increase of 50 per cent. In this election INDIA's expected return of 122 is a 35 per cent jump.

The data from the poll of opinion polls is drawn from nine polls, including three conducted by ABP-C Voter on December 25, March 12, and April 16. In these three, the NDA's expected score jumps from 295-335 to 366 and settles at 373, while INDIA goes from 163 down to 156 and then 155.

The biggest predicted returns for the BJP-led alliance comes from Times-ETG, which gives it between 358 and 398 seats, and gives INDIA 110-130. The non-aligned parties are given 64-68 seats here.

India TV-CNX, Zee News-Matrize, and Times-Matrize all give the NDA

## Will NDA Achieve '400 Paar'? What **Poll Of Opinion Polls Shows**

#### NDTV News Desk

over 350 seats each, and give INDIA less than 100 seats. The exception is Times Matrize, which gives the bloc 104 seats.

The closest prediction is India Today-C Voter; a sample of nearly 36,000 voters polled on February 8 indicates a return of 335 for the NDA, 166 for the IN-DIA, and 42 for other opposition parties.

#### NDA Clean Sweep In 8 States, UTs

The NDA is predicted to ride to victory on the back of clean sweeps in eight states and union territories, including national capital Delhi, Mr Modi's home state of Gujarat, and Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast, where the BJP has flexed its nationalist muscles in the wake of Chinese aggression.

The NDA is also tipped to sweep Rajasthan - building on last year's Assembly election win - Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu.

#### Latest and Breaking News on NDTV

Together, these states and UTs send 72 MPs to the Lok Sabha. Winning these, if that is what happens, will give the BJP a significant edge in the final tally, particularly since the opinion polls suggest, as is widely expected, the saffron party will once again fail to impress in South India.

In the 2019 election the BJP swept Delhi (seven seats), Gujarat (26), Arunachal Pradesh (two), Chandigarh (one), Uttarakhand (five), Himachal Pradesh (four), and Daman and Diu (one).

The party also claimed 24 of Raiasthan's 25 seats; the 25th went to an ally.

cluding three conducted by ABP-C Voter on December 25, March 12, and April 16. In these three, the NDA's expected score jumps from 295-335 to 366 and settles at 373, while INDIA goes from 163 down to 156 and then 155.

#### **BJP To Dominate Hindi Heartland**

As expected, the BJP and allies will likely thump rivals in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. Of the 149 seats in play here, the NDA could win a massive 137. That return, if true, will almost match its 2019 score; it won 39 of Bihar's 40 seats, 74 of UP's 80 and 28 of Madhya Pradesh's 29.

In Bihar, where the opposition suffered a huge setback this year after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar - one of the bloc's founders - returned his Janata Dal (United) to the NDA, INDIA may win only five.

In UP - where the 80 Lok Sabha seats are by far the highest of any state - IN-DIA must prepare for a rout, the opinion polls indicate. And in Madhya Pradesh the Congress will win just one seat.

#### Bengal, Maharashtra Face-Offs

The battle between the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance and the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance in Maharashtra, and the BJP's high-tension clash with the Trinamool in Bengal, will likely end with an advantage for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party. The Mahayuti could dominate Maharashtra - winning 30 of its 48 seats - and, in Bengal, maintain, if not gain, ground gained five years ago.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party will likely be the majority winner in Bengal, with 22 of its 42 seats expected. The BJP won 18 in the last poll and is predicted to win 19 this time. The Congress-led INDIA bloc, which counts

Ms Banerjee as an on-paper ally, might struggle and get only one seat.

#### BJP's 'Mission South'

The saffron party has historically fared poorly in the southern states - particularly Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In 2019 it failed to win a seat in either, with vote shares of 3.6 per cent and 2.3 per cent.

That could change this year, with two seats expected in the former, to which the Prime Minister has made a staggering 10 visits in the past eight weeks. The BJP here is contesting without its ally - the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), one of two main Dravidian parties in the state.

The big winner in Tamil Nadu is expected to be the INDIA bloc - led in the state by the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) - with 33 seats. The AIADMK could get only four seats.

Elsewhere in the south, the BJP may gain a measure of revenge over the Congress in Karnataka, after it lost the last Assembly election there. The NDA is pegged for 23 of Karnataka's 28 seats.

In Andhra Pradesh the ruling YSR Congress Party will likely retain its swav with 16 of the state's 25 seats. This result could be an indicator of how the YSRCP will do in the simultaneous Assembly poll.

Finally, over in Telangana, a tight three-way battle between the BJP, the Congress, and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao could end with the Congress winning nine, the BJP four, and the BRS three. The 17th seat might go to Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by NDTV.com

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP | Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K | Editor: Sajjad Haider | RNI Registration No: 69503/98 | Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16 | Legal Counsel: Tasadug Khwaja Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705 | Editorial: (0194) 2502327 | Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

" The data from the poll of opinion polls is drawn from nine polls, in-

## INTERVIEW

# **Romp to Victory** 25 years Old Kupwara Boy Makes It Big by qualifying UPSC In First Attempt

#### Ummar Jamal

eet Mohammad Haris Mir from District Kupwara whose journey in UPSC is nothing short of inspiring. Having received his initial education in Srinagar, he completed his BA.LL.B in 2022 from Jamia Millia Islamia.

With his eyes set on the horizon of possibilities, Haris embraced the challenge of UPSC preparation with unwavering determination, making his name to the list in his first attempt by securing AIR 345. His story is testament to the power of dreams and the relentless pursuit of aspirations.

In an exclusive interview with Kashmir Observer, Haris reflected on his journey and shared insights into his approach to success.

#### Congratulations on qualifying the UPSC exam on your first attempt! Tell me about your background?

My name is Mohammad Haris Mir. I am originally a native of Handwara, District Kupwara. However, I have done my schooling from Srinagar. Subsequently, I completed my BA LLB from Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi in 2022 after which I started preparing for UPSC with this being my first attempt.

#### What motivated you to pursue a career in civil services?

I was drawn to the services from a very young age being motivated by several successful candidates from Jammu and Kashmir and over time I came to appreciate the significance of the role and impact that civil servants perform in society and this helped me in keeping true to this goal.

### *Were you expecting that you would crack UPSC in your first attempt?*

Belief in cracking the exam is always the first requisite without which an aspirant cannot be dedicated. That being said, there is always an element of fear and self-doubt. However, I was able to manage it.

#### Could you share your journey of preparation for the UPSC exam, including any challenges you faced and how you overcame them?

Having this goal in mind for a long time, I started preparing intensively only after my graduation was complete around mid 2022. I decided not to join any coaching since the coaching programmes for 2023 had already commenced 4-5 months prior and it would not have been possible for me to cover the entire syllabus by following their

timeline. I started preparing for my optional paper (Law) and some GS subjects which I had lost touch with during my graduation. After the commencement of the year 2023, I devoted my preparation exclusively to the prelims exam which was held in May 2023 covering remaining areas of study.

Regarding challenges, I have been fortunate and privileged enough to not have any financial challenges. However, certain mental challenges such as prolonged isolation, continuous self doubt and maintaining discipline were there and everyday I tried only to be better than the previous day instead of focusing on absolutely overcoming the challenges. Adding some exercise into my routine also helped.

#### What was your strategy for effectively managing time during the preparation phase, considering the vast syllabus of the UPSC exam?

I had no strategy in mind at the outset. However, I tried to complete my Law optional paper before January 2023 but was able to achieve only half of my target. Then I immediately dropped the preparation for the op-tional and focused entirely on Prelims. Here I would like to emphasize on what is known as "smart work". I merged the overlapping areas between my Optional paper and General studies into one reading (ex. Constitutional law and GS-2). Due to paucity of time I had to skip some subjects such as international relations altogether. However, daily newspaper reading and MCQs solving and attempting mock tests helped me fill that void.

#### How did you prioritize your preparation among the different components of the UPSC exam, such

*as prelims, mains, and the interview?* I tried to complete my Optional before embarking on my prelims preparation. I had set the deadline to 1st of January to finish it. After that I focused entirely on Prelims till April. I dedicated all of May to solving the previous 10 years papers apart from mock tests. After clearing prelims, I immediately

After clearing prelims, I immediately prioritized mains specific papers like Ethics (GS4) and Essay besides covering the rest of my law optional syllabus. At this stage, answer writing practice for mains/essay and mock tests is the most important step. This stage also requires collecting some data, facts and figures. All this I tried to complete in 2 months leaving the last month solely



for revision/mock tests before appearing for mains in mid September.

For the interview, I was fortunate enough to have almost 5 months after mains. And I started preparing for it without waiting for my mains result.

#### Can you share some tips or techniques you used to stay motivated and focused throughout your UPSC journey?

Not compromising on physical health, staying away from friends who are not aspirants, avoiding seemingly benign discussions on syllabus and current affairs which actually are just a waste of time, and simply trying to be a little bit better with a little more focus, a little more discipline every new day instead of trying to completely revolutionize one's life are the keys to have a more consistent and sustainable preparation journey.

#### How did you approach current affairs preparation, considering its significance in the UPSC exam?

I relied on daily newspaper reading only before prelims besides using mock test papers (available for cheap at local markets) as a source of current affairs. After Mains, I only used the compilation magazines offered for free on different coaching websites (ex. Vision 365,onlyias prahar)

#### What role did mock tests and previous years' question papers play in your preparation strategy?

As previously mentioned, mock tests and previous year papers are the most important sources of preparation and not just supplemental sources. They

#### appearing for the UPSC interview and how you prepared for it?

I started preparing for the interview immediately after the mains exam without waiting for the result and the interview process commenced just 20-25 days after the result(in December). My interview was held in the last phase in March. I prepared for the interview by thoroughly researching all possible aspects of my Detailed Application Form. Generally, the interview revolves around the words that one has mentioned in this form (ex. Hometown, graduation subject, hobbies, opinion on current affairs related to these).

The interview itself was one of the best experiences of my life. The interview board was very cordial and made me feel very comfortable. I was asked a lot of questions related to my Law background, developmental issues of my home state and the honorable members listened patiently. The interview went for around 40 minutes.

#### You didn't join any coaching, but you still came with flying colours. Many think coaching is essential for cracking UPSC, what is your take?

I think every aspirant has a unique set of circumstances in terms of their prior educational background or the level of general awareness. I was able to appear comfortably without coaching as I had aligned my previous studies in accordance with this exam (ex. Having humanities in class 11-12 and subsequently studying law). So for aspirants who are able to understand and grasp the study material, coaching is not required. Even for candidates who are absolute freshers to the syllabus, there is a treasure of simplified information on Youtube, Telegram and other platforms. Hence, coaching is not necessary and may be availed only if one feels the need for it.

#### Does social milieu impact your preparation? How does preparing in Delhi help an aspirant in cracking UPSC?

The socio-economic circumstances of an aspirant indeed have a role to play. However, only to a limited extent. This exam requires a full-time preparation of at least 1 year and 1 more year to go through all the stages. Thus, candidates who may not be able to manage time due to employment or any other responsibilities will face additional challenges. Apart from this, there is no other cost as almost all of the material is available for free on the internet and the mock test papers are available for cheap in the market.

Being in Delhi for UPSC preparation has both its advantages and disadvantages. For me, the advantage was being able to study in isolation and temporarily staying away from demanding social responsibilities besides having easy access to cheap materials eg. Test series papers

On the flip side, being alone in Delhi also presents the challenge of arranging each and everything for one's sustenance such as food, laundry, and occasionally Healthcare. Another challenge is being distracted by the sea of pessimism that prevails in coaching hubs as a lot of aspirants do not succeed in this exam.

### When should a student start his UPSC preparation?

An aspirant should start preparing as early as possible however never at the cost of one's schooling or graduation subjects. If not possible during graduation, 1 year of intensive study after graduation is sufficient to appear for the exam.

#### What inspired you to choose Law as your optional subject for the UPSC exam?

I found law to be quite relevant both to the preparation as well as the service. During the course of law, a deeper understanding of subjects like constitution, CRPC, IPC, apart from diverse minor laws, helps in all mains papers especially GS2.

#### Can you share some strategies you used to effectively prepare for the law optional paper?

Previous year papers are the most important resource as a lot of questions every year are repeated. Another important advice would be to strictly stick to the syllabus (eg. Contemporary legal developments do not include all of the legal developments but only those specified in the syllabus). Besides merging the study of GS paper 2 and law paper 1 can save a lot of time.

Now that you've successfully cleared the UPSC exam, what advice would you give to aspirants who are preparing for it, especially those attempting it for the first time?

I would advise them to believe in themselves, stick to syllabus, give a lot of mocks, limit your materials to only

helped me refine and consolidate my knowledge.

Could you describe your experience of

one resource per subject and revise it instead of reading multiple sources and appear for the prelims regardless of the level of preparation.

## How Can I Make Studying A Daily Habit?

#### **Deborah Reed**

4. A reward for studying.

Studying – you know you need to do it, but you just can't seem to make it a habit. Maybe you forget, become distracted or just don't want to do it.

Understanding what a habit is, and how it forms, can help you figure out how to study on a daily basis.

#### The habit loop

A habit is a behavior you do regularly or routinely. As a professor who studies how to help students become better readers and writers, I can tell you that research shows habits have a loop: cue, routine, reward.

Let's say you have a habit of eating a snack after school. When school is about to end, you start to feel hungry. Dismissal is the cue to get your snack.

Eating the snack is the routine. The reward is that it tastes good and your hunger goes away, which reinforces the habit – and makes you want to repeat the loop again the next day.

Here are the things you need to make a studying loop:

- 1. A set time to study every day.
- A cue to start studying.
  An environment that
- An environment that helps you stick to your studying routine.

**Setting a time** When you do things at the same time every day, it is easier to remember to do them.

To determine how much time you should set aside each day to study, multiply your grade level by 10 minutes.

That means if you're in third grade, you would plan to spend about 30 minutes per day studying. This can include the time you spend practicing your reading. If you're in eighth grade, you would spend 80 minutes per day – that is, one hour and 20 minutes – studying.

Research suggests that two hours is the maximum amount of daily studying time that is beneficial. Spending more time than that on a regular basis can cause stress, anxiety and possibly disturb healthy sleep habits.

So choose a single block of time during the afternoon or evening when you will have the right amount of time to study every day. There may be days when

There may be days when your assignments do not fill the full block of time that you have set. On those days, you should spend time reviewing material that you've already studied; regularly going back over information helps you remember it and think about how to integrate it with the



new things you're learning.

r You also can spend those e extra minutes reading a book. o Studies show a daily habit of reading for 20 minutes will n improve your vocabulary, lanll guage skills and overall knowl-

#### The cue

edge

Studying at the same time every day is one cue, but you may need something more concrete when first forming your habit. This can be a calendar reminder you set on your phone or laptop, or something as simple as a card with the word "study" printed on the front. You can leave the card where you hang up your coat or put down your bag when you get home from school – or on your television or computer screen. On the back of the card, write

the word "studying." Then keep this side facing up and posted to the back of your computer, on your door, or above your desk while vou work.

This will signal to others that they should not disturb you during this time. When you finish studying, return the card to its starting spot so that it's ready to remind you to study the next day.

#### Your study environment

To help yourself study, you need a place set up for work and not for doing other things. Do not study on your bed – that's for sleeping – or in front of the television, or anywhere it's difficult to hold and use the materials you need. Best option: a table or desk with good lighting.

Your study place should limit distractions. That includes other people's conversations and all media: TV, video games, social media, texts or music. Research repeatedly has shown the human brain cannot multitask well; people make more mistakes if they try to do two things at the same time, especially when one of those things requires concentration. Bouncing back and forth between two things also means it takes longer to complete the task.

Although you should put away electronic devices when studying, that may not be an option if you need them for homework. If that's the case, set the "do not disturb" notification on your phone, silence incoming notifications and close all social media and gaming apps.

Gaming, social media and video apps are programmed to make you want to keep checking or playing them. That means you have to replace the bad habit of constantly using them with the good habit of studying for a designated block of time.

#### The reward

That said, after you finish

studying, you can give yourself a little gaming or social media time as your reward.

With time, the studying itself will become its own reward. Improving your knowledge and skills will give you a sense of achievement and make you more confident and happier at school. But while forming your study habit, a really fun reward will help you stick with it.

This is especially true if the subject you're studying is difficult for you. No one likes to do something they think they're not very good at. However, it's impossible to get better if you do not practice, and studying is just like practicing a sport, instrument or hobby.

How long it takes

The amount of time it takes to make studying a daily habit can be anywhere from 21 days to a few months, depending upon the person.

To help you stay with it, find a study buddy to form the habit along with you. Ask your family not to interrupt you during study time. And consider using apps to set goals and track your study time so you can watch your habit form and celebrate your progress. The good news: Daily studying gets easier the more you do it.

By arrangements with The Conversation

## Contd. from Page 1

## KASHMIR OBSERVER® 06

#### **Incessant Rains**

activity at isolated places can't be ruled out.

However, he said that from April 26-27, the weather would remain generally cloudy while light rain with thunder is expected at many places during the period.

With the plummeting of the mercury, the chilly winter conditions prevailed yet again across the valley.

vailed yet again across the valley. Compared to 17.7 degree Celsius yesterday, Srinagar has today recorded a maximum temperature of 15.5 degree Celsius today, an official in the Meteorological department said, adding that Qazigund also recorded a maximum temperature of 13.6 degree Celsius compared to 15.5 degree Celsius yesterday.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 11.8 degree Celsius compared to 12.5 degree Celsius yesterday while 13.0 degree Celsius was recorded in Kupwara compared to yesterday's 14.5 degree Celsius.

The data shows that most parts of the valley recorded a further dip in the mercury today compared to yesterday.

Moreover, the MeT department has issued an advisory, asking the farmers to resume farm operations after April 21st. Temporary disruption of surface transportation over a few higher reaches during 19th April is also expected, it reads, adding that temporary water logging in few low lying areas may be witnessed as well.

General public are advised not to venture out near streams, Nallahs and other water bodies during the next 2-3 days, the advisory reads, adding that there is a possibility of landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at vulnerable places during 18th and 19th April.

#### **National Highway**

thoroughfare was partially restored for traffic and stranded vehicles between Nashree and Banihal were cleared. However, mudslides at Mehad, Ramban and shooting stones at Kishtwari Pather, Banihal again blocked the highway which remained shut for the better part of the day.

In the morning of Friday, the highway was blocked due to landslide at Gangroo in Ramban.

Meanwhile, Mughal Road, connecting Kashmir Valley's Shopian district with twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch, remained closed and shall remain closed "till further notice" following fresh snowfall, officials said.

#### Woman Dies

his wife Saleema Begum was trapped under the debris and sustained injuries.

She was subsequently taken to GMC Anantnag for treatment, where she succumbed to her injuries, the official said.

#### **Udhampur LS Seat**

Local Bodies and Panchayat polls after the completion of Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing an election rally in Udhampur on April 12 in support of Union minister and BJP candidate Jitendra Singh, who is seeking a third straight term. Prime Minister Narendra

#### 'Silent Village'

demand for basic facilities. We urge the government to set up schools for the deaf-and-mute children in our village," Mohammad Hanief, a social activist, said.

However, they warned of boycotting future elections if their demands are not met.

Located amidst snow-clad mountains, Dhadkahi is primarily inhabited by members of the Gujjar community, known for their agricultural practices and nomadic lifestyle. The unique characteristic of the village is that more than half of its population has faced challenges in hearing and speaking due to congenital medical conditions since 1950.

Despite these challenges, more than 35 per cent of the eligible voters in the village cast their votes at two polling booths by the afternoon.

The villagers emphasised the need for immediate attention to their issues, including teachers for a primary school, a doctor for a primary health center and linking the hamlet with the road network.

"The administration should look into the villagers' problems and ensure that the primary school gets teachers, the primary health center gets a doctor and the village is linked to the road network," Hanief said.

The villagers said they will boycott future elections if their demands are not addressed promptly.

"We will boycott any election -whether for the Assembly or panchayats -- if our demands are not met," Hanief said.

With the help of Hanief, Rahil Ali, a deaf-and-mute father of five kids, stressed the importance of a school for children with similar conditions.

"We cast our votes with this demand in mind. The government should ensure the establishment of a deaf-anddumb school to educate these children," he said in sign language, which was interpreted by Hanief.

The villagers also called for government support to help the deaf-andmute youngsters become self-reliant by starting their own businesses.

"The government should provide them with loans, training and animals under various schemes to help them earn a livelihood," Hanief said.

Despite their hearing-and-speech impairments, the villagers were enthusiastic about participating in the polling process.

"We are very happy to take part in the polling to choose our MP. Everyone is enthusiastic that the new MP will provide justice to us by ensuring basic facilities," Shabir Ahmed said.

Dhadkahi is home to approximately 4,500 Gujjars. The first case of hearingand-speech impairment was reported in the village in 1939.

The village is part of the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency, one of the 102 seats in the country that went to polls on Friday.

More than 57.09 per cent voters of Udhampur exercised their franchise by 3 pm despite torrential rains, election officials said.

The polling began at 7 am at 2,637 polling stations across the constituen-

electoral officer, 1,472 of the 2,637 polling stations have been equipped with webcasting facilities in the constituency that has 16,23,195 voters.

Among the voters, 8,45,283 are men, 7,77,899 are women and 13 are thirdgender voters. Of the 2,637 polling stations, 2,457 are in rural areas and 180 in urban areas.

The highest number of 701 polling stations are in Kathua, 654 in Udhampur, 529 in Doda, 405 in Kishtwar and 348 in Ramban. Udhampur consists of 18 Assembly

segments spanning five districts --Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Udhampur and Kathua.

#### Women Throng

women electors thronged the 'pink booth' set up at the Government Girls' Higher Secondary School in the Doda town to exercise their right to franchise despite heavy rains. Queued up in long lines, they were happy to vote at the 'pink booth'.

"We are very happy to vote for the first time at these all-women polling booths. There are very good facilities. We are enjoying voting," said Arifa Begum, who cast her vote at the 'pink booth' in Doda.

She said this initiative has increased the number of women thronging this polling station. "We praise this initiative of the Election Commission," she added.

Nineteen 'pink booths' have been established in the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency. In these model all-women polling stations, all staffers, including police and security personnel, are women, officials said.

Sunita Devi, a first-time voter who cast her vote at the 'pink booth', said it looked like she had come to a place of festival as the booth was decorated. "Such an initiative will attract more women to the polling booths and will increase the turnout. It's an innovative step to increase the female turnout," she said.

Poll officials said there has been a rush for voting since morning. It seems the initiative has attracted more women voters this time, they said.

Polling began at 7 am in 2,637 polling stations across the constituency with over 16.23 lakh electors eligible to exercise their franchise. It is going on peacefully with no untoward incidents reported, officials said.

Voting will decide the fate of 12 candidates, including Union Minister Jitendra Singh, who is eyeing a third term after winning the seat for the BJP in 2014 and 2019.

This is the first major electoral battle after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

Prominent among others in the fray include Congress leader and two-time former MP Choudhary Lal Singh and the DPAP's G M Saroori, besides six independents.

More than 11,000 polling staff, including reserves, have been deployed while tight security arrangements have been made to ensure free and fair elections, officials said.

According to the office of the chief

#### Will Become

manifesto for the Parliamentary polls. "Since August 2019, J&K has been converted into an open-air prison after the illegal abrogation of Article 370. There has been an unending onslaught on our collective identity, land, jobs, resources and infringement upon the very freedom to speak. A series of decisions taken on a daily basis thousands of kilometres away in Delhi serve only to disempower and dispossess us," Mufti alleged.

She said there is a need to raise our voice against this "onslaught" on the floor of the Parliament. "Right from the drastic changes to

the state subject and land laws to the outsourcing of our resources by gifting contracts to outsiders. Even development projects are being handed over to non-locals.

"Hundreds of government employees have been fired on flimsy grounds. Thousands of youngsters continue languishing in jails in and outside J&K as undertrials," she alleged.

She said if the party's candidates are elected to the Parliament, they will raise their voice on these issues on behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The former chief minister also said the party's elected representatives would focus on the youth of J&K and accordingly their MPLAD funds will be focussed on youth-centric

programmes. She also said her priority will be to have tunnels constructed on the Mughal Road, Razdan Pass and Sadhna Pass, which remain cut-off for many months due to heavy snowfall.

The party's manifesto said while the "illegal" abrogation of Article 370 has only "complicated the issue", the PDP remains committed to facilitating the resolution of the Kashmir issue through reconciliation and dialogue with its key stakeholders.

"A state which has suffered tremendously needs a healing touch to restore peace with dignity," the manifesto added.

#### **'Unilateral Decisions**

rally in Pulwama, she said that the unilateral decisions, stifling of just voices and erosion of constitutional guarantees are unacceptable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "We will tell this to the people of the country in parliament. This is the reason why attempts to divide our votes must be foiled. Para is eminently qualified to represent the voices besides being able to maintain connection with the roots that he had developed as party's youth leader since inception," she said.

She highlighted a grim picture of the current state of affairs in Jammu and Kashmir, lamenting the transformation of the erstwhile state into an "open-air prison."

She also highlighted the plight of the people, with youth languishing in jails in different states and unemployment rates soaring. While launching a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), she accused them of seeking to strip away the rights and resources of the people of Jammu and Kashmir candidate to represent their interests in parliament. Meanwhile, the party welcomed Javed Rahim, a prominent political figure and District Development Council (DDC) member into the party fold.

#### Day 4: Frantic Searches

the body. We have deployed multiple boats in the water, and our efforts are ongoing to locate the missing body."

The officer said two boats were deployed to search near Chattabal Veer, but no significant findings were made.

Meanwhile, people, including religious clerics, have been visiting the bereaved families to offer condolences and pray for the safe recovery of the missing individuals.

#### **Gujjars, Bakarwals**

granting status to the Pahari community. The same has raised concerns among people from the open Merit category.

The petition has been filed by Mohammad Anwar Choudhary, a Jammu based Lawyer and other activists from the community who have pleaded for the staying of the amendment.

The petitioners maintained that all the communications forwarded by the Government of J&K recommending the inclusion of "Pahari Speaking People", in the list of ST of J&K is "arbitrary and unconstitutional."

The group has also challenged SRO 176 issued by the Department of Social welfare, J&K on March 15, 2024, as "illegal, arbitrary and unconstitutional." The petitioners stated that the order

from the government, which segregates the reservation of tribal groups, has sparked "significant concern" and agitation among affected communities.

It said that the order, while providing a 10% reservation to the Scheduled Tribes (STs) already recognized in Jammu and Kashmir, also grants an additional 10% separately to four newly added tribes. "While this move seemingly safeguards the interests of petitioning tribes and secures job opportunities and admission reservations in J&K government institutions, it falls short in addressing several critical issues," the petition reads, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

The petitioners mentioned a number of reasons on why the order is not in the interest of the community and discriminates against certain groups unfairly, thereby violating fundamental principles of justice and equality.

principles of justice and equality. "The SO fails to protect the "Political Reservation" previously granted to the 12 tribes of Jammu and Kashmir separately. This omission undermines the political representation and participation rights of these tribes, potentially marginalizing their voices in decisionmaking processes," reads the petition.

The petition also mentions that the non-segregation of the share of benefits from hundreds of Government of India schemes for tribals between the existing 12 Scheduled Tribes and the newly added 4 groups raises concerns about equitable distribution and access to resources.

Furthermore, the petitioners stated that in competitions for jobs and ad-

missing persons," the police officer

said. Replying to a query regarding the teams part of the operation, the top police officer said, SDRF, NDRF, River Police, Marcos and wings of paramilitary are part of the ongoing operation.

"We hope that the operation culminates successfully," he said. The police officer earlier in the day

met the bereaved families and extended his condolences and support over the tragic incident.

Pertinent to mention here that at least six persons died and five others were rescued, with three others still at large, after a boat capsized at Gandbal Batwara in Srinagar.

#### **Eviction Notices**

Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar, Zahid Hussain Jan, S.S. Channi, Sonaullah Lone and Reyaz Ahmed Mir.

The Estates Department has directed these occupants to appear before the Director Estates in person or through virtual mode to give the written response along with the documentary evidence, if any, in support of the continuation of accommodations of allotment at Jammu and Srinagar or otherwise within 10 days from the date of receipt of these notices.

Pertinently, the Division Bench headed by Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh vide its order dated April 3, 2024, had directed both the Director Estates Kashmir and Jammu to deal with these occupants and to pass specific individual orders either for cancellation of accommodation and eviction therefrom or allotment thereof by giving specific reasons for doing so.

#### **HC Orders Strict**

Hydroelectric Project (KGHP), have asserted that the project has been executed with utmost adherence to environmental safeguards and without causing any detrimental impact," the court observed.

In this regard, the Court said, they have filed an affidavit on 14 April 2022, emphasizing the comprehensive measures taken by the executing agency to ensure the safety of the surrounding environment.

Moreover, the court said, it is highlighted that on 29 August 2018, M/s HCC deposited Rs. 34,29,900 as compensation for the damages caused to the structures in villages of Mantrigram.

Besides, the Court said that it has

been emphasized further in the re-

port that environmental laws have

been strictly adhered to as the Multi-

Disciplinary Monitoring Committee on

environmental aspect of Kishanganga

Hydroelectric Project had visited the

project sites several times and affirmed

that the environmental laws are being

the absence of any specific denial or

material indicating a breach of envi-

ronmental safeguards, we do not deem

it necessary to continue with this PIL

and accordingly, the same is closed,"

the court said, adding, "However, we

also make it clear that respondent

No. 6(Jammu and Kashmir Pollution

Control Board), will undertake neces-

sary steps in accordance with the law

"Under the circumstances and in

Modi assured the people of the restoration of statehood and holding of assembly elections.

"The time is not far when the Assembly polls will be held in Jammu and Kashmir, which will also get its statehood back. You will again raise your issues with your legislators and ministers," Modi had said.

Singh, who had won the seat for the BJP in 2014 and 2019 elections, is facing a major challenge from two-time former MP and J&K minister Choudhary Lal Singh. DPAP candidate and former JK minister G M Saroori's presence has made the contest a triangular one. There are nine other candidates including six Independents in the fray.

"Assembly elections are imperative to form a popular government so that people can raise their issues with their representatives rather than going around government offices. Today, we have exercised our democratic right for the formation of central government and we are hopeful that the assembly elections, urban local bodies and Panchayat elections will be held in the coming months," Surjeet Singh, a resident of Chak Sheikhan village in Govindsar panchayat of Kathua, said.

The Udhampur constituency is spread across five districts – Kathua, Udhampur, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar – and according to officials it recorded more than 65.08 percent voting till 5 pm. The final voter turnout was awaited.

Another voter, Manjeet, said there are many issues awaiting redress in their village but "nobody is listening" to them.

"We have demanded repair of drains and road construction but our pleas are falling on deaf ears," she said. "I have voted for development of our area and strengthening of democracy."

Sanjeev Kumar of Udhampur said the people are hopeful of getting a chance to elect their own government given the assurance by the Prime Minister and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Shah, addressing an election rally in Jammu on April 16 said assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held according to the dateline set by the Supreme Court (September 30) and "nobody should have any doubt on this". cy, with more than 16.23 lakh voters eligible to cast their votes. No untoward incident was reported from anywhere, the officials said.

Twelve candidates, including Union minister Jitendra Singh of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), former MP Choudhary Lal Singh of the Congress and former minister G M Saroori of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), are in the fray from Udhampur.

While Jitendra Singh is eyeing a third straight term in the Lok Sabha, Choudhary Lal Singh, who won the seat in 2004 and 2009, is also trying his luck for a third victory.

This is the first major electoral battle in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution and the erstwhile state's bifurcation into Union territories on August 5, 2019.

More than 11,000 polling staff, including reserves, have been deployed to ensure a free-and-fair election, the officials said.

According to the office of the chief

electoral officer, a total of 1,472 polling stations, out of 2,637, have been equipped with webcasting facilities in the constituency having a diverse electorate comprising 16,23,195 eligible voters.

Among them, 845,283 are men, 777,899 are women, and 13 are thirdgender voters. Of the 2,637 polling stations, 2,457 are in rural areas and 180 in urban areas. The highest 701 polling stations are in Kathua, 654 in Udhampur, 529 in Doda, 405 in Kishtwar, and 348 in Ramban.

#### **25 Candidates**

independents, including the first non-Kashmiri person to contest an election in Jammu and Kashmir.

Baldev Kumar, a resident of Punjab's Mohali who is currently residing in Jammu Tawi, has submitted his nomination from the constituency," making him the first non-Kashmiri to contest polls in the Union Territory.

The counting of votes will be taken up on June 4. pushing them towards a state of bonded labor.

She also invoked the legacy of PDP founder, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, crediting him with reigniting hope and restoring dignity to the people during times of political turmoil.

"When POTA was imposed in the state and SOG besides other gunmen were unleashing terror, people had lost all hopes. It was Mufti Mohammad Sayeed who arrogated the responsibility of according people a dignified life upon himself. Things changed and people heaved a sigh of relief when for the first time PDP formed the government in Jammu and Kashmir."

She added that the present time is a testing time as well. "Neither stone nor gun, vote is our only weapon and we must use it now to give befitting reply to the elements who are out there to besiege our conscience and identity," she said.

She also urged people to unite against attempts by Delhi to divide their votes, emphasizing Para as the most suitable missions in central government institutions, the newly added four ST groups will now compete on equal footing with the petitioning tribes (12 Tribes).

"This poses a challenge as petitioning tribes may face stiff competition from the so - called newly added tribes with potentially better socio- economic and educational backgrounds," the group stated.

They further stated that in future recruitments for Central Belt Forces/ Central Govt Bank Jobs / University jobs/ IIM/IT Jobs in Jammu and Kashmir, the petitioning tribes may find themselves competing against the newly added four groups, despite significant disparities in social and educational levels.

"This could further exacerbate socio-economic inequalities and hinder the representation of marginalized communities in crucial government positions," reads the petition.

All Possible Efforts

to ensure that no environmental damage has occurred, and if any damage has occurred, the relevant authorities will take appropriate steps/actions as required by law."

#### J&K Govt

complied with."

The proximity to the electoral process underscores the necessity for adherence to regulatory frameworks and procedural diligence. Therefore, the government underscores the urgency of obtaining requisite permissions from the Election Commission to facilitate the proposed revision in Dearness Allowance rates. This measure not only reflects the administration's commitment to employee welfare but also signifies its responsiveness to evolving economic dynamics and governmental policies at the national level. As stakeholders await the outcome of the deliberations, the proposed Dearness Allowance hike remains poised as a significant development in the realm of employee benefits and governmental initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir.(KNS)

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## STATE

## **First-Timers, Newlyweds Among Early Voters In Udhampur Lok Sabha Seat**

#### Agencies

**UDHAMPUR:** 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 Friday.

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

Kapil Gupta got married Thursday and exercised his franchise at a polling booth set up on the premises of the Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes Development Corporation Limited in Udhampur town soon after returning home Friday morning.

"Voting is our right and must be done on priority," he said, requesting voters to vote in large numbers.

Another newly married couple, Sahil and Radhika, turned up in wedding costumes at a polling station set up in a school in Udhampur.

'We got married only yesterday (Thursday) and I told my husband that we should vote. My vote is not here but I accompanied him," the bride said.

"I will be visiting my parents later in the day in a nearby village to fulfil my democratic responsibility as well," she added.

Voting is scheduled to end at 6 pm and will decide the fate of 12 candidates, including Union minister Jitendra Singh who is seeking re-election for his third consecutive term.

the presence of DPAP candi-

According to election of-

ficials, voting was going on

contest a triangular one.

waiting for this moment." Vanshika Sharma, a resident of Bhaderwah in Doda district, said. Meenakshi was the first

ing the age of 18 and I was

Singh faces a major chalto vote at the 'pink' polling station in the town and exlenge from Congress candidate and two-time former MP pressed satisfaction over the Choudhary Lal Singh, while arrangements. Mool Raj, another voter, date G M Saroori makes the was happy to be presented

a bouquet for being the first to vote at a polling station in Bhaderwah. "I have voted for a candi-



stituency with heavy rainfall being reported in Kathua disdevelopment of the district and the country," Ashish Kutrict since this morning. The rains failed to dampen

mar said after casting his vote in Udhampur. spirits and voters were seen Meenakshi Devi (40) said thronging polling stations, her vote is for the country's braving the inclement weather. "It is my first vote on attaindevelopment.



## **Returning Officer Stands In** Queue To Cast His Vote In Kathua

Agencies

JAMMU: In an unusual scene, the returning officer of the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency on Friday exercised his franchise after standing in a queue and waiting for his turn at a polling station in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Rakesh Minhas (34), who originally hails from Punjab, came to a polling station set up at the irrigation department in the Kathua town and exercised his franchise after waiting in a queue for his turn.

Rakesh Minhas and his wife Saloni Rai, both 2016 batch IAS officers, were deputed to Jammu and Kashmir from Daman and Diu in August 2022, and they were later posted as deputy commissioners of Kathua and Udhampur districts.

Polling is underway in the Udhampur parliamentary seat, spread across five districts of Ud-

hampur, Kathua, Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban, which will seal the electoral fate of 12 contestants, including Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Congress candidate and two-time former MP Choudhary Lal Singh and DPAP candidate and former Jammu and Kashmir minister G M Saroori.

Later, Minhas showed his index finger marked with indelible ink and expressed his satisfaction over the trend of turnout in the constituency.

"We should not be careless about our democratic rights. Even if there is a queue, it takes only 15 to 20 minutes to cast your vote," Minhas told reporters.

"My appeal to voters is to come out in large numbers and fulfil their democratic right. Voting started at 7 am and will continue till 7 pm," he said, adding the inclement weather, especially in Kishtwar, in the morning had no impact on voting, which is going on smoothly.

## **BJP Failed To Win Hearts Of People: Omar**

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah on Friday said the BIP had not fielded its candidates from the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir as the party and its government have allegedly not been able to win people's hearts after the abrogation of Article 370.

"The importance of this election in itself is that it is the first time after August 2019 that the Lok Sabha elections are being held here. Also, in 2019, the BJP had fielded its candidates on all the seats (in the valley), this time the (Union) Home Minister (Amit Shah) says that we will first win the hearts of the people and then field the candidates. "This simply means that they

could not win the hearts of the people and the 2019 decisions have made people more angry and alienated," Abdullah told reporters here.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister alleged the BJP was not directly contesting the elections in the Kashmir valley, but it was "holding the reins from behind".

"If the BJP had left the field, it would have meant a lot in itself. But, they have not left the field. They are holding the reins from behind. (BJP national general secretary) Tarun Chugh's arrival in the past days here and meeting some political parties. "When the (Union) home

minister talks about defeating the NC-Congress INDIA alliance, but he does not talk about defeating other political parties. You get to know with



whom the BJP is connected," Abdullah added.

When asked to comment on People's Conference (PC) chief Sajad Lone calling him a "tourist" and belonging to an "elite class", the NC leader said there was no secret that his fight in the north Kashmir constituency -- from where Lone is also contesting -- is against Delhi.

"Tarun Chugh comes to Srinagar and immediately calls Sajad Lone. And he (Lone) runs to meet him. And the home minister talks about defeating the NC, Congress and India alliance, but he does not talk about defeating the PC.

"This is how you come to know who is the power behind them," he said.

He said the difference between his party and other parties like the PC and Altaf Bukhari-led Apni Party was that his party's doors are closed for BJP.

"Our doors are closed for Tarun Chugh. Neither will he want to come, nor will we give him entry. This is the difference between Altaf Bukhari and us,' Abdullah said.

## **Notice Served To DDC** Member In Handwara Over 'Violation of MCC'

#### **Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Additional District Magistrate Kupwara on Friday served a notice to DDC member in Mawer Handwara over accusation of violation of Model Code of Conduct. Additional District Magis-

trate Rouf ur Rehman has asked

DDC member Mawer Khur-

shid Ahmad Dar to explain the

reasons for violation of MCC

norms and submit the expen-

diture incurred on the function

within two days.

Model Code of Conduct made by you while inaugurating a Public Park at Maratgam Handwara, District Kupwara without proper legal permission from District Election Officer, Kupwara as required under rules," reads the notice..

"You are as such called on to explain the reasons of violating the MCC norms and submit the expenditure statement incurred on such function within two days positively, failing which the matter shall be forwarded to Chief Electoral Officer, J&K," reads the notice further.

## **Gandbal Tragedy: Special Prayers Held For Missing Trio**



## **Outrage Over Sopore Tehsildar's Aggressive Behavior**

#### Agencies

**SOPORE:** A video capturing the reprehensible behavior of a government official, believed to be the Tehsildar of Sopore, has sparked controversy and outrage after it circulated widely on social

media platforms. In the two-minute and 20-second clip, the official can be seen resorting to threats and humiliation during a visit to the nearby Tarzoo village of Sopore in north

video shows him saying, "You have seen a barber till now, not a Tehsildar. Don't talk, I will beat

vou here only.' Tehsildar accused the The people of being blackmailers and also levelled the same accusation towards media personnel present at the scene.

His hostile demeanour towards the general public and the media has evoked widespread condemnation and outrage. The incident has

service.

Netizens have also expressed their shock and dismay over the Tehsildar's behaviour, with many demanding swift action against him.

"This is the second time I am seeing his video in which he misbehaves with common people. Action must be taken! He has a colonial mindset. Nonsense," wrote Junaid Younis.

"You are hereby put on notice Reyaz Ahmed Mir, president of to respond to the violation of the traders' body, expressed con

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amidst the continued rescue operation to retrieve the bodies of a missing father-son duo and a minor student, special prayers were held on Friday across the Kashmir Valley in hopes of retrieving the bodies from river Jhelum. Pertinently, six persons died while three locals went missing after a boat capsized in river Jhelum at Gandbal area of Bat-

wara on April 16. As per the details available with the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the rescue operation for the missing individuals, Showkat Ahmad, his son Haziq Showkat, along with Farhan Parray, entered its fifth day.

Despite relentless efforts from rescue agencies and lo-

Amarnath Yatra 2024

**KO NEWS SERVICE** 

the Kashmir Valley in hopes of retrieving the dead bodies. "From South to North Kashmir, the valley stands with Gandbal victims, and we are praying to Almighty Allah for the retrieval of the missing body," said Mohammad Umer, a local from Gandbal, Srinagar. He added that they remember the deceased and the missing in their prayers, and would like to request everyone to remember the victims and pray for the retrieval of the missing persons. Moreover, Moulana Abdul Rashid Dawoodi, Moulana Mushtaq Ahmed Veeri, Moulana Abdul Qayoom Zadoo, among

others on the occasion of Friday,

offered special dua for the peo-

ple of Ganadbal–(KNO)

**High Altitude Medicine Training** 

**Commences for Healthcare** 

cal volunteers, the bodies re-Kashmir's Baramulla district. main untraced, while special Expressing their condemnaprayers were organized across tion, the local traders' body at

Tarzoo staged a peaceful protest, denouncing such acts of aggression as "gundagardi" and "unacceptable". The video footage, obtained by

the news agency–Kashmir News Observer (KNO), shows the Tehsildar making intimidating remarks, including threatening physical violence against the people. The ous questions about the conduct of government officials and their treatment of citizens. Many are calling for accountability and disciplinary action against the Tehsildar for his "unacceptable" behaviour.

While the authorities are yet to comment on the matter officially, the viral video clip has sparked widespread discussions about the importance of professionalism, respect and empathy in public

cern over the incident, saying the government officials must maintain professionalism and respect during interactions with citizens. "Tehsildar was on a visit to Tarzoo village to address the issue of encroachment and ensure the smooth movement along roadsides; however, his behaviour towards Fayaz Ahmed Bhat, a former president of the traders' body, was both strange and unacceptable," Reyaz said. –(KNO)

## **Apple Orchards**, Agri Land Water Logged In Chadoora

Farmers demand compensation from NHAI

BUDGAM: The farmers from Chadoora in central Kashmir's Budgam district have accused construction company working on the Srinagar Ring Road project of not adhering to the DPR and Environmental Clearance norms which according to them has caused massive water logging in many agricultural fields including some apple orchards. Details available reveal that

water logging has damaged crops like oats , mustard and even impacted apple trees in Wathoora , Batpora , Gudsathoo and many other villages in Chadoora Budgam.

' My two kanal apple orchard is under water for the last three days as there is no drainage system in place . The contractor has not even visited the site to drain out water nor has any official from the NHAI, Horticulture department or Revenue department came to assess the damages. This is severe injustice with farmers. Our land was acquired for peanuts by NHAI and now the remaining land is flooded . In dry weather there is dust which impacts our apple and plum trees and when it rains there is water logging. Infact the area never witnessed such water



logging before the construction of the highway. I appeal Union Minister Nitin Gadkari , Chairman NHAI Santosh Kumar Yadav , Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chairman DDC Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan to intervene" said Bashir Ahmad an affected farmer from Wathoora Budgam

Some years back around 60 fully-grown apple trees were uprooted and axed by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) assisted by officials from District Administration Budgam near Sozeth Narbal along the

Srinagar-Baramulla highway. In Wathoora around 100 plum and apple trees were uprooted by Govt and NHAI for Srinagar Ring Road on March 30th 2022 and no transplanting facility was given to farmers. A case has already been filed in local Court in Chadoora against NHAI and the then Naib Tehsildar of Chadoora

In the Gudsathoo and Budoo Bagh areas of Budgam, hundreds of apple trees were axed last year in November 201 and no transplanting provision was applied. In the Rambir Grah area of Srinagar, more than 400 apple trees were axed and compensation was paid as per 26-year-old rates i.e Rs 13 / Kg for apple.

We demand that action be taken against the Contractor and compensation be paid to aggrieved farmers. This is clear violation of environmental laws as dust has impacted plants for last 2 years and now water logging is damaging our crop and apple trees " said Nazir Ahmad another aggrieved farmer

In Chitroo Dangerpora water logging has damaged the road and it looks like a stream . The people are facing lots of problems. The orchards and agri land is also impacted in this village

## **Two Laborers Die After Falling Into Trench In Kulgam**

#### Agencies

The official said they were shifted to a hospital, where **SRINAGAR:** Two laborers died while two were rescued after they slipped and fell into a trench in Chakpora area of south Kashmir' Kulgam on Friday, officials said. Bengal.

Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that they were working in the trench when suddenly they slipped and fell into it.

"Soon after the incident police, locals rushed to spot and

of two among them died. The deceased have been identified as Maqbool Dar of Kulgam and Aziz ur Rehman of Medical superintendent district hospital Kulgam, Gulzar

rescued them," he said.

Ahmad Dar told KNO that two were brought dead to the hospital, while one is undergoing treatment and another one has been discharged.

## 9 Drug Peddlers Arrested In Anantnag, Bla: Police

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: Continuing its massive crackdown against drug peddlers, smugglers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday said to have arrested nine drug peddlers in Anantnag & Baramulla and recovered contraband & psychotropic substances from their possession.

In Anantnag, 07 drug peddlers were arrested in separate actions. Police team of PP Sangam apprehended two persons namely Feroz Ahmad Rather son of Gh Rasool Rather and Aiiaz Ahmad Mantoo son of Ghulam Mohammad Mantoo both residents of Waghama Bijbehara and recovered about 09 Kgs of Poppy Straw from their possession, a police spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency.

Similarly, Police party from PS Kokernag recovered about 16.450 kgs of Cannabis powder from the possession of Su-



hail Ahmad Dar son of Mohd Ashraf Dar resident of Nagam Kokernag and Reyaz Ahmad Mir son of Ab Razaq Mir resident of Watnard Kokernag, police said.

Moreover, a police party of Police Station Uttrasoo apprehended one person identified as Shakeel Ahmad Wani son of Khazir Wani resident of Shiekhpora Uttresoo and recovered about 21 grams of Charas, 350 grams of Poppy Straw and cash amount of Rs 10,000 from his possession.

The Regional SRINAGAR:-Institute of Health & Family Welfare (RIH&FW) in Dhobiwan initiated a comprehensive training program on High Altitude Medicine and Basic Life Support (BLS) in readiness for the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra 2024 Under the guidance of Dr.

Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, the esteemed Director of Health Services Kashmir, the training aims to enhance the skills of 583 healthcare professionals, including doctors and paramedics, who will be involved in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of pilgrims during the annual pilgrimage.

Conducted in coordination with the Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) of respective districts,

the inaugural session of the training saw the participation of the first batch of doctors from various districts within the Kashmir division. Expert trainers from RIH&FW

Dhobiwan led the sessions, included which lectures. hands-on courses, and workshops at the skill stations. The primary focus of the training is to equip healthcare personnel with advanced skills necessary for the effective management of emergency situations, particularly high altitude sickness, during the Amarnath Yatra.

The training, which commenced on friday, is scheduled to continue until May 1, 2024. It is part of a concerted effort to ensure the safety and well-being of all pilgrims undertaking the sacred journey to the Amarnath cave Shrine.

## SPORTS

**Short TAKES** 

# It Was My Dream To Play Sweep Shot Against Bumrah, Says Ashutosh Sharma

#### **Press Trust of India**

MULLANPUR: Punjab Kings' batting sensation Ashutosh Sharma said he lived a "dream" when he swept "world's best fast bowler" Jasprit Bumrah during his team's IPL clash against Mumbai Indians here.

The 25-year-old Ashutosh put the Bumrah-led Mumbai Îndians' bowling to sword here on Thursday when he hammered seven sixes and two fours to make 61 off a mere 28 balls, a knock which brought PBKS back from the brink after an early collapse.

PBKS were 17/4 inside the powerplay but courtesy the stunning fightback from Ashutosh and Shashank Singh (41), they were able to get close to MI's 193-run target before losing by nine runs.

It was in the 13th over of Punjab's chase when Ashutosh got down low on his front to convert an attempted yorker from Bumrah into a full toss



and smack it for a six over backward square leg.

"It was my dream to hit a was practising for that shot but sweep shot against Bumrah. I it came against the best bowler

in the world, it is a part of the game," Ashutosh told the media here after the match.

Ashutosh said he was confident of taking Punjab over the line.

"I had belief in myself that I would be able to win the game for the team," he said. Ashutosh credited former India player and coach Sanjay Bangar, head of cricket development at PBKS, for his improvement this season.

"Sanjay sir told me that I am not a slogger and that I can play proper cricket shots. It was a small statement but carried a

huge meaning for me. "I am only following it. I am not a hard-hitter, I am playing proper cricketing shots and that is what has changed my game," Ashutosh said.

"Back home, I was working with my coach Amay Khurasiya who had told me that the longer you stay on the pitch, the more your team has a chance of winning," he added.

## **For Breaching IPL CoC**



**MI Skipper Pandya Fined Rs 12 Lakh** 

umbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya has been V fined Rs 12 lakh for maintaining a slow over rate during their clash against Punjab Kings in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium, Mullanpur.

IPL released an official statement on Friday to announce that Pandya was fined for breaching IPL's Code of Conduct, which relates to minimum over rate offences.

#### FC Goa To Play Chennaiyin FC In **Crucial Knockout Match**

With a direct qualification to the semifinals hang-ing in the balance, FC Goa host Chennaiyin FC in a high-stakes knockout battle of the Indian Super League here on Saturday. On recent form, FC Goa enters the fixture on the

back of an impressive run (45 points from their 22 matches), having secured victories in four out of their last five matches. Contrastingly, Chennaiyin FC have wins in three of their last five matches.

#### **China Revokes Win After** Investigation Into Half Marathon

The winner of Beijing's half marathon He Jie and three African runners have had their results cancelled after an investigation found that the three slowed down near the line allowing the Chinese athlete to finish first, organisers said on Friday.

He had won the race held last Sunday in China's capital in a time of 1:03:44, a second ahead of Ethiopian Dejene Hailu Bikila, and Kenyans Robert Keter and Willy Mnangat, who tied for second place

#### **Germany Manager Nagelsmann Extends Contract Until 2026**

ermany manager Julian Nagelsmann has extended his contract until the conclusion of the next World Cup in 2026, the German Football Association (DFB) said on Friday. Nagelsmann replaced Hansi Flick as Germany coach last September and had initially signed a contract to the end of Euro 2024, which Germany will host in June.

The 36-year-old has enjoyed a mixed start to his reign, but recently won back-to-back friendlies





#### **Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI: He walked on crutches in one of his first public appearances at Feroz Shah Kotla last year, but when an emotional Rishabh Pant walks out as captain of Delhi Capitals, he will need to put on his 'out of box' thinking cap to stop a marauding Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL match here on Saturday.

Capitals have had a mixed season so far, but a couple of impressive wins against Lucknow Super Giants and Gujarat Titans have put them back in the mix with three wins and four defeats in seven outings so far.

Placed fourth in the IPL points tahle Sunrisers Hyderabad have set a different template altogether with two of the highest-ever totals of 277/3 and 287/3, which will require lot of heart and skill to counter. Travis Head (235 runs) - IPL's foreign flavour of the season – will be keen to build on his 39-ball century and his partner Abhishek Sharma (211 runs) is no pushover either, with his penchant for taking aerial route during the powerplay. Head and Abhishek's intimidating strike rates of 199 and 197 respectively will pose a serious challenge for pace trio of Ishant Sharma, Khaleel Ahmed and Mukesh Kumar. Adding to the threat is Heinrich Klaasen also striking at 199, who is one of the best finishers in international cricket with propensity to hit balls out of the stadium, which gives SRH's batting a scary look. But Kuldeep Yadav's (economy of 6.06) left-arm wrist spin could well prove to be a game changer and in Tristan Stubbs, Pant has got an ideal third spin option alongside Axar Patel (6.75).

Pant, who is himself getting back to the top of his game, wouldn't mind if he can win the toss and opt to bat.

But David Warner's knuckle injury is a cause for concern for Pant and head coach Ricky Ponting although Jake Fraser-McGurk has impressed one and all in his first two matches.

## J&K Shines In IRSF Rope Skipping **National Championship**

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: J&K Rope Skipping Team won two medals, including a gold, at the IRSF National Rope Skipping Championship 2024, held at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi from April 15 to 16. The championship was organized by Indian Rope Skipping Federation (IRSF).

The J&K team played under the banner of Rope Skipping Association of Jammu & Kashmir (RSAJK), which is affiliated to the Indian Rope Skipping Federation (IRSF),

J&K's Bisma Bashir won a gold medal in the above -17 Female Speed Sprint event, whereas Mehnaz Hilal clinched Silver medal in the same event.



dents of GHSS Khanyar and coaching camp in Srinagar in were sponsored by the staff. the month of May, where na-RSAJK Secretary Ahmad tional and international level Rauf congratulated medal coaches will train students winners and requested the and teachers.

## **Injuries Don't Define You: Mohammed Shami Shares Rehab Update**

#### **Press Trust of India**



Instagram handle and it accompanied by a video which showed him in the midst of

While SRH's batting has been top-notch on belters, their bowlers have suffered a lot on those tracks with only skipper Pat Cummins (7.87) having an economy rate of less than 8 runs per over, which is considered good in today's day and age of T20.

However seasoned duo of Jaydev Unadkat (11.35) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (10.45), have both been average while spinners - wrist spinner Mayank Markande (11.23) and left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed (ER 12.44) – have been sent on a leather hunt. Time: 7:30PM IST.

**NEW DELHI:** Veteran Indian pacer Mohammed Shami on Friday shared the progress of his rehabilitation process post a surgery on his Achilles tendon, stressing his strong desire to return to the field at the earliest.

Shami played through last year's ODI World Cup braving the pain, finishing the tournament as the highest wicket-taker with 24 scalps. But since the final against Australia, the 33-year-old has been completely sidelined with the injury.

Eventually, he underwent the surgery in February.

"Injuries don't define you, your comeback will. Can't wait to be back out there with my team!" Shami posted on his

a procedure Since the World Cup, Shami has missed out playing against Australia in a T20I series, the tour to South Africa and home assignments against Afghanistan (T20I) and England (Test).

The surgery on his ankle meant that Shami also could not feature in the IPL 2024 for Gujarat Titans for whom he has captured 48 wickets from 33 matches across 2022 and 2023. With him missing the en-

tire IPL, it's highly unlikely that Shami will feature in India's squad for the T20 World Cup in June.

against France and Netherlands.

#### **Norris Takes China Sprint Race Pole From Hamilton**

CLaren's Lando Norris had his fastest lap deleted and reinstated as he seized pole position for the Chinese Grand Prix sprint race at the end of a wet and chaotic qualifying on Friday. Mercedes' seventimes Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton made it an all-British front row, with Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso securing the third slot for Saturday's 100km race.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen will start fourth, with Ferrari's Carlos Sainz fifth and Red Bull's Sergio Perez sixth.

## Haaland A Doubt For FA Cup Semi Due To Injury: Guardiola

#### Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola is uncertain whether Erling Haaland will feature in Saturday's FA Cup semifinal against Chelsea after his prolific striker asked to leave Wednesday's Champions League quarter-final with a muscle injury.

Guardiola subbed both Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne off ahead of extra time in a surprise move in City's penalty shootout loss to Real Madrid that extinguished their hopes of capturing the treble for a second successive season.

"Erling felt something, a muscular issue," Guardiola told reporters on Friday. "We will see. "Kevin felt exhausted, so tired, after five months out injured (at the start of the season), so that's normal."

It is not surprising, Guardiola added, that his



players are feeling the effects of a gruelling schedule, which is a byproduct of the team's success. "It's normal, with the amount of games we've played this season and in the previ-

ous seasons," the Spaniard

"There's not much time for recovery, we played extra time and the intensity we play. We are not machines, the fatigue is

said.

#### there."

City are still on course for the double, having taken a two-point lead atop the league standings last weekend with six games remaining.

## Man Utd Facing Huge Challenge In FA Cup Semi: Ten Hag

#### Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester United are one win away from a second successive FA Cup final appearance, which could go a long way in salvaging a disappointing season for Erik ten Hag's side, though the manager said Sunday's semi-final would be a huge challenge.

United meet Championship (second tier) side Coventry City at Wembley after beating Liverpool in a thrilling FA Cup quarterfinal match last month that went to extra time.

That memorable game at Old Trafford, however, was one of United's few positive results amid numerous poor ones that have left the squad seventh in the Premier League standings.

"Obviously, we want to win every game," Ten Hag told reporters on Friday. "So when we don't win we teams

ally high highs.'



are disappointed, are frus-A victory on Sunday trated, sure, but we know would set up a final against the winner of Saturday's also we can beat the best clash between Manches-"When we play to our ter City and Chelsea. City edged United 2-1 in last levels, we can achieve reyear's final.

"Last season was last season. We want to achieve every season, we want to win trophies, we have a big opportunity because we are in a semi-final but it's a huge challenge," said Ten Hag.