



'ENDLESS SEARCH'

## Gandbal's Desperate Mothers Join Unequipped Search Teams to Find Their Loved Ones

NAZIR GANAIE

Srinagar: In a heart-wrenching display of resilience and love, Rehti Begum, 70, an elderly and ailing mother, has joined local unequipped rescuers in Srinagar in the search for her missing son, Showkat Ahmad Shiekh, and grandson, Fazik Showkat. The duo went missing in



the Srinagar boat tragedy, which has now stretched into its 10th day. Despite her age and health, Rehti Begum visits the nearby river Jhelum daily, pleading for the safe return of her loved ones. According to locals, her determination is a symbol of the deep emotional toll this tragedy has taken on families in their area. They say every morning, she is seen

praying for the safe return of her and grandson.

"There is no one around now to take care of an old lady, his wife and his two daughters," she sobs. "All I want now is to see their faces..... Put them to final rest and make a request to my lord to forgive us all," she said.

"I want to see my son again in whatever way. My hanfolded request to the administration

is to please come to our rescue and take us out from this trauma," Begum says.

In the Gandbal area, there is a growing call for the deployment of specialized resources. Locals are urging the authorities to utilize camera mount boats and the expertise of the Marcos team for a more extensive and effective search operation. | More on P6

## Campaigning Ends For Phase 2 Of LS Polls

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The curtains came down Wednesday evening on a high-voltage campaign for the second phase of Lok Sabha polls in 89 seats across 13 states on April 26.

Staggered over seven stages, the first phase of the elections held last Friday for 102 seats across 21 states and Union territories saw a voter turnout of around 65.5 per cent.

Polling is scheduled in all 20 seats of Kerala, 14 of the 28 seats in Karnataka, 13 seats in Rajasthan, 8 seats each in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, 7 seats in Madhya Pradesh, 5 seats each in Assam and Bihar, 3 seats each in | More on P6

## 2 Soldiers Injured In Bandipora Encounter

Agencies

Srinagar: Two army soldiers received bullet wounds in an encounter in Ranji forest area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday.

A police officer said that two army soldiers sustained minor injuries during the initial exchange of fire. Both are stable and are being treated in a hospital, the officer said.

"A contact was established between #terrorists and security forces in the early morning in Ranji forest area of Aragam, #Bandipora," Kashmir Zone Police said on X.

Similarly, Chinara Corps - Indian Army on their X handler wrote, | More on P6

## J&K Braces For 3-day Rains From Apr 27



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Agencies

Srinagar: As the parts of Kashmir continued to witness showers in the afternoon hours for the last couple of days, the weatherman here has predicted moderate to heavy rainfall in Srinagar and elsewhere from April 27.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the afternoon thundershowers are expected to continue on Thursday as well, but a three-day wet

spell is expected in Jammu & Kashmir from April 27.

"As per the forecast, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in J&K areas especially in Srinagar, South Kashmir areas, Ramban and Doda from April 27 to April 29," he said, adding that the major activity is expected on April 29.

As per an independent weatherman, a western disturbance can impact Jammu and Kashmir from the evening of 26 April until 29 April. On April 26, | More on P6

## LS POLLS IN JAMMU ON APRIL 26

## 17.80 Lakh Voters To Decide Fate Of 22 Candidates

Observer News Service

Jammu: Over 17.80 lakh voters will decide the fate of 22 candidates contesting from 5-Jammu Parliamentary Constituency in the second phase of Lok Sabha polls to be held on April 26.

The Jammu parliamentary constituency is spread over 18 Assembly segments in four districts including Reasi, Samba, Jammu and Rajouri.

According to the figures provided by the office of Returning Officer 5-Jammu Parliamentary Constituency, there are 17,80,835 registered voters in Jammu PC including 9,21,095 male, 8,59,712



female and 28 transgender electors. Among these 37,822 (37,025 male and 797 female) are service voters.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has set up 2416 polling stations across the

constituency including 18 Green Polling Stations, 46 Pink Polling Stations and 18 PwD manned polling stations.

Reasi district with three Assembly Constituencies, including | More on P6

## PDP's Parra, Apni Party's Mir File Nomination from Srinagar

PDP youth president Waheed Rehman Parra and Apni Party leader Mohammad Ashraf Mir on Wednesday filed nomination papers from the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu and Kashmir which is going to polls in the fourth phase of elections on May 13. Accompanied by senior party leaders, including PDP | More on P6

## Parra Poorer Than Opponent Ashraf Mir

Auqib Javed

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate for the Srinagar constituency, Waheed-ur-Rahman Parra, is the poorest | More on P6

## 'Battle for Dogra Heartland'

The political landscape in the historic Dogra land of Jammu is poised for a gripping electoral showdown as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) locks horns with a formidable alliance comprising | More on P6

## Sajad Lone Seeks Support Of Muzaffar Baig

People's Conference chief and party's candidate from the Baramulla parliamentary constituency, Sajad Lone has sought the support of former Jammu and Kashmir deputy chief minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig for his candidature. Lone called on Muzaffar Hussain Baig and his wife Safina Baig, who is the District Development Council (DDC) chairperson, Baramulla, at their residence here on Tuesday. "It was a pleasure to call on @Muzaffar\_Baig sahib and @SafinaMBAig ji. As the conversation predictably | More on P6

## 'JOB PROMISE SCAM' Govt Sacks Erstwhile J&K Legislative Council Assistant

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government terminated a Watch and Ward Assistant of the former J&K Legislative Council for taking Rs. 5 lakh from a person promising a government job.

As per the details available, the assistant, identified as Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, faced serious charges after allegedly receiving a hefty sum of Rs. 5 lakh from a person named Dilawar Manzoor from Berthipora, Shopian. The money was reportedly taken under false pretenses of securing a government job for Manzoor.

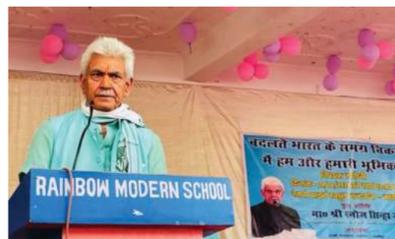
Bhat was served with a memorandum outlining the charges against him and was given 15 days to respond. The charges included the accusation that Bhat unlawfully accepted Rs. 5 lakh from Dilawar Manzoor, | More on P6

## India On The Path To Become 'Vishwa Guru': LG

Urges People To Create A Society Based On Equality, Justice

Observer News Service

Uttar Pradesh: India is on the path to become Vishwa Guru and the cultural awakening today is inspiring one and all to serve humanity with dedication and devotion, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday. The LG was speaking at a symposium on cultural heritage, values and principles of Sanatan Dharma. The event was organized by Utthan Foundation Trust



at Devkali, Ghazipur.

Sinha said that today India is shedding the vestiges of colonial past and people are taking pride

in the glorious heritage.

The LG, in his keynote address, commended the endeavour of the Utthan Foundation | More on P6

## 'Citizen Participation Essential For Inclusive Development'

Observer News Service

J&K Lieutenant Governor on Wednesday addressed a Conference on the 'Role of Citizens in Holistic Development' organized at Rainbow Modern School, Ghazipur. In his address, the LG highlighted the significant contribution of Jan-Bhagidari in the progress of | More on P6

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## REC Okays 1,869 Cr Loan For Kiru Hydro Project

Agencies

New Delhi: REC Limited, a Maharatna public sector company and a leading NBFC, has signed an agreement with Chenab Valley Power Project Private Limited (CVPPPL) for providing a term loan of Rs 1,869.26 crore.

The loan will be utilised for the development, construction and operation of the greenfield Kiru Hydro Electric Project (4x156 MW) on Chenab river located in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kiru Hydro Electric Project (624 MW), is a run-of-river scheme proposed on Chenab and is about 42 km from Kishtwar. The project envisages the construction of a 135-metre-high dam and an

underground powerhouse with 4 units of 156 MW each.

The agreement was signed in the presence of CVPPPL Managing Director Ramesh Mukhiya, and Deputy General Manager Rishabh Jain from REC Limited.

CVPPPL is a Joint Venture Company between NHPC (51 per cent) and JKSPDC (49 per cent) formed at the initiative of the Jammu and Kashmir government and the Central government to harness the vast hydro potential of Chenab river. The company was incorporated in 2011.

CVPPPL has been entrusted with the construction of Kiru HE Project (624 MW), Pakal Dul HE Project (1000 MW), Kwar HE Project (540 MW), & Kirthai-II HE Project (930 MW) on Build, Own, | More on P6

## HC Orders Release Of 2 PSA Detainees

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has quashed detention orders under Public Safety Act against two detainees, one of them a 21-year-old youth, and ordered their release forthwith if not required in any other case.

"It is clear that there has to be a live and proximate link between the past conduct of the detainee and the activities alleged to be prejudicial to the maintenance of Security of the State," a bench of Justice (M.A.Chowdhary) said while quashing detention order under PSA, passed by District Magistrate Pulwama, against Sahil Farooq Mir of Chakoor, at present, Noorpora Awantipora, on 25 October 2023.

"In the instant case, the said link is completely missing as the time between the order of detention and the incident(s) referred to in the grounds of detention | More on P6



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# AI Mind-Reading: Unlikely, But Still Worrisome

## The Conversation

Earlier this year, Neuralink implanted a chip inside the brain of 29-year-old US man Noland Arbaugh, who is paralysed from the shoulders down. The chip has enabled Arbaugh to move a mouse pointer on a screen just by imagining it moving. In May 2023, US researchers also announced a non-invasive way to decode the words someone is thinking from brain scans in combination with generative AI. A similar project sparked headlines about a mind-reading AI hat.

Can neural implants and generative AI really read minds? Is the day coming when computers can spit out accurate real-time transcripts of our thoughts for anyone to read?

Such technology might have some benefits particularly for advertisers looking for new sources of customer targeting data but it would demolish the last bastion of privacy: the seclusion of our own minds. Before we panic, though, we should stop to ask: is what neural implants and generative AI can do really reading minds?

As far as we know, conscious experience arises from the activity of the brain. This means any conscious mental state should have what philosophers and cognitive scientists call a neural correlate: a particular pattern of nerve cells (neurons) firing in the brain. So, for each conscious mental state you can be in whether it's thinking about the Roman Empire, or imagining a cursor moving there is some corresponding pattern of activity in your brain. So, clearly, if a device can track our brain states, it should be able to simply read our minds. Right?

Well, for real-time AI-powered mind-reading to be possible, we need to be able to identify precise, one-to-one correspondences between particular conscious mental states and brain states. And this may not be possible.

To read a mind from brain activity, one must know precisely which brain states correspond to particular mental states. This means, for example, one needs to distinguish the brain states that correspond to seeing a red rose from the ones that correspond to smelling a red rose, or touching a red rose, or imagining a red rose, or thinking that red roses are your mother's favourite.

One must also distinguish all of those brain states from the brain states that correspond to seeing,

smelling, touching, imagining or thinking about some other thing, like a ripe lemon. And so on, for everything else you can perceive, imagine or have thoughts about.

To say this is difficult would be an understatement. Take face perception as an example. The conscious perception of a face involves all sorts of neural activity.

But a great deal of this activity seems to relate to processes that come before or after the conscious perception of the face things like working memory, selective attention, self-monitoring, task planning and reporting.

Winnowing out those neural processes that are solely and specifically responsible for the conscious perception of a face is a herculean task, and one that current neuroscience is not close to solving.

Even if this task were accomplished, neuroscientists would still only have found the neural correlates



of a certain type of conscious experience: namely, the general experience of a face. They wouldn't thereby have found the neural correlates of the experiences of particular faces.

So, even if astonishing advances were to happen in neuroscience, the would-be mind-reader still wouldn't necessarily be able to tell from a brain scan whether you are seeing Barack Obama, your mother, or a face you don't recognise.

That wouldn't be much to write home about, as far as mind-reading is concerned.

### But what about AI?

But don't recent headlines involving neural implants and AI show some mental states can be read, like imagining cursors move and engaging in inner speech?

Not necessarily. Take the neural implants first.

Neural implants are typically designed to help a patient perform a particular task: moving a cursor on a screen, for example. To do that, they don't have to be able to identify exactly the neural processes that are correlated with the in-

tention to move the cursor. They just need to get an approximate fix on the neural processes that tend to go along with those intentions, some of which might actually be underpinning other, related mental acts like task-planning, memory and so on.

Thus, although the success of neural implants is certainly impressive and future implants are likely to collect more detailed information about brain activity it doesn't show that precise one-to-one mappings between particular mental states and particular brain states have been identified. And so, it doesn't make genuine mind-reading any more likely.

Now take the decoding of inner speech by a system comprised of a non-invasive brain scan plus generative AI, as reported in this study. This system was designed to decode the contents of continuous narratives from brain scans, when participants



were either listening to podcasts, reciting stories in their heads, or watching films. The system isn't very accurate but still, the fact it did better than random chance at predicting these mental contents is seriously impressive.

So, let's imagine the system could predict continuous narratives from brain scans with total accuracy. Like the neural implant, the system would only be optimised for that task: it wouldn't be effective at tracking any other mental activity.

How much mental activity could this system monitor? That depends: what proportion of our mental lives consists of imagining, perceiving or otherwise thinking about continuous, well-formed narratives that can be expressed in straightforward language?

Our mental lives are flickering, lightning-fast, multiple-stream affairs, involving real-time percepts, memories, expectations and imaginings, all at once. It's hard to see how a transcript produced by even the most fine-tuned brain scanner, coupled to the smartest AI, could capture all of that faithfully.

# THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)  
 Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: -Admission GNM (L.E.) Course-2024 in Government / Private Colleges/ Institutions of UT of J&K: Invitation of online applications thereof.

Notification No.019-BOPEE of 2024  
 Dated: 23-04-2024

Online Applications are invited from the eligible/desirous candidates who intend to appear in the Entrance Test for admission to **GNM (L.E.)** Course for the academic session-2024 in Government / Private Colleges / Institutions of UT of J&K. The selection of the candidates to such courses shall be regulated by the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002 and the Rules and Regulations there under; Jammu & Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 as amended vide J&K Re-organization Act, 2019, J&K Reservation Rules, 2005 as amended vide S.O. 69 dated 28-02-2020, S.O 127 dated 20-04-2020, S.O. 249 dated 23-07-2021, S.O. 277 dated 13-08-2021, S.O 176 dated 15-03-2024 and subject to further amendments, if any, made by the Competent Authority, from time to time and the guidelines as contained in the Electronic Information Brochure-2024.

### Important Information:

1. Receipt of online application forms: w.e.f. **27-04-2024**.
2. Last date for filling the online application forms: **11-05-2024 (Midnight)**.
3. **Fee of Rs. 1000/ (Rupees one thousand only)** to be paid online through Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking.
4. The e-Information Brochure can be downloaded from the BOPEE website viz [www.jkbopee.gov.in](http://www.jkbopee.gov.in)
5. The syllabus for the examination/test is available in the e-Brochure.
6. Date of Common Entrance Test: **(tentatively on 02-06-2024)**.
7. The candidates, in their own interest, are advised to go through the Information Brochure before filling up the Online Application Form. The Board shall not be responsible for any act of omission or commission in filling up of the Online Application Form by the candidate(s). It is incumbent upon the candidates to go through the information contained in the e-Information Brochure and agree to the conditions contained therein.
8. The candidates are further advised to remain in touch with the BOPEE website [www.jkbopee.gov.in](http://www.jkbopee.gov.in). The Board does not undertake any responsibility for any delay caused in publication of Notices/ Notifications in the Print Media (Newspapers) as delay, if any, in such publication(s) is not within the control of the Board, notwithstanding that the Board notifies the same on its official website and forward the same for publication in the newspapers simultaneously on the date of issue of the said Notifications/Notices etc.

9. The Entrance Examination conducted by the Board shall be offline comprising of 120 Questions based on FMPHW/MMPHW/ANM course with duration of 2hrs.

### Online Application forms:

The procedure for filling up of Application Form and eligibility etc. of the candidates has been given in detail in the e- Information Brochure.

### Help Desk:

The applicants can also contact the Help Desk of I.T. Section of the BOPEE during the office hours and on working days only on 0194-2437647 / 0194-2433590 / 0191-2470102/0191-2479371 and or email: [helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com) for any assistance / guidance in this regard.

### Submission of Online Application Forms:

The interested candidates are required to upload the following scanned original / self-attested certificates in PDF format with size from **100-200 KB** along with the Application Form:-

- (i) domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (For Candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by the Competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile Certificate).
- (ii) Qualifying marks cards of FMPHW/MMPHW..
- (iii) Date of Birth Certificate (only Matriculation Certificate issued by the Board of School Education); and
- (iv) Valid Reserved category certificate, if any.
- (v) Any other documents, as requested.

However, it is for the information of all the concerned that afore-titled documents as required for submission of application form shall be considered provisional and subject to change(s), if any, as may be notified by the Government subsequently.

### Eligibility:

The candidates applying for admission to GNM (L.E.) course must fulfill the following eligibility criteria:  
 A candidate must:

- (i) be a domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (For Candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by Competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile certificate)
- (ii) have Diploma in FMPHW / MMPHW/ANM course registered with J&K Paramedical/ Nursing Council and there will be no age bar for such candidates.
- (iii) be Registered with ANM with 40% Marks.
- (iv) be Medically fit.

### Syllabus:

1. The candidates applying for the courses mentioned above are advised to go through the syllabus for Common Entrance Test referred in Annexure A to this Notification which shall comprise of 120 Questions based on FMPHW/MMPHW/ANM course with duration of 02hrs.

### Note - I

The eligibility is bare minimum/provisional and shall be subject to such changes/bench marks as may be fixed by the concerned Competent Authority/ University. The Board shall on receipt of any such communication from the concerned authority/University notify the same, which shall govern the eligibility criteria. **Original Documents required to be submitted in the Institution at the time of Admission:-**

- a) Marks certificate of the qualifying examinations i.e. FMPHW/MMPHW/ANM;
- b) Date of birth (Matriculation / Secondary School Certificate) from a recognized Board;
- c) Domicile Certificate for candidates belonging to UT of J&K and ST certificate as a Domicile for candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh;
- d) Category Certificate, if any;
- e) Any other document as may be required by the Institution.

### Roll No Slip/Admit Card:

The Notification for downloading of online electronic Admit Cards will be issued separately.

### Venue for Conduct of Examination:

The Common Entrance Examination shall be conducted offline at Jammu / Srinagar centers simultaneously as may be decided by the Board.

### Issuance of Admit Cards and Date of Test (if test is conducted):

Information with regard to availability of Online Admit Cards, Venue and Time of the Common Entrance Test will be issued separately in due course of time.

### Note-II

1. The online submitted Application Form is purely provisional and is liable to be cancelled at any stage subject to the final verification of the documents and even at any stage, where such a document is proved to be fake/false.
2. The candidature of those candidates, who may have uploaded wrong category or submitted incorrect / wrong application form during online process, shall be liable to be rejected without any further notice to such candidates. However, they can rectify their correction(s), if any, by submitting a representation physically at BOPEE office Jammu / Srinagar on or before last date fixed by the Board for filling up of online application forms.
3. Mere submission of the Application Form and appearance of the aspiring candidate in the Entrance Test shall not confer any preferential right/claim for admission upon the intending applicants, but shall be subject to the fulfillment of the eligibility criteria and the qualification prescribed for the said course.
4. The seats shall be provisionally allotted to the candidates purely on the basis of the online information filled by the candidates (including category) during online

application form. In case the candidates have filled /uploaded wrong category during online application form, the seat shall be allotted accordingly & the Board shall not be responsible for the same. Hence the candidates are advised to rectify the mistake before the allotment of the seats.

E & O E

Sd/  
 Controller of Examinations  
 J&K, BOPEE

No. BOPEE/Exam-15/2024(7460322)

DIPK-NB-96/24 DATED: 24-04-2024

Court Of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Pattan			
Case File No.	Date of institution	Date of Order	CNR No.
02/Complaint	16.01.2024	20.04.2024	
			JKBA110000152024

In the case of:

Mohammad Akbar Dar Son of Abdul Khaliq Dar  
 R/O, Khambayar Pattan  
 Complainant along with his Counsel Advocate M.A. Sofi present.

Versus

Nissar Ahmad Mir  
 Son of Mohammad Ismail Mir  
 R/O. Arigam, Tehsil Rajpora, District Pulwama  
 Cell Nos. 9622446786, 8825038989

Accused absent

### PROCLAMATION UNDER SECTION 82 OF CR.PC

Coram: - Altaf Hussain Khan U.I.D No JK00187

The above captioned complaint under section 138 N.I. Act has been presented before this court by the complainant named above. Same is pending adjudication before this court. Despite issuance of summons, you have remained absent as such this court issued warrant against you. The warrant issued against you has been returned unexecuted with the endorsement that you are concealing your presence in order to avoid execution of warrant. This court satisfied that you are willfully concealing yourself in order to avoid the execution of warrant issued against you. As such, through this proclamation you are directed/required to appear before this court on before this court 04.05.2024.

Issued under on 20th of April, 2024

Under the seal of this court

fko

Judicial Magistrate  
 1st Class Pattan

## Before The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District Judge At Pulwama BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE (JR. DIVISION)/MUNSIFF AT PAMPORE

In the case of:

Mst Rafiq Bano.  
 W/o; Mohammad Sultan Wani R/o Khrew, Pampore

..... Caveator/Applicant

V/S

Public at large

.....Non-Aplicants

In the matter of: Caveat application in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C on behalf of Caveators.

May it please your Hon'our:

The application is most humbly submitted as under: -

1. That the applicant/ caveator is permanent resident of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and is residing at Khrew, Tehsil: Pampore District: Pulwama and is having landed property measuring 01 Kanal 02 Marlas, Falling Under Survey No. 114-Min, Khata No. 1652 Khewat No. 1543 situated at Khrew, Pampore.
2. That the applicant/caveator has an apprehension that some un-known person/ s will approach this hon'ble court with a false and fictitious suit and will get an order in his/ their favour in ex-parte against the applicant/caveator, and in case of such eventuality, no orders may kindly be passed in ex-parte against the caveator without providing the caveator an opportunity to be heard.
3. That before passing any kind of order/relief in favour of the non-applicant on any suit or application, the caveator be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard, otherwise the caveator shall have to face great irreparable loss, injury and inconvenience.
4. That an affidavit duly sworn by the caveator is enclosed herewith.

Prayer: -

In the premises it is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to provide an opportunity to the caveator of being heard before passing/granting any kind of relief/order in favour of the non-applicants with regard to the above said subject matter, in the interests of justice and law.

fko

Caveator.

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

### Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohd Arsalan Dar s/o Javid Ahmad Dar R/o Nowpora Kalan Tehsil Sopore District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 14/05/2020 occurred at SHD 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  
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

### Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohammad Saad Waza S/o Manzoor Ahmad Waza R/o Jamia Mohalla Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 21/04/2021 occurred at Home

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  
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

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

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Block Development Officer Khore Sherabad within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Farwah Rafiq (DOB: 03-01-2014) D/o Mohammad Rafiq Banka R/o Malabuchan Tehsil Pattan

BMG

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name my father's name & address in my passport Bearing No. E 5646167 from Khan Mohammed Farooq S/o Abdul Rashid Khan R/o Umer Heer Buchpora to Mohd Farooq Khan S/o Ab Rashid Khan R/o Umer Hair, Buchpora, Srinagar as per Aadhar Card. In future I will be known as Mohd Farooq Khan S/o Ab Rashid Khan R/o Umer Hair, Buchpora, Srinagar Now I want to re-issue my passport to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the passport office Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Mohd Farooq Khan  
 S/o Ab Rashid Khan  
 R/o Umer Hair, Buchpora, Srinagar

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

### Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Aarizoo Jaan S/o Aadil Ahmad Ganie R/o Seriwarpura Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 24/07/2020 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  
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

## Office Of The Chairman Mohammadia Middle School Yall

Zone:Nehalpora  
 Managing Committee-2024

S. No	Name	Parentage	Residence	Designation	Qualification
01	Shabir Ahmad Dar	Ali Mohammad Dar	Yall	Chairman	10th
02	Ghulam Nabi Dar	Abdul Rahman Dar	Yall	Secretary	10th
03	Firdous Gani Mir	Abdul Gani Mir	Narpora	Accountant	PG
04	Manzoor Ahmad Najar	Ghulam Mohammad Najar	Yall	Member	10th
05	Aijaz Mohi ud din Dar	Ghulam Mohi ud din Dar	Yall	Member	12th
06	Mehraj ud din Ganaie	Ghulam Qadir Ganaie	Yall	Member	10th
07	Mohammad Ramzan Teli	Abdul Razaq Teli	Yall	Member	8th

Principal

Mohammadia Middle School Yall

bmg

## Gandbal Boat Tragedy Disrupts River Transportation In Jhelum

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In the aftermath of the tragic incident in Srinagar, boat crossing operations on the Jhelum River have been severely disrupted, which has impacted water transportation and connectivity in many areas.

Several key bridge projects, including the Dalgate Bridge, Noorbagh Bridge, Lasjan Bridge, Pantha Chowk Bridge, Sempora Bridge and Gandabal Bridge in Srinagar district, remain unfinished.

The recent boat tragedy in Gandbal, where six people lost their lives and three are still missing, has cast a shadow over the safety of water transportation in the area, prompting authorities to halt boat crossing operations until further notice.

"This development has significantly impacted the movement of people and goods, especially in regions heavily reliant on river transport," said a local of Lasjan.

He said the incomplete bridges, spread across different parts of the valley, have hindered efforts to improve connectivity and infrastructure in the region, leaving behind a trail of disappointment and anger among the people.

Among the bridges awaiting completion, the Dalgate Bridge holds particular significance as a vital link in Srinagar's transportation network. "Its unfinished state has not only inconvenienced commuters but also raised questions about the efficiency

**This development has significantly impacted the movement of people and goods, especially in regions heavily reliant on river transport**

of infrastructure development initiatives in the valley," said a local.

Similarly, the incomplete Noorbagh Bridge, Lasjan Bridge, Pampore Bridge, Sempora Srinagar Bridge, and Gandabal Bridge have become symbols of stalled progress and unfulfilled promises.

Locals, reliant on these bridges for daily travel and commerce, have been left grappling with prolonged inconvenience and uncertainty, with officials earlier confirming that the construction of the bridge including Dalgate and Noorbagh and Gandabal is ongoing and will be thrown open soon.

Moreover, officials from Road and Building (R&B), when contacted, assured swift action to address the challenges posed by both the disrupted boat crossing operations and the incomplete bridge projects.

Residents have called for the need for concrete measures and timely completion of infrastructure projects to ensure the well-being and prosperity of the region—(KNO)



Chinar Chowk, Shalimar Is A Major Bottleneck Hampering Traffic On Vital Harwan And Hazratbal Routes- Photos Majid Nabi

## 'Traffic Chaos, Shanty Market' Has Srinagar Smart City Project Bypassed Shalimar Garden?

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The chaotic traffic and crowded shanty market in front of aesthetically built Shalimar heritage garden is a tell-tale sign of a badly executed Srinagar Smart City Project.

Ironically, various government departments entrusted with the responsibility of looking after this most popular tourist destination and its precincts, instead of addressing the problems, simply pass the buck, giving credence to public perception that their priorities lie elsewhere.

Shalimar precincts unlike nearby Nishat have not been developed, or as locals allege have been abandoned after initial push by Srinagar Smart City Project Ltd (SSCL) ahead of G20 Summit last year. There is no designated parking space, like in Nishat either by SDA or SMC. No attempt has been made to shift the shanty market situated just opposite the iconic garden as it lies within 100-metre prohibited and 300-metre regulated area of protected heritage zone.

"Shalimar resembles the old Batamalloo Bus Stand with scores of Sumo cabs vying for passengers amidst slow moving traffic on an already narrowed down stretch of road," said Harwan resident Muhammad Amjad who struggles to drive through this crowded stretch every day.

Front road was macadamized, a path near the garden entrance was laid with cobblestones but planners ignored the fact that it needs a turnaround as it is a three way junction where traffic to and from Shalimar canal and Nishat converge.

The existence of makeshift shops and disorganized private parking lots in absence of one designated space and numerous car wash and mechanic shops surround the garden now.

"The authorities, it appears, have abandoned the area. Lakes and Waterways Conservation Authority (LCMA) is absent as illegal constructions in this prohibited zone galore. So have the traffic police which is hardly visible except when there is a VIP movement in the area", allege residents of Shalimar.

Chinar Chowk behind Shalimar garden remains clogged with traffic the whole day and roads leading to Harwan and Telbal and then to Hazratbal from here too are choked with roadside car parking's and encroachers.

"We have often beseeched the authorities to have the old and rotten chinar tree removed,

but our pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Also, there is always traffic congestion in the area since a sumo stand has come up in the middle of the square," Farhan Ali, a resident of Pazwalpora told Kashmir Observer.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah says he will look into the matter and resolve any traffic-related issues in the area. Earlier SSP Traffic had given a similar commitment in October last year.

It is quite likely that Srinagar Smart City Ltd. has plans for Shalimar Garden that are comparable to those of Nishat, whose immediate surroundings and precinct have been beautifully renovated, said Dr Naima Iqbal who travels through the area daily from her Dhar Bagh residence.

"They must be having plans for rows of shanty looking shops opposite this aesthetically built garden. They are slur and need either relocation or makeover. Open spaces around the garden

almost complete.

Chinar Chowk, Shalimar is a major bottleneck hampering traffic on vital Harwan and Hazratbal routes.

Regarding any plans to move or take down the makeshift shops in front of the garden, he shrugged the responsibility saying that the Floriculture Department, and not the LCMA, was in charge of those shops.

"Around Shalimar, the majority of the work under SSCL has been finished, and the remaining work will be finished as soon as feasible. Regarding parking, we are unable to proceed until we have the necessary land and authorization," the General Manager of SSCL, Anuj Malhotra told Kashmir Observer.

When KO informed him that the area between Shalimar and Foreshore Road was ideal for a designated parking space, Malhotra said if the LCMA grants them land anywhere nearby, they might also establish a parking area like that in Nishat.



Chaotic Traffic Outside Shalimar Garden-Photos Majid Nabi

with less noise would be a great tribute to the builders of this garden," she said.

When contacted, Vice-Chairman of the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), Bashir Ahmad Bhat said that several initiatives, such as the reconstruction of the Shalimar Canal and the upgrading of Foreshore Road, were carried out as part of the Srinagar Smart City Project. He however declared that the work around Shalimar garden under SSCL is

About the further beautification of Shalimar garden under the SSCL, he said that all work given as part of the project has been finished, and no more work would be undertaken in this area.

Regarding ongoing illegal constructions, Zahid Hassan Samoon, Deputy Superintendent Enforcement Wing LCMA, said all illegal encroachments will be dismantled as part of the department's massive demolition drive that will take place over the next few days in Shalimar and surrounding areas.

## Asia's largest Tulip Garden Attracts Record 4.45 Lakh Visitors This Season

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asia's largest Tulip Garden, nestled in the picturesque city of Srinagar, has experienced an extraordinary surge in tourism this year, with a staggering 4.45 lakh visitors flocking to witness its vibrant blooms, including approximately 2,000 from foreign shores.

The garden, home to an impressive array of 73 tulip varieties, officially reopened its gates on March 23, marking the beginning of a 33-day extravaganza that surpassed all previous records in terms of visitor numbers.

Officials overseeing the garden's operations informed that there had been a daily influx of 10,000 to 15,000 tourists.

"This remarkable surge in tourism represents a significant milestone in the sector's recovery journey, particularly in the wake of the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021," an official said, adding that last year, the garden welcomed 2.3 lakh visitors, making this season's footfall an impressive

leap forward.

As the Tulip Bloom season draws to a close, the management closed the garden to the public on April 24. This move by the Tulip Committee and the Director of Floriculture Kashmir aims to provide the garden with an opportunity to recuperate after hosting an overwhelming number of tourists this year.

The closure signifies the end of yet another successful chapter in the Tulip Garden's legacy, reaffirming its status as a beacon of natural beauty and a must-visit destination for travelers from across the globe, the official said.

They anticipate that the next season will be even more enchanting.

The garden played an important part in wooing tourists during the 2022 spring, particularly after the Covid disruptions in 2020 and 2021. In 2022, the garden witnessed 2.3 lakh visitors.

Last year, it attracted over 3.65 lakh visitors, including both domestic and foreign tourists, while in 2022, it saw a footfall of 3.6 lakh people—(KNO)

## Khayam Residents Seek Early Repair Of Dilapidated Road

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commuters have to face tough times due to the dilapidated condition of Khayam road in Srinagar with slow pace of construction drawing criticism from residents.

Expressing concerns, residents said the condition of Khayam road has been a matter of concern for a long time now.

The slow progress of construction work is only adding to their woes and urged the administration to expedite

the process and complete the work as soon as possible.

A resident of Khayam, Suhaib, said that the condition of Khayam road not only affects the daily commute but also poses a risk to the safety of the residents. "It is high time the authorities take necessary actions to address this issue," he said.

The work on Khayam road has been going on for a long time, with residents hopeful that the administration will take note of their concerns and ensure timely completion of the road construction—(KNO)

## LS Polls-2024: Vibrant Political Enthusiasm Marks Nomination Filing In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The bustling streets leading to the office of Returning Officer 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency reverberated with fervor and political enthusiasm as the candidates from vari-

ous political parties filed their nomination papers for the parliamentary elections in the Srinagar constituency on Wednesday.

The event marked spirited displays, witnessing car rallies, roadshows, and folk performances, transforming the area near

returning officer in Srinagar into a vibrant political arena.

As the nomination filing process unfolded, supporters flooded towards the office of Returning Officer Srinagar in a show of strength for their respective candidates.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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



**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
16 Shawal  
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:18
ZUHR	12:29
ASR	5:14
Magrib	7:13
ISHA	8:40

### This Day In History

- 1185 - Sea battle at Dan-no-ura: Minamoto Yoritomo beats Taira-family
- 1507 - German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller first to use the name America on his world map "Universalis Cosmographia"
- 1607 - Battle at Gibraltar: Dutch fleet beats Spanish/Portuguese fleet
- 1626 - Battle at the Dessau bridge: Albrecht von Wallenstein beats Ernst von Mansfeld
- 1678 - French troops conquer Ypres
- 1684 - Patent granted for thimble
- 1684 - Patent granted for thimble
- 1707 - Battle of Almansa; Franco-Spanish forces defeat British and Portuguese 1861 - Battle of Lavaca, Texas (US Civil War)
- Jones & Harry Greenbacks musical premieres in London
- 1846 - Thornton Affair: Open conflict begins over the disputed border of Texas, triggering the Mexican-American War.
- 1859 - Ground broken for Suez Canal
- 1861 - Battle of Lavaca, Texas (US Civil War)
- 1898 - Spanish-American War: The United States declares state of war on Spain effective from 21st April.
- 1905 - Whites win right to vote in South Africa
- 1914 - US President Woodrow Wilson is persuaded by Argentina, Brazil, and Chile to accept mediation in the conflict with Mexico
- 1926 - Persian Cossack officer Reza Khan crowns himself Shah Palawi
- 1927 - Spain routes 20,000 soldiers to Morocco (uprising Rifkabylen)
- 1941 - Operation Merkur: Hitler orders conquest of Kreta
- 1945 - Allied air raid on Surabaya, Java
- 1945 - British troops reach Grebbe line Neth
- 1945 Red army completely surrounds Berlin
- 1945 - Last Boeing B-17 attack against Nazi Germany
- 1957 - 1st experimental sodium nuclear reactor operated
- 1957 - Ibrahim Hashim forms Jordanian government
- 1959 - Then-bishop Karol Wojtyla's celebrates newly completed Nowa Huta, Poland's first ever Mass at midnight of Christmas morning

*From KO Archives*

## Withdraw Ban On Dance Bars: Farooq

S hillong- National Conference patron, Farooq Abdullah today came out strongly against the government move to ban dance bars in Mumbai and other cities across Maharashtra.

Farooq believes the banning of dance bars would encourage prostitution.

"Where (they) dancing girls) will go now for money to buy food, medicine and education expenses of their children? Mumbai, as we know, is a costly city and those dancers were so far eking out a living without selling their bodies," Abdullah told a gathering on spreading awareness of HIV AIDS here Friday.

"With the Maharashtra government banning the dance bars, these women would be forced to go in for prostitution which would in turn spread the dreaded virus of AIDS into the society," the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir alleged.

The NC leader also voiced concern over truck drivers 'transporting' the HIV/AIDS while ferrying goods.

Lauding the efforts of Assam Rifles Wives Welfare Association, which organised the campaign today, for spreading the awareness among the jawans' families, the Rajya Sabha member said he was sanctioning Rs 5 lakh to the organisation to start AIDS awareness campaign in local languages in remote areas; of the North East

(Kashmir Observer, 25 April, 2005)

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Thursday | 25-04-2024

## Power Crisis In Spring

The valley, which typically experiences improved power supply as winter fades, is currently facing an acute shortage of electricity. The situation has reached alarming proportions, leaving residents and businesses in the lurch.

Kashmir's power deficit is no secret. The demand for electricity in the valley often outstrips the available supply, especially during winter, resulting in unscheduled and prolonged power cuts. Not so after the winter is over as is the case now. According to officials from the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL), the current load requirement for Kashmir stands at a staggering 1400 MW for 6 hours daily and 1000 MW for the remaining 18 hours. However, the available supply falls significantly short of this demand.

The consequences of this power crisis are dire. Residents are forced to endure hours-long power outages, disrupting daily life. The business community, in particular, has been severely affected, with shopkeepers and entrepreneurs reporting substantial losses due to the lack of a consistent power supply. Many have been compelled to resort to expensive generators to keep their operations running, further straining their already limited resources.

What makes this situation particularly concerning is that it comes at a time when the winter season has passed. Typically, this period sees an improvement in power supply as the demand decreases. However, this year, the valley finds itself in the grips of a power crisis even as spring sets in.

The reasons behind this crisis are varied. While officials cite limited power availability and a resulting power deficit as the primary causes, the issue runs deeper. Despite an improvement in revenue collection, the authorities have failed to address the fundamental issue of power supply inadequacy. Also, fewer power purchases from outside generating companies have exacerbated the problem, leading to further strain on the existing power infrastructure.

The authorities must acknowledge the severity of the situation and take immediate steps to address it. The people of Kashmir cannot be expected to bear the brunt of this crisis indefinitely. While the KPDCL has assured residents that the power restrictions will be eased once availability improves, concrete action is needed to resolve the underlying issues causing this shortage.

On April 20, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a review meeting of the Power Development Department, discussing power supply preparations for the upcoming summer months, progress of key projects, and schemes. Sinha reviewed measures to curb transmission losses, increase capacity, and the progress of smart meter installations. He also emphasized the need for heightened enforcement against power theft, and directed streamlining the process for new power connections. Here's hoping that the measures lead to improvement in the power supply.

### OTHER OPINION

## Insuring the future

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the apex regulator of insurance products, has asked companies to enable a wide demographic of citizens to benefit from health insurance. Most significantly, it directs insurance providers to make health insurance available to senior citizens, as those above 65 are currently barred from issuing new policies for themselves. This is clearly an acknowledgement of demographic changes underway in India. Though India's population figures have not been officially accounted for since 2011, estimates from the UN Population Fund and experts suggest that India's is nearly level with China and may have surpassed it sometime in 2023. The India Ageing Report 2023, which draws from UN projections, estimates that India's cohort of seniors — those above 60 — will increase from about 10% of the population (149 million in 2022) to 30% (347 million) by 2050. That is more than the current population of the U.S. Several of the most developed countries already have their senior demographic (65-plus) ranging from 16% to 28%. That is already precipitating considerable worry within these populations on access to health care, affordable medicine and appropriate care-giving infrastructure to support them. Some of these economically developed countries have government-funded public health systems and others are entirely dependent on private health care, with cost being a significant determinant in access to quality care. In many of these countries, there is no entry barrier to health insurance policies, though, following principles of actuarial economics from centuries ago, health insurance gets progressively, and sometimes exponentially, more expensive as age advances.

Already the small, single-digit percentage of India's economic elite can afford the equivalent of "family floater" plans that take care of individuals and their parents at a cost lower than what individual senior-citizen health insurance would cost. If the only effect of the IRDAI's recent circular is to provide many more unaffordable health insurance policies, it would be equivalent to admiring the icing on an inedible cake. Much has been made of the next two decades being critical to India's future, on the reasoning that this is the time that India must reap its 'demographic dividend'. This is premised on a large proportion of the workforce moving out of agriculture and inevitably followed by a breakdown of the traditional care-giving structure for the aged. The experience in several southern Indian States is telling. Thus, broadening the eligibility of health insurance should be accompanied by a massive up-gradation of affordable health care.

The Hindu

# Design University Reaches Out to Schools in Kashmir



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Design Thinking plays an important role to address different challenging tasks. When Design Thinking is supported with innovation it becomes a powerful tool to address the environmental crisis. Design Thinking and innovative practices helps in achieving the goals like having sustainable energy and fossil fuel free transportation system. These tools can drive transformative change, fostering creative and sustainable solutions. With the increasing need for sustainable solutions, the concepts of innovation in sustainable energy, sustainable transportation, and climate change have become intrinsically linked. Some months back I wrote a piece on Design Thinking and Good Governance which was carried in this newspaper on February 6th 2024.

That was my first article on Design Thinking and I only got to know this subject in detail after I had visited Anant National University Ahmedabad in the month of January. Infact, I had done my Climate Action Fellowship from the same university but during that time I was more focussed on climate and environmental issues rather than Design Thinking.

As already discussed in my earlier writeup, design thinking doesn't essentially mean fashion designing, interior designing etc but this is more than that and its application is essential in every field of life.

During my discussion with the Provost (Vice Chancellor) of Anant National University Prof Anunaya Chaubey at Ahmedabad, I had requested him to visit Kashmir so that he could interact with Kashmiri youth and make them aware of Design Thinking which makes young minds to think critically and analyse everything with passion and empathy. Prof Chaubey came to Kashmir a few days back and visited several institutions in Srinagar, Shopian and other places. It was heartening to see school students interacting with him so passionately.

### Visit to NIPS Zainapora Shopian

When Prof Anunaya Chaubey and his colleague Dr Naga Chetanaya (Assistant Professor Climate School) landed in Srinagar on April 22nd at 9:30 am, we straightway drove towards Zainapora Shopian to meet the students at National Innovation Public School -NIPS. I had heard a lot about this school and have been following them on social media as well.

By harnessing the power of innovation and design thinking, young people can drive sustainable solutions and make a significant positive impact especially when we have to overcome the environmental crisis and to create a more sustainable world.

When we were discussing climate change and recent heavy downpour in Dubai, I shifted the discussion towards excessive use of Pesticides in apple farms in Shopian and other parts of Kashmir. The students of class X from NIPS who were debating climate change and engaging passionately with Prof Chaubey, were shocked to learn about the fallout of the pesticides.

These kids are bright enough to understand the impacts of pesticides but as this issue is neither discussed or debated in our rural societies, the people at large don't take this as a great threat for climate, biodiversity or human health. I believe Prof Chaubey's visit to NIPS Zainapora Shopian has made a remarkable impact on the young minds as they would definitely start thinking critically about excessive use of pesticides. Their passion, creativity,

and willingness to challenge the status quo will make them catalysts for change.

### Birla Open Minds School Pampore

On Tuesday April 23rd Prof Anunaya Chaubey visited Birla Open Minds School-BOMIS Pampore. Yet again, he interacted with students of class X and the discussion was mind-blowing.

The way students at BOMS Pampore discussed innovation and design thinking with some novel ideas was really incredible. Prof Chaubey reiterated that Design Thinking was like a problem-solving approach that focuses on finding innovative and sustainable solutions which are based on compassion and empathy. He added that design thinking puts human needs and experiences at the forefront, emphasizing empathy, creativity, and collaboration.

In the present time, public policy and governance face an increasing demand for effectiveness, efficiency, and empathy. Many of our Government schemes and welfare programmes are indeed pro poor and empathetic like PM Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojna -PMGKAY or PM Awas Yojana -PMAY, Swachh Bharat Mission or MNREGA but during implementation process we find lots of loopholes in these schemes.

Our Govt planners can involve Design Thinkers to streamline these Govt schemes. Our traditional chefs (Waza's) from Srinagar's old city were known for their cooking skills.

“  
Design thinking and innovation holds great importance due to its holistic approach that promotes companies to change their mindset not just to solve problems but to find them as well. Design Thinking incorporates long-term strategy planning and setting a work environment that runs on critical thinking, creativity and imagination

But as time passed their children didn't opt for this job as they thought being a waza was an inferior work. This is not their fault but as a society we have this mindset in Kashmir. The Waza's from Srinagar's Wazpora area used to hire workers and helpers from Tulail Gurez area of Kashmir and when the new generation from traditional Waza Community were not ready to continue with this profession, the workers and helpers from Gurez and Tulail took over this profession. We have some incredible Waza's from Tulail and Gurez who work in Srinagar and other places. To address these challenges Anant National University is offering scholarships for the children of artisans or chefs who want to continue with their trade and tradition.

### Interaction at RISE academy

After finishing his talk at Birla Open Minds School Pampore, Prof Anunaya Chaubey visited RISE academy Srinagar to interact with IIT JEE aspirants who are in class XI right now. During the interaction with students at RISE institute Gogjibagh Srinagar, the climate crisis was again being discussed and Prof Chaubey explained how this could be tackled using Design Thinking.

Infact, Anant University has now launched a dedicated course of B Tech in Climate Change which is nowhere taught in the country as of now. Prof Chaubey said that this course should have been introduced more than two decades back had we been using Design Thinking as a tool to address our climate issues.

I believe that design thinking and innovation holds great importance due to its holistic approach that promotes companies to change their mindset not just to solve problems but to find them as well. Design Thinking incorporates long-term strategy planning and setting a work environment that runs on critical thinking, creativity and imagination.

### Conclusion

The National Education Policy-NEP 2020 has recommended concerted curricular and pedagogical initiatives which includes the introduction of contemporary subjects such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Holistic Health, Organic Living, Environmental Education, Global Citizenship Education (GCED). Design Thinking is also part of NEP 2020. The NEP encourages students to think critically and creatively, and to develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Jammu & Kashmir Govt needs to create a mass awareness on Design Thinking and especially hold workshops for school teachers. The urban planners, architects, engineers and environmental experts should essentially be imparted training on this subject so that we are able to tackle the climate crisis especially. I appreciate Anant National University for reaching out to Kashmiri youth and on my suggestion Prof Anunaya Chaubey agreed to invite school students and teachers from Kashmir to his campus at Ahmedabad in winter's vacation. In summers we plan to have students from this university do some kind of internships in Kashmir with various Govt and Non Governmental organisations. This will not only help exchanging of ideas or skills but also will help students to develop leadership skills, self confidence and greater understanding of the problems. Kashmiri students are bright who need more handholding and greater exposure to the outside world.

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

# Artificial Intelligence

## Is it a Looming Threat to Employment Generation?

Zahid Ahmad Lone

In the rapidly evolving landscape of technology, the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has sparked both awe and apprehension. While hailed for its potential to revolutionize industries and streamline processes, there's a growing concern that AI could pose a significant threat to employment generation. This sentiment has ignited a fervent debate among experts and policymakers worldwide. Proponents of AI argue that it has the capacity to enhance productivity, efficiency, and innovation across various sectors. From automated manufacturing processes to intelligent customer service systems, AI applications promise to streamline operations and unlock new avenues for growth. Advocates often highlight the potential for AI to create new job opportunities, particularly in specialized fields such as data science, machine learning, and robotics.

However, amidst the optimism, skeptics raise valid concerns about the darker implications of widespread AI adoption. One of the most pressing apprehensions revolves around the displacement of human labour by intelligent machines. As AI systems become increasingly sophisticated, there's a looming threat that they could render certain jobs obsolete, leading to widespread unemployment and economic upheaval. The manufacturing industry serves as a poignant example of this phenomenon. With the rise of automated assembly lines and robotic technologies, traditional manufacturing roles have dwindled, leaving many workers displaced. Similar trends are observed across various sectors, including retail, transportation, and customer service, where AI-powered solutions are increasingly replacing human workers.

Moreover, the integration of AI into white-collar professions is raising concerns about the future of knowledge-based jobs. Advanced algorithms and machine learning algorithms



are increasingly capable of performing tasks that were once exclusive to human intellect, such as data analysis, legal research, and even creative endeavors like content generation. This shift poses a significant challenge for workers whose livelihoods depend on cognitive skills and expertise. Critics caution that unless proactive measures are taken to address the potential socio-economic ramifications of AI, the widening gap between technological advancement and employment opportunities could exacerbate inequality and social unrest. As AI continues to reshape the labour market, policymakers face the daunting task of navigating the delicate balance between innovation and job preservation.

In response to these challenges, calls for comprehensive strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of AI on employment are gaining traction. Investing in education and training is paramount for preparing individuals



**Implementing social safety nets such as universal basic income and healthcare coverage provides support for workers facing job displacement, fostering economic stability and facilitating retraining for alternative employment opportunities. Embracing these strategies fosters a culture of innovation, inclusivity, and social responsibility, leading to a more resilient and equitable society for all**

for an AI-driven economy. This involves prioritizing lifelong learning programs that impart technical skills like data science and programming, as well as nurturing critical thinking, adaptability, and creativity. By prioritizing education, societies can ensure their workforce

remains agile and equipped to navigate the evolving landscape of work.

Reskilling and up skilling initiatives are vital to help workers transition into new roles that complement AI technologies. Governments and businesses should invest in tailored pro-

grams catering to diverse industries and demographics, ensuring inclusivity and preventing anyone from being left behind due to automation. Empowering individuals through reskilling and up skilling opportunities enables them to adapt to changing job requirements and seize new

employment prospects.

Ethical AI deployment and robust social safety nets are essential components in shaping a future where AI augments human capabilities while safeguarding against negative impacts on employment. Establishing ethical guidelines and regulatory frameworks ensures responsible AI deployment, mitigating unintended consequences like bias and discrimination. Implementing social safety nets such as universal basic income and healthcare coverage provides support for workers facing job displacement, fostering economic stability and facilitating retraining for alternative employment opportunities. Embracing these strategies fosters a culture of innovation, inclusivity, and social responsibility, leading to a more resilient and equitable society for all.

As the debate over the impact of AI on employment rages on, one thing remains clear: the need for a proactive and inclusive approach to harnessing the potential of this transformative technology. While AI undoubtedly holds the promise of unparalleled progress, its implications for the future of work must be carefully considered to ensure a sustainable and equitable society in the age of automation. Thus, the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents both immense opportunities and significant challenges for employment generation. While AI has the potential to enhance productivity and innovation across various sectors, there are legitimate concerns about its impact on job displacement and economic inequality. To navigate this complex landscape, proactive measures such as investing in education, reskilling initiatives, ethical AI deployment, and robust social safety nets are crucial. By embracing these strategies, societies can harness the transformative power of AI while ensuring a sustainable and inclusive future for all in the age of automation.

The author is a research scholar at University of Kashmir

# Science Behind Metabolism and Health

Travis Nemkov

If you've spent any time scrolling through the health and wellness corners of social media, you've likely come across many products claiming to improve your metabolism. But what exactly is your metabolism?

Everything you expose your body to – from lifestyle to an airborne virus – influences your physical characteristics, such as your blood pressure and energy levels. Together, these biological characteristics are referred to as your phenotype. And the biological system that most directly influences your phenotype is your metabolism.

So if you are eating something, take medications, smoke or exercise, your metabolism is responsible for transferring that biological information throughout your body for it to adapt.

### METABOLISM IS ENERGY CONVERSION

Your metabolism consists of a network of tens of thousands of molecules and proteins that convert the food you eat into the energy and building blocks your body uses to move, grow and repair itself. At the chemical level, energy metabolism begins when the three macronutrients – carbohydrates, fats and protein – are broken down atom by atom to release electrons from chemical bonds. These electrons charge components in cells called mitochondria.

Akin to how batteries work, mitochondria harness this electrical potential to create a different form of chemical energy that the rest of the cell



can use.

Simply put, a primary role of metabolism is to convert chemical energy into electrical energy and back into chemical energy. How this energy is transferred throughout the body might play a central role in determining whether you're sick or healthy.

I am a biochemist who studies the various networks of metabolism that are used as your body changes. My team and I have been able to define specific traits of metabolism, such as the presence and amount of certain metabolites – products made from breaking down macronutrients – across a wide range of conditions.

These conditions include diseases such as COVID-19, diabetes, multiple sclerosis and sickle cell anemia, to experiencing unique environments such as radiation exposure, high altitude, aging and sports performance. Each of these settings influences which parts of your metabolic network are used and how they communicate with one another.

### ELITE ATHLETES DEFINE THE UPPER LIMITS

Given the alarming rise in obesity and its associated metabolic syndrome – about 1 in 8 people across the globe was living with obesity in 2022 –

defining a healthy or impaired metabolism can help identify what's gone wrong and how to address it.

Elite athletes offer a prime population to study metabolic function at its best, since their network of molecular and chemical reactions must be finely tuned to compete on the world stage.

Traditionally, lactate threshold has been a critical measure of athletic performance by pinpointing exercise intensity when lactate starts to rise in muscles and blood.

Contrary to common belief, lactate is not merely a waste product but an energy source as well, and it accumulates

when it's produced faster than mitochondria can use it. While a moderately active person might reach their threshold at an exercise intensity of around 2 watts per kilogram, elite cyclists can sustain an intensity up to nearly two to three times higher.

When comparing the lactate thresholds of a group of elite cyclists, we found that the cyclists with higher thresholds had markers of better mitochondrial function. One of these markers was higher production of coenzyme A, a molecule that shuttles carbon around cells and is important for breaking down carbs, amino acids and fat into chemical energy.

Higher-performing cyclists also appeared to burn more fat and burn fat longer during a multistage world tour compared with lower-performing cyclists.

### DYSFUNCTIONAL METABOLISM IN DISEASES LIKE COVID-19

Your metabolism also changes if you get an acute illness such as COVID-19.

In contrast to elite cyclists, COVID-19 patients have an impaired ability to burn fat that appears to persist with long COVID. The blood of these patients at rest is similar to that of an elite cyclist's at exhaustion. Considering that exercise intolerance frequently occurs with long COVID, this suggests mitochondrial dysfunction may play a role in COVID-related fatigue.

Burning fat uses a lot of oxygen. COVID-19 damages the red blood cells that deliver oxygen to organs. Because red blood cells have a limited ability to repair themselves, they might not function as well during the remainder of their roughly 120-day life span. This may partially explain why COVID symptoms last as long as they do in some people.

### BLOOD DONORS DEFINE THE MIDDLE

Blood transfusions are one of the most common clinical procedures. Over 118 million pints of blood are donated by millions of people worldwide every year. Because blood donors undergo screening to ensure they are healthy enough to donate, they are typically moderately healthy, somewhere between acute illness and elite athletic performance. Blood donors, coming from ev-

ery walk of life, also have a diverse range of biological traits as a study population.

My team and I looked at blood from over 13,000 blood donors to shed light on their metabolic diversity. We found specific traits that could predict how well a donor's blood would work in patients, which also has implications for how well that blood works in the donors themselves.

We found that one of these traits is a metabolite called kynurenine, which is produced from the breakdown of the amino acid tryptophan. We found that blood from donors with higher levels of kynurenine was less likely to restore hemoglobin levels in transfusion recipients compared with donors with lower kynurenine levels.

Kynurenine levels are higher in older donors and donors with a higher BMI, and may potentially be tied to higher levels of inflammation. In support, our group also found that kynurenine increases dramatically in runners participating in the 171-kilometer (106 miles) Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc. In addition, we also identified that kynurenine is a strong marker of COVID-19 severity.

The relationship between metabolites and health outcomes reinforces the important role metabolism plays in the body. Getting a better understanding of what healthy metabolism looks like can offer unique insights into how it deviates when someone gets sick and may offer new approaches to medical treatments.

By arrangements with The Conversation

## Dr. Anunya Chaubey Inspires Audience At SSM College Of Engineering

Pattan: Dr. Anunya Chaubey, Vice Chancellor of Anant National University and a distinguished figure in sustainable development, delivered an enlightening lecture at SSM College of Engineering, sparking enthusiasm and fostering interdisciplinary dialogue among faculty and students.

Dr. Chaubey's lecture delved into the imperative of interdisciplinary perspectives in tackling the multifaceted challenges of



sustainability. Drawing from his extensive research and experience, he highlighted the pivotal role of collaboration across disciplines in

crafting innovative solutions to global sustainability issues.

Hosted by SSM College of Engineering, the event provided a platform for attendees to engage with Dr. Chaubey's ideas and contribute to the discourse on sustainable development. The interactive session facilitated lively discussions, igniting inspiration among participants to integrate interdisciplinary approaches into their academic and professional pursuits. Expressing gratitude for Dr.

Chaubey's impactful contribution, Dr. Sajad Hussain Din, Principal of SSM College of Engineering, emphasized the significance of interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing sustainable development goals.

The event concluded with accolades from participants, commending Dr. Chaubey for his engaging presentation and unwavering commitment to promoting sustainability through interdisciplinary cooperation.

## World Malaria Day 2024: 'Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world'

Srinagar: Malaria is a disease that is caused by mosquito bites. Shaking chill and high fever are the main symptoms of malaria. In tropical and sub-tropical countries, malaria is extremely common. However, malaria is also preventable. With proper precautions and preventive measures, mosquito bites can be prevented. Every year, World Malaria Day

is celebrated to raise awareness about the prevention measures against malaria and what we can do to ensure that we do not fall victim to this disease. As we gear up to celebrate the special day, here are a few things that we must keep in mind. On this World Malaria Day 2024, we unite under the theme - Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable

world. This theme, which is in sync with this year's World Health Day theme - My Health, My Right, underscores the urgent need to address the stark inequities that persist in access to malaria prevention, detection, and treatment services," stated Saima Wazed, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia on the official website of World Health Organisation.

## CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

### Gandbal's Desperate

"We have seen Div Comm, DC standing. We are thankful to them a bit after LG Sahib visited. Everyone has vanished. We want sophisticated machinery to trace our missing," a local, Ashiq Hussain, says. "These resources are seen as essential in navigating the challenging terrain and waterways to locate and rescue missing individuals. The use of such specialized teams and equipment could significantly aid in expediting the search efforts and bringing closure to the families affected by these tragic incidents."

"We don't want anything. We don't get any compensation. We don't want any politics. All we want is to see them out of the waters and give them the final burial," Shafiq, family member of one of the missing, Farhaan says.

"There has been a deep sense of loss. We have witnessed trauma, the highest degree of scars from the last many days. We have seen people coming and consuming us. We really are grateful to all those who have been with us. But please go to the Government and tell them we want an end to this trauma," she says.

Masarat, mother of seven-year-old Farhaan Waseem who went missing after a boat capsized, has been left numb by the tragedy. She is haunted by traumatic memories, especially the screams and the sight of her son drowning before her eyes. She now calls for action in search efforts. She has expressed a deep sense of grief, wishing that she had been the one to perish instead of her son.

Masarat's story is just one among many in the Gandbal area, where victim families are enduring endless trauma due to the disappearances of their loved ones. They are urging Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to accelerate search operations for the missing persons, emphasizing the urgent need for resolution and closure in the face of such devastating loss.

The victim families in the Gandbal area have urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to speed up search operations for missing persons. The victim families and residents are experiencing endless trauma due to the disappearance of their loved ones.

They demanded that all the local experts have tried their best and that now there was a need for some sophisticated, high end camera based search operations to begin as the water level too has receded.

Meanwhile, as a weather advisory predicts a rise in water levels at the Jhelum river, locals in the area are expressing frustration with the government, alleging that precious time was wasted when the water level was at its lowest.

This criticism highlights the perceived lack of proactive measures taken by authorities to address the situation, potentially complicating ongoing search and rescue efforts in the aftermath of the Srinagar boat tragedy.

In the Gandbal area, victim families and residents are experiencing endless trauma due to the disappearance of their loved ones. One mother, in particular, is pleading for an end to this anguish. The families and residents are urging Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to expedite search operations to locate the missing persons. Their plea highlights the desperate need for closure and resolution in this ongoing tragedy.

The tragic incident along the banks of the river Jhelum, where a boat capsized, has left the entire area in mourning. Six lives have been lost, and the search continues for at least three missing persons, including a father-son duo. Later the administration issued a detailed list of victims and also those who were rescued. The number stands at 19.

Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr Bilal A Bhat, told Kashmir Observer that efforts were on and teams would be deputed. He said there is already an SDRF rescue mission team on the job while other measures are also underway.

It may be recalled that fifteen people, including schoolchildren, were in the boat when it capsized. While six people were rescued, six bodies were retrieved till the afternoon the search continues for three missing persons.

### Campaigning Ends

Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, and 1 seat each in Manipur, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the prominent contestants are Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar (Thiruvananthapuram), BJP's Tejasvi Surya (Karnataka), Hema

Malini and Arun Govil (both Uttar Pradesh), Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi (Wayanad) and Shashi Tharoor (Thiruvananthapuram), Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's brother DK Suresh (Cong), former Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy (JDS).

During the campaigning, Prime Minister Narendra kicked up a row on Sunday while addressing a rally in Rajasthan's Banswara.

Slamming the Congress manifesto, he alleged that the opposition party was planning to give people's hard-earned money and valuables to "infiltrators" and "those who have more children" and referred to former prime minister Manmohan Singh's speech in 2006 to contend he had said that Muslims have the "first claim" on the country's resources.

The Congress was quick to react, saying that after facing "disappointment" in the first phase of Lok Sabha polls, the prime minister was resorting to "lies" and "hate speech" to divert people from the real issues.

The party also urged the Election Commission to take action against Modi for his remarks, alleging they were 'divisive', 'malicious' and targeted a particular religious community.

The next day, Modi again accused the Congress of planning to redistribute people's property if it is voted to power, but stopped short of saying that the wealth would go to Muslims.

Addressing a rally in Aligarh, a western Uttar Pradesh constituency with a sizeable Muslim population, Modi further said he wanted to "alert" people about the "intentions" of the Congress and the opposition INDIA bloc.

As campaigning was drawing to a close, remarks by Congress leader Sam Pitroda on inheritance tax gave enough fodder to Modi and other BJP leaders to launch an all-out attack on the issue of "wealth redistribution".

In his poll rallies on Wednesday, Modi framed Pitroda's comments in his wider onslaught against the Congress, asserting that they have exposed its hidden agenda and that the party has become so removed from the country's social and family values that it wants to legally rob people of their assets and lifelong savings they want to bequeath to their children.

The Congress swung into damage control, distancing itself from the comments of the US-based president of its overseas wing.

After Friday's phase, polling will be over in Kerala, Rajasthan and Tripura. In the first phase on April 19, polling was completed in all seats of Tamil Nadu (39), Uttarakhand (5), Arunachal Pradesh (2), Meghalaya (2), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1), Mizoram (1), Nagaland (1), Puducherry (1), Sikkim (1) and Lakshadweep (1).

In 2019, the NDA had won 56 of these 89 seats and the UPA 24. Six of these seats have been redrawn as part of the delimitation exercise.

Authorities in these constituencies have been directed to ensure that no outsider remains in these areas 48 hours before polling. Any form of electioneering, public meetings, press conferences by political parties, interviews and panel discussions in electronic or print media have been strictly prohibited.

The second phase of polling for 94 seats in 12 states and Union territories will be held on May 7.

### 2 Soldiers Injured

"Based on specific intelligence by agencies regarding presence of terrorists, a Joint Operation was launched from 21 Apr onwards by Indian Army and Jammu Kashmir Police in general area Mulkhyama Forest, Bandipore".

"The area was cordoned & search conducted, resulting in a firefight in the early hours this morning. Operations in progress".

Meanwhile, reliable sources said that helicopters have been pressed into service while more forces have been rushed to the spot to track down hiding terrorists.

"A massive search operation is still going on in the area to track down the terrorists," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Bandipora, Lakshay Sharma said, adding that the details will be shared accordingly.

The encounter was ongoing at the time this report was filed.

### 17.80 Lakh Voters

Gulabgarh (ST), Reasi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, has 23,52,62 voters including 12,33,23 male, 11,19,36 female and three transgender voters. Among these 1393 are service voters (1364

male, 29 female). The ECI has set up 425 polling stations across the district including 97 vulnerable and 16 critical.

Samba district, comprising three Assembly Constituencies including Ramgrah (SC), Samba and Vijaypur has 2,59,198 voters, including 1,32,861 male, 1,26,336 female and one transgender voter. Among these 10,269 (10,073 male, 196 female) are service voters. The ECI has set up 365 polling stations in the district, including 72 critical.

Similarly, Jammu district, comprising 11 Assembly Constituencies including Bishnah (SC), Suchetgarh (SC), R S Pura-Jammu South, Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota, Jammu West, Jammu North, Marh (SC), Akhnoor (SC) and Chhamb has 11,89,389 electors, including 6,13,988 male, 5,75,378 female and 23 transgender voters. Among these are also 24,315 service voters (23,768 male, 547 female). The ECI has set up 1488 polling stations across the district, including 38 vulnerable and 15 critical.

Likewise, Rajouri district with only Kalakote-Sunderbani Assembly Constituency falling in Jammu PC, has 96,986 voters (50,923 male, 46,062 female) and one transgender voter. Among these 1845 (1820 male, 25 female) are service voters. The ECI has set up 138 polling stations in the Assembly Constituency, including 88 vulnerable and 14 critical.

The RS Pura-Jammu South Assembly Constituency has the highest number of 1,24,744 voters (64,687 male, 60,054 female), three transgender voters including 1592 service. The EC has set up 147 polling stations across this AC.

Similarly, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Assembly segment of Reasi district has the lowest number of 55,737 voters (29,340 male, 26,397 female including 271 service voters) and the election authorities have set up 91 polling stations across the segment.

### PDP's Parra, Apni Party's

general secretary Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura, Parra filed the nomination papers before Srinagar Deputy Commissioner Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, who is the returning officer of the constituency.

Talking to reporters later, Parra said the PDP will raise the voice of people of Kashmir in the Parliament.

"In this election, our endeavour is that the people of Kashmir will make Mehbooba Mufti's team successful so that we raise your voice in the biggest institution and represent your issues there," Parra said.

"PDP is the only party which has raised the voice of people in the last five years. Our endeavour is to take this voice to New Delhi, Parliament and to the people of the country," he added.

Asked about National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah's jibe that PDP is the 'C' team of the BJP, Parra said, "We do not want to lower the political discourse. We also appeal them to balance the discourse. The people here are in distress, they have no interest in such arguments and accusations. They want to know what we can give them." "PDP will give voice to the people and we hope we will win all three seats," he added.

Earlier, Parra travelled from Pulwama district of south Kashmir to Srinagar with hundreds of his supporters. He then reached the deputy commissioner's office here after making a brief stopover at the historic Clock Tower in the city centre.

Apni Party leader Mohammad Ashraf Mir also filed his nomination papers from the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency

Accompanied by party leaders, Mir submitted his papers to Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, the returning officer of the constituency.

Talking to reporters later, Mir said his party's agenda is to restore "the honour and dignity that we have lost after 2019". He was referring to the abrogation of Article 370 by the Centre on August 5, 2019.

"Those enjoying there (in the Lok Sabha) for five years were trying to save their chair. They have lost the confidence of the people... I am confident about our victory," Mir said. Without naming the NC and PDP, the Apni Party leader said people have understood the politics of these parties.

"They have only done things for their own benefit. No one has listened to the people and even today, people are yearning for electricity, water and roads. We will not do the politics of lies and deceit. We will do the politics of

honesty," he added.

Earlier, Mir led a roadshow of his supporters from the party's headquarters at Sonwar to the deputy commissioner's office.

The last date for filing nominations for the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency is April 25, while it goes to polls on May 13.

### Parra Poorer

candidate in fray with a house valued at a mere Rs 32 lac and a monthly earning not exceeding Rs 40,000. However, his opponent from Apni Party Muhammad Ashraf Mir is much richer than Parra having almost Rs 31 Crore net worth.

The poll affidavit Parra has submitted before the Returning Officer in Srinagar reveals that he has not been able to earn anything from the year 2020 to 2022 for being under detention.

The PDP youth president disclosed an increase in his taxable income from Rs 4,51,279 in FY 2021-22 to Rs 4,70,310 in FY 2022-23. According to the affidavit, Waheed Parra did not file taxable incomes for the financial years 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 due to being under custody. The affidavit further disclosed that Waheed Parra faces two FIRs, one by the National Investigation Agency and another by the Central Investigation Kashmir.

Parra doesn't have any savings or fixed deposits. However, he has revealed ownership of agricultural land valued at Rs 2.08 crore, alongside a commercial building at Industrial Estate Pulwama and a residential house in Pulwama. According to the affidavit, Waheed possesses movable assets valued at Rs 1 lakh and immovable assets worth Rs 5 lakh.

On the other hand, his opponent Mohammad Ashraf Mir of Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party in his poll affidavit, has declared that his taxable income dropped by 2 lakhs from Rs 9,18,140 in FY 2018-19 to just Rs 7,54, 267 in FY 2019-20 when Article 370 was scrapped.

Mir, on Wednesday also submitted his nomination papers for the Srinagar parliamentary seat as a candidate for his party. The movable assets include a total value of Rs. 97 lac for Mohammad Ashraf Mir and Rs. 1,57,25,528 for his spouse. As far as immovable assets are concerned, Mohammad Ashraf Mir has declared a total value of Rs 1,54,00,000 as per the present market value, including agricultural land.

Mir has declared that his taxable income has decreased from Rs 14,79,130 in FY 2019-20 to just Rs 13,36,680 in FY 2023-24 up to March.

The affidavit states that Mir possesses 38 Kanal of agricultural land in Lasjan, valued at Rs 11.50 crore. Additionally, Mir has movable assets worth Rs 97,24,922, while his spouse possesses movable assets valued at Rs 1,57,25,528 according to the affidavit. He owns a Toyota Fortuner and a Mahindra Scorpio. Based on the provided document, Mir has Rs. 5,00,000 in cash in hand and a savings deposit of Rs. 1,25,528 in J&K Bank. (with inputs from KNO)

### Sajad Lone Seeks

veered towards elections, I stressed that I have a right. And seeking their support is my right," Lone said on X on Wednesday.

Muzaffar Hussain Baig was the deputy chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir from 2005 to 2008 when Ghulam Nabi Azad was the chief minister and the Congress and PDP shared power.

Muzaffar Hussain Baig, a Padma Bhushan awardee and co-founder of the PDP, was made the party's patron following Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's death in 2016.

However, he quit the party in 2020 and was tipped to join the People's Conference.

While his wife Safina joined Lone's party, the former Lok Sabha member from Baramulla did not make any official announcement about his status.

Although he attended a function organised by the PDP to commemorate the eighth death anniversary of Sayeed in the Anantnag district on January 7, it is not clear whether he is still in the PDP or not.

Meanwhile, Safina said Muzaffar Hussain Baig shares a decade-long relationship with Lone.

"Whenever Beigh sahib and I host Sajad sahib at our residence, it inevitably reminds all of us of the decades long that we share. Beigh sahib has seen him grow and evolve. And yes @sajadlone sahib is correct when he says he is here by virtue of a right," she posted

on X. PTI

### 'Battle for Dogra

the Congress, National Conference (NC), and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Following the recent delimitation, the contours of the Jammu Lok Sabha seat have been redrawn, setting the stage for an intense electoral battle.

Once a bastion for the BJP, the Jammu Lok Sabha seat has now emerged as a symbol of prestige for the party, particularly in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370. The fervor surrounding this election stems from the historical significance of Jammu, where the Praja Parishad spearheaded the movement to abolish Article 370. With the BJP rallying behind the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party aims to retain its stronghold in the region.

However, the electoral landscape has witnessed a significant realignment with the formation of an alliance between the Congress, NC, and PDP, presenting a formidable challenge to the BJP's dominance. The alliance is banking on the support of influential figures such as NC chief Dr. Farooq Abdullah, who has thrown his weight behind the Congress candidate.

The inclusion of Reasi district and the creation of a new assembly seat named after Mata Vaishno Devi have added a new dimension to the electoral calculus. The contest in this region is expected to test the acceptance of the BJP, particularly in light of its development initiatives and the changes implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.

Crucially, the election will also highlight the aspirations of marginalized communities, including West Pakistani refugees, residents of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and members of the OBC community. These constituencies hold significant sway in determining the electoral outcome, with issues such as reservation, land ownership rights, and access to basic amenities taking center stage.

Candidates representing various parties have articulated their visions for the region, with BJP candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma emphasizing the development work undertaken by the Modi government. Conversely, Congress candidate Raman Bhalla has criticized the BJP's track record, highlighting concerns over unemployment and deteriorating tourism.

In this charged electoral atmosphere, Ankur Sharma of the Ekam Sanatan Dal Party has positioned himself as a proponent of political change, advocating for the rights and dignity of the Dogra community.

### J&K Braces

mostly dry weather is expected until late afternoon or evening. "Rain showers are expected in many places in J&K. Overall nothing significant is expected on the day," the weatherman said.

Regarding the forecast on April 27 and 28, he said that very heavy rainfall is expected over some parts of Kashmir, along with gusty winds, thunder/lightning and hailstorm.

"Fresh snowfall is expected over higher peaks," he added.

According to the weatherman, farmers are advised to complete spraying of orchards on Thursday or postpone spraying till April 29. He predicted a rise in water levels particularly on April 27, 28 and 29.

About the fall in the maximum temperature, director MeT said that the maximum temperature will continue to witness a fall in the next few days and is expected to improve from May 01, 2024.

Moreover, as per the data, Jammu & Kashmir has recorded normal precipitation from March 01, 2024 to April 24, 2024. Samba is the only station where the deficient rainfall of 22 per cent has been recorded during the period.

As per the data, against the normal precipitation of 187.5 mm, Srinagar has recorded 275.5 mm rainfall during the period.

### Govt Sacks Erstwhile

part of which was deposited into his bank account, with the remainder paid in cash.

The alleged action was carried out with the promise of securing a government job for Manzoor. Such conduct was deemed a violation of Rule-3 of the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971.

The investigation into the matter revealed that Bhat's actions tarnished the image and reputation of the institution. Following a thorough inquiry, the charges against Bhat were substantiated, leading to his dismissal from service with immediate effect.

The dismissal, in accordance with Clause (viii) of Rule 30 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, also renders him ineligible for future employment. (KNS)

### India On The

and highlighted the role of Sanatan culture in building a progressive society.

He said, the cultural heritage, values and principles of Sanatan Dharma continue to guide the citizens towards an egalitarian society where everyone is able to realise their full potential. He called upon the people to work towards securing a just and equitable society.

"Sanatan culture is eternal, inclusive and inspires people to tread the path of humanism. Sanatan culture emphasizes on virtuous living and equality, equanimity, brotherhood and compassion for all," the LG said.

The LG recalled the teachings of service of Sanatan Culture and urged people to create a caring society based on equality and justice and contribute in the development journey of the country.

"This is a golden opportunity for all of us to work together for all-inclusive development. Every individual must contribute to build progressive and prosperous nation," the LG further added.

### 'Citizen Participation Essential

the nation. "Citizen Participation is essential for holistic, inclusive development and to create a new future for the society. Active citizens strengthen the bond between the government and the society and ensure that the benefits of economic growth reach all sections," the LG said.

The LG called upon the people, especially youth to come forward and generate awareness on duties and responsibilities.

"It is our collective responsibility to ensure the weaker section of society enjoy social justice and equality and strive to our utmost for the realization of the dream of making India a Developed Nation by 2047," the LG said.

He said India is emerging as a global economic power and it is crucial every citizen discharges its duties and contributes towards nation-building.

The LG further stressed upon the common commitment of nation building and urged the people to work with dedication to make the 21st century India's century.

### REC Okays 1,869 Cr

Operate and Maintain (BOOM) basis with an aggregate installed capacity of 3,094 MW. (ANI)

### HC Orders Release

is far too large to presume such a link," the court said.

Subsequently, the court directed release of the 21-year-old from the preventive custody "forthwith provided he is not required in connection with any other case."

Meanwhile, the court also quashed detention order, passed on 24 June 2022 by District Magistrate Kupwara, against Fareed Ahmad Chouhan of Reshiwari Aworo Trehgam area of the north Kashmir district.

"The requirement of law is that whole of the record, on which the detention order is based, has to be made available to the detenu in the language that he understands," the court said, adding, "There is nothing like execution report on the record to suggest that material relied upon to base detention has been furnished to the detenu in his language, so as to make an effective representation."

The failure on the part of the detaining authority to supply material renders detention illegal and unsustainable, the court said.

"Respondents, including Jail Superintendent concerned, are directed to release the detenu (Fareed) forthwith provided he is not required in any other case(s)."

## 66 Youth From South Kashmir Joined Terror Ranks Since 2019: RTI

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Since 2019, a total of 238 terrorists have been killed during encounters with security forces across three different parts of south Kashmir, data reveals. During the same period, approximately 66 youths joined terror ranks, while security forces arrested 67 militants.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), this information was provided by the Jammu & Kashmir Police Department in response to an RTI filed by M M Shujha.

In Anantnag district, the figures reveal that 12 militants were killed in 2019, 18 in 2020, 17 in 2021, 19

in 2022, and 2 in 2023. One militant each was arrested in 2019 and 2020, 3 in 2021, and 2 in 2022. Two youths joined militant groups in 2019, 3 in 2020, 2 in 2021, and 1 in 2022.

Regarding recruitment in the Jammu & Kashmir Police in Anantnag, 81 new recruits were reported in 2019, 21 in 2020, 48 in 2021, 62 in 2022, and 16 in 2023. The number of police personnel retiring in Anantnag during the same period was 32 in 2019, 20 in 2020, 23 in 2021, 41 in 2022, and 41 in 2023.

In Awantipora, the data indicates that 23 militants were killed in 2019, 32 in 2020, and 18 in 2021. During these years, 5 militants were arrested in

2019, 11 in 2020, and 23 in 2021. Additionally, 14 youths joined militancy in 2019, 21 in 2020, and 17 in 2021.

However, in 2023 and so far this year, no militants have been killed or arrested, and no youths have joined militancy in Awantipora.

In Pulwama, 21 militants were reported in 2019, 19 in 2020, 17 in 2021, 24 in 2022, and 1 in 2023. Since 2019, a total of 82 militants have been killed in Pulwama, 68 in Anantnag, and 88 in Awantipora. A total of 60 militants have been arrested in Awantipora, 7 in Anantnag, while 58 youths joined militancy in Awantipora and 8 in Anantnag, the data reveals—(KNO)



A MAN ROWS HIS SHIKARA BOAT on Dal lake amid heavy rainfall in Srinagar.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## Spring Silkworm Rearing Season In Budgam Soon

### Agencies

**BUDGAM:** Director Sericulture Ajaz Ahmad Bhat conducted a comprehensive tour of District Budgam to take stock of the preparations of the District establishment of the department in the run up to the Spring Silkworm Rearing, season of 2024 commencing very soon in Kashmir Division.

The Director Sericulture J&K during the tour of the District inspected various Mulberry Nurseries and Farms located at Haran, Churmujru, Sangrampora, and Beerwah to evaluate the availability of mulberry foliage for silkworm rearing being conducted in the District. During the occasion he interacted with the officers, field functionaries and Silkworm Rearing/Farmers hailing from these areas and reminded them of the heyday of the Industry when the economy of the State of J&K was revolving around Sericulture Industry.

Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director, Sericulture J&K further called for concerted and relentless efforts in order to bring back the past glory of the Sericulture Sector and take it to new heights. He urged for conducting of door-to-door campaign to promote silkworm rearing, highlighting of farmer friendly schemes and dissemination of technical knowhow amongst the old and new entrants (Silkworm Rearing) to empower them and enhance their partic-



ipation in the development of Industry so that they can derive better returns.

The Director Sericulture J&K while expressing views during his interaction with Silkworm Rearing/ Farmers made them aware about the various facilities and unwavering support of the department which include technical guidance and providing of rearing kits, disinfectants free of cost and financial assistance in a phased manner for constructing rearing sheds. Besides, he also informed them that the department provides mulberry plants free of cost with incentives to the Farmers / Silkworm Rearing.

He further clarified that the landless farmers can also avail the facility of acquiring Mulberry Plants from the nearby Nurseries of Sericulture Development Department for conducting mulberry plantation on government vacant land, embankments and on the outer periphery of vacant land of government buildings and schools near to them so that they will avail the foliage at their door steps without facing any predicament.

## Buyers Vanish As Gold Prices Soar In Kashmir

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Gold dealers in Jammu and Kashmir are struggling to get buyers as the rates of the yellow metal have been increasing since the escalation of tension between Iran and Israel.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the latest spike in gold prices came after geopolitical tensions between Iran and Israel, with both nations engaging in aggressive rhetoric and military posturing. Such geopolitical uncertainty often triggers a flight to safety among investors, driving up the demand for assets like gold, traditionally considered a hedge against political instability and economic turmoil.

In response to the soaring prices, gold traders have witnessed a noticeable shift in consumer behaviour. Instead of flocking to purchase gold jewellery during the ongoing wedding season, gold dealers rarely get any customers nowadays.

As per the gold dealers, the rate for 22 karat has increased to Rs 6,660 per gram. For 24 karat (999 gold) pure gold, the price stands at Rs 7,216 per gram.

Mohammad Yusuf Zargar, a gold dealer said they have been struggling to get customers for more than a month now after tension escalated between Iran and Israel.

"The gold rate skyrocketed. We have been only getting the



sellers while there is very less turn to buy the gold. Last week, the gold pound touched Rs 65000. Though the rates have been now coming down still it is unaffordable for the middle class. As such dealers have ceased to sell the pound as of now," he said.

The gold dealers said many investors are opting to liquidate their gold holdings to capitalize on the booming real estate market.

"We've seen a decline in foot traffic and sales of gold jewellery. People are selling their gold to invest in property, believing it offers better returns and stability in uncertain times. Almost 9- percent of the sellers said they are selling gold to invest in real estate," said Abdul Rouf, another gold dealer.

As the wedding season in Kashmir approaches, gold dealers and jewellers claim that the soaring prices are deterring prospective buyers. "Since April, marriage and other wedding related functions start in the valley. People struggle to buy the jewellery as its cost has increased for the last one month," Rouf said—(KNO)

### LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

## 67 Suspects Detained Over Rajouri Civilian Killing: Police

### Press Trust of India

**JAMMU:** As many as 67 suspected people were detained for questioning in connection with the killing of a civilian by two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists in a village in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Wednesday.

During investigations, credible evidence was obtained and the police identified one of the two terrorists involved in committing this act as a "foreign terrorist" with code name Abu Hamza, the officials said.

Police further released the pictures of Hamza and announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh on him, they said.

"A case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Thanamandi. Till now, 67 suspected persons have been detained for questioning post this incident," police said in a statement.

Mohammad Razaq (40) was killed on Monday in the Kunda Top village of the Thanamandi area. Razaq worked in the government's Social Welfare department while his brother Mohammad Tahir Choudhary

## VPN Services Suspended In Rajouri

### Agencies

**RAJOURI:** The authorities on Wednesday ordered the immediate suspension of VPN services till the end of the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

The decision to suspend virtual private networks (VPNs) was taken as a preventive measure to protect information on the Lok Sabha elections and other sensitive data from cyber attacks, Additional District Magistrate (Rajouri) Rajeev Kumar Khajuria said in an order.

"Whereas, a communication has been received from the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police (Rajouri) regarding unprecedented

high usage of VPNs during the past few days in different parts of this district by scores of suspicious Internet users," the order mentioned.

"Whereas, VPN transmits get encrypted and creates point to point tunnel, masks IP address and lets sidestep website blocks and firewall on Internet thus making data related to forthcoming Lok Sabha elections and other sensitive data vulnerable to cyber attacks," it added while announcing the suspension of all VPN services in mobile phones in the district till the end of the election process.

Rajouri is part of Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency, which goes to the polls on May 7.

is a soldier in the Territorial Army, who escaped unhurt.

Police along with security forces deployed in the twin districts of Rajouri-Poonch range are working in close synergy to neutralise this group

and dismantle their support ecosystem, they said.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain, on Tuesday, visited Rajouri to oversee and reinforce security measures in the border district.

## Health Secretary Reviews Arrangements For Amarnathji Yatra

### KO NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review healthcare arrangements being put in place for the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra, 2024.

During the meeting, the Administrative Secretary directed the officials to collaborate closely with Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, Health Department and security forces to ensure coordinated healthcare services for the Yatriis.

The Secretary instructed the officials to finalize all necessary arrangements before the Yatra begins. He highlighted the importance of having both portable and fixed oxygen supplies at all health centers established along the Yatra route. Further, he instructed Director Health Services, Kashmir, to expedite establishment of a 100-bedded hospital by ONGC and arrange the required human resources for the hospital. He also stressed the need



to make sure that all essential medicines and medical equipment are readily available for the pilgrims.

The Secretary emphasized the importance of facilitating a seamless and hassle-free Yatra experience for the pilgrims. He directed for ensuring that requisite healthcare staff should be readily available at all healthcare institutions, especially on highways and critical points along the Yatra route. He called for implementation of a quick and reliable emergency response system at all levels and instructed the officials to ensure deployment of ambulances along the Yatra route.

He asked for keeping the 102 and 108 Ambulance systems on alert during the Yatra.

The Director Health Services

Kashmir provided an overview of the planned healthcare arrangements for the Yatra. He informed that a total of 55 medical centers will be set up, including 06 base hospitals with 100 bedded hospital each at Baltal & Chandanwari, 11 medical aid centers, 12 emergency aid centers, 26 oxygen booths, and 15 on-route facilities. He further stated that 17 on-route facilities will be kept on standby to address any emergencies. The Director also shared that they have planned to deploy a total of 1415 healthcare staff for the Yatra, including 173 specialists, 244 medical officers, and 998 paramedics. Out of these, 754 will be sourced from J&K, and 661 will be requested from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

## Notorious Criminal Detained Under PSA In Jammu

### Agencies

**JAMMU:** A notorious criminal was detained under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Samba district on Wednesday, police said.

Shiv Dayal alias "Sunny", a resident of Chohala Kothey, is named in various criminal cases

registered at seven police stations in Samba and Jammu districts, a police spokesperson said.

"His criminal activities have posed a serious threat to public peace and tranquility," the spokesperson said, adding that the district magistrate of Samba issued a detention order for Dayal based on a de-

tailed dossier prepared by Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba. Following his detention, Dayal has been lodged in district jail in Kathua, the spokesman said.

The PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

## 'Mischievous' Persons Posting Photos With DGP On Social Media: Police

### Agencies

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir police have appealed to the public to be vigilant against "mischievous" persons posting their photos with Director General of Police and other officers on social media platforms without permission.

In a statement, a spokesperson said that it has come to the notice that some persons who have photographs along with DGP or with other senior officers of police, which many a times come to be allowed because of participation in social and cultural events and occasions in which such persons are incidentally present, are posting such photos on their social media accounts without DGP's permission or permission of the senior officers.

The statement reads that this is not part of good to post a photo in public domain that was taken in a social or cultural event perhaps as a goodwill gesture without the permission



of the person. "It is outright criminal and punishable, if the photo is being used and leveraged to intimidate or influence others to extort or part with money or promise governmental benefits by brandishing the photo as a connection to authority," it reads.

It added that public, community members, fellow citizens, brothers and sisters, gullible villagers and city dwellers, students and workers who are all dear to DGP and are valuable community members and citizens to the Jammu and Kashmir police may note that such she-nanigans by unscrupulous elements should be exposed and no one should fear of any harm from such elements—(KNO)

## Rahat Hussain Nehvi Of Poonch No More

### Syed Shahriyar

**SRINAGAR:** Prominent social activist and former chairman of Anjuman-e-Jafaria, Poonch Alhaj Rahat Hussain Nehvi passed away at his residence on Wednesday.

Nehvi was a known face in the Shia community of Poonch

and a champion of Shia-Sunni unity in the region. Various organisations have paid tributes to the late Nehvi.

In Srinagar Akbar Jaipuri Memorial Committee paid rich tributes to late Nehvi saying he will be remembered for his selfless services for the community in Poonch district.

## 'Evading Monkey Chase' Woman Falls From Hill In Uri, Dies

### KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** In a bid to escape 'chase by a monkey', a woman fell off a hill, resulting in her on spot death in Busgrun village in Uri of Baramulla district on Wednesday afternoon.

Quoting eyewitness, news

agency GNS reported that one Zohra Begum, wife of Syed Isha Shah Gilani, fell victim to a 'monkey chase as she was walking along the hilly terrain'.

"While trying to escape the monkey, the terrified woman fell down the hilly slope, resulting in her on spot death," they said.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on Electricity Bill Bearing Consumer ID No.020 30100013S4 from Ghulam Nabi Khan S/o Ab Gafar to Haji Mohammad Khan S.o Haji Ali Mohammad R.o New Park . NRC Bemina, Srinagar, if anybody has any objection In this regard He/ She may file his /her objection In the Office of the PDD Asst Ex Eng. Electric Sub Division Watal Kadal Srinagar within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Haji Mohammad Khan S/o Haji Ali Mohammad R/o New Park, NRC Bemina, Srinagar**

INFO

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on Electricity Bill Bearing Consumer ID No.020 3010006376 from Ghulam Rasool Bhat S/o Khazir Mohammad to Abdul Rashid Daga S/o Ab Khalaq R/o Al-Farooq Colony Bemina. Srinagar, if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection In the Office of the PDD Asst Ex Eng. Electric Sub Division Watal Kadal Srinagar within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Abdul Rashid Daga S/o Ab. Khalaq R/o Al-Farooq Colony Bemina, Srinagar**

INFO

# India May Not Travel To Pakistan For Champions Trophy: Report

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** India are unlikely to travel to Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy next year, which could also be in the hybrid model like the 2023 Asia Cup.

"Forget bilateral series... Team India may not even travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy. There might be a change of venue, hybrid model is also possible," BCCI source told IANS.

India had refused to play the Asia Cup in Pakistan last year following which the Asian Cricket Council adopted the hybrid model as India's matches along with the final was staged in Colombo.

The BCCI has maintained that any decision on bilateral cricket with Pakistan will hinge on approval from the government, which has so far not permitted cricketing engagement



with the arch-foes.

"The Indian board would need permission from the government for travel, currently our relations with Pakistan are not that good either."

"Champions Trophy is an ICC event, so it would be a tough call for India but nothing without the government's order/green signal. Bilateral series, I don't see in the near future,

that's next to impossible," the source further added.

India and Pakistan last played a bilateral series in 2013 when the three-match ODI and two-match T20I series was

held in India. However, the two teams play against each other in ICC events with their recent clash during the 2023 World Cup in India last year.

## SHAHEEN RISES IN ICC T20I PLAYER RANKINGS

Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi has become the team's highest-rated T20I bowler as per the latest rankings update by the International Cricket Council on Wednesday.

Shaheen went up by two spots to 17th among T20I bowlers.

The number one spot belongs to England's Adil Rashid, while New Zealand's Ish Sodhi also gained five spots to reach 18th following three wickets for New Zealand in the series against Pakistan.

Suryakumar Yadav of India sits at the top of the T20I rankings for batters, with New Zealand's Tim Seifert and Mark Chapman also making gains.

## Short TAKES

### Pant-Axar Partnership Lifts DC To Imposing 224/4 Against GT

**S**kipper Rishabh Pant and Axar Patel forged a blistering century stand to power Delhi Capitals to a solid 224 for 4 against Gujarat Titans in an IPL match here on Wednesday.

Pant and Axar stitched 113 off just 68 balls for the fourth wicket after DC were down 44 for 3 in 6 overs. While Pant remained unbeaten on 88 off 43 balls (5X4s, 8X6s), Axar made 66 off 43 balls studded with five fours and four sixes.

### ICC Ropes In Usain Bolt As T20 World Cup Ambassador



The International Cricket Council on Wednesday named sprint legend Usain Bolt as the ambassador of the T20 World Cup to be played in the West Indies and USA from June 1 to 29.

Jamaica-born Bolt had created history at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing where he won the 100m, 200m and 4x100m races in world record times. Bolt holds world records in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m with times of 9.58 secs, 19.19 secs and 36.84 secs.

### Rafael Nadal Uncertain Over Roland Garros Appearance

**S**pain's Rafael Nadal said on Wednesday that he is not sure if he will be able to play at next month's French Open after pushing through the pain barrier in his comeback from injury.

The 37-year-old, a 22-time Grand Slam champion, said that he is far from being in top form and that he is only playing against American Darwin Blanch in the first round of the Madrid Open on Thursday as a personal sacrifice.

### Ferrari Strikes Multi-Year Deal With HP For F1 Sponsorship

**F**errari has signed a multi-year partnership with HP, making the world's second-largest PC vendor the new so-called title sponsor of Ferrari's motor racing team, including for Formula One, the two companies said on Wednesday.

Based on the agreement, for which no financial details were provided, the HP logo will make its debut on Ferrari's Formula One cars ahead of the Miami Grand Prix on May 3-5, when the team will start competing as Scuderia Ferrari HP.

### Liverpool In Talks With Feyenoord's Slot To Replace Klopp: Reports

**L**iverpool have lined up Feyenoord coach Arne Slot as successor to departing manager Juergen Klopp and have opened negotiations with the Eredivisie club, Dutch media reported on Wednesday.

The Algemeen Dagblad newspaper said Liverpool made contact with Feyenoord on Wednesday morning. Slot was heavily linked with a possible move to Tottenham Hotspur last year, but opted to stay at Feyenoord and signed a contract extension with the Dutch side until 2026.

## Rampant SRH Eye Run-Fest Against Bottom-Placed RCB



Press Trust of India

**HYDERABAD:** Sunrisers Hyderabad will look to unleash their brute batting power on struggling Royal Challengers Bengaluru when the two teams face off in their return-leg fixture of the IPL here on Thursday.

Having breached the 250-run mark thrice in this IPL edition itself, Sunrisers Hyderabad are pushing the boundaries of T20 batting with their no holds barred approach.

While Mumbai Indians were the first victim of SRH's new-found batting strength this season, RCB bore the maximum brunt when the Travis Head-led batting line-up powered the 2016 winners to IPL's highest-ever total of 287/3 in Bengaluru.

If this was not enough, SRH's carnage against Delhi Capitals — which included a record 125/0 being scored in the powerplay — brought forth the possibility of the 300-run mark being breached for the first time ever in the IPL.

And it won't be surprising if SRH manage to do the unthinkable and that too against a bowling attack as frail as RCB's, whose struggles with

in the bowling department could be gauged with the fact that their best bowler, Yash Dayal, is at 24th spot in the overall list with seven wickets.

Placed at the bottom of the pool, RCB have conceded at least 180 in their last five matches. In the last two games, the opponents have raked up totals in excess of 200.

To their credit, RCB fought incredibly hard with the bat but were unfortunate to have lost to Kolkata Knight Riders by a mere one run after conceding 222/6. Moreover, a collective batting effort must have pleased the RCB management to a large extent.

He was a victim of a contentious call but Virat Kohli remains RCB's best batter in the tournament so far, having scored 379 runs to keep the Orange Cap in possession.

But hot on his heels are a few others including SRH's Head, who is making most of his purple patch.

Head's game is designed not only on aggressiveness and ability to cash in on every opportunity, his ability to find gaps at will makes him a compulsory watch.

## Ishfaq Ahmed Set For 2nd Stint As U-16 Indian National Team Coach

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Former J&K footballer and Real Kashmir FC coach Ishfaq Ahmed was on Wednesday recommended as head coach for the Under-16 Indian National Football Team by the All India Football Federation Technical Committee.

This will be Ishfaq's second stint with the U-16 national team. Previously, he was named head coach of the team in July 2023, leading them to a SAFF championship.

The Technical Committee meeting was chaired by IM Vijayan and was held virtually on Wednesday. The commit-



tee also recommended Langam Chaoba Devi as the head coach of the Indian Senior Women's National Team.

Alongside Ishfaq, the AIFF Technical Committee named Yan Cheng Law as Assistant

Coach and Mohammed Za-keer Hussain as Goalkeeping Coach.

An AFC Pro License coach, Ishfaq Ahmed coached Srinagar-based club Real Kashmir in the recently concluded I-League 2023-24 season and was intent on assimilating local talent in his playing 11. The Snow Leopards were electric under the new head coach in early half of the season and looked like early title contenders. However, Ishfaq and Real Kashmir faded toward the second half of the season. They eventually finished fifth, scoring 36 goals and conceding 19.

## Sports Events Held In Anantnag

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Zonal Physical Education Officer Bijbehara, in collaboration with the Government Degree College Bijbehara, organized a cricket match on Wednesday as part of the Systematic Voter's Education & Electoral Participation. The event took place at the Sports Ground of the Government Degree College Bijbehara.

The match aimed to engage youth in the democratic process and promote awareness about participating in future elections.

Similarly, exhibition cricket matches under the SVEEP banner were also held at the



Government Higher Secondary School in Mattan, aiming to raise youth awareness about participating in future elections.

In another initiative, DYSS in Qazigund Zone concluded a cricket competition for boys and

girls under the SVEEP program.

In Zone Achabal, DYSS hosted U-14 girls' chess and carrom competitions with 214 students participating at Fisheries Park Achabal. ZPEO Achabal and ZEO Achabal inaugurated the events.

## Stoinis Vows Commitment To Australia Despite Missing CA Central Deal

Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** Despite missing out on Cricket Australia's central contract for the 2024-25 season, all-rounder Marcus Stoinis wants to use the impact hundred against Chennai Super Kings as a leverage to extend his white ball career beyond the upcoming T20 World Cup. Stoinis, who was not included in the 23-player central contract list, made an unbeaten 124 off 63 balls for Lucknow Super Giants here on Tuesday.

However, Stoinis didn't read much into him missing the CA contract which was announced on March 28.

"I've got a great relationship with the (Australia) coach (Andrew McDonald). Me not getting a contract, I knew that a while ago.

"I think it is great to give younger kids a crack and let them take my spot. I'm absolutely fine with that on the contract list," Stoinis said after guiding LSG to a six-wicket win over CSK. But the 34-year-old was firm in thoughts about his career with the national team.

"But on the playing front, obviously, I want to make sure that I'm there and that's also why it's so lucky for us and for me particularly to have this competition (IPL), that's why I love it so much," he said.

The Perth-born player was omitted from Australia's ODIs against the West Indies in January, but he is set to be part of the country's T20I World Cup campaign in the West Indies and the USA in June.

Stoinis is eligible for Australian selection for the tournament because his current contract for the 2023-24 season will run its course only on June 30.



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