

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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## 39 Nominations Filed From Srinagar

**Srinagar:** On the last date of filing of nomination papers for the General Lok Sabha Elections-2024 from Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, 22 candidates filed their nomination papers in the Office of Returning Officer (RO) here on Thursday.

The total number of candidates who filed their candidature for Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat reached to 39, as 17 candidates had already filed their nomination papers on April 22, April 23 and April 24.

Agar Syed Ruhullah Mehdi of Jammu Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) filed nomination papers before the Returning Officer, Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, while Salman Sagar submitted his nomination papers from Jammu Kashmir National Conference as a covering candidate.

Similarly, Hakikat Singh from National Panthers Party, Bhim, Raksh Handu from J&K National United Front, Amir Ahmad Bhat from Democratic Progressive Azad Party and Qaiser Sultan Ganai covering candidate of Democratic Progressive Azad Party submitted their nomination papers before the RO.

Likewise, Ashiq Hussain from Rastriya Jan Kranti Party, Mohammad Yousof Bhat from Gana Suraksh Party, Suraya Nissar from National Republic Party of India and Farooq Ahmad Bhat | [More on P6](#)

## LS Elections Phase II- Jammu Goes To Polls Today

### Agencies

Jammu: Jammu Parliamentary constituency is all set to go for the polls during the second phase of General Elections which will seal the deal for the arch rivals Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress Party.

The fate of 22 candidates, who are in the fray, will be decided by over 17.80 lakh voters on the Jammu Parliamentary seat.

There is a direct fight between BJP's Jugal Kishore Sharma and Congress party's Raman Bhalala. As Sharma sought votes on the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bhalala reminded people his good work done in Jammu in the past when he represented Gandhinagar Assembly constituency of Jammu district in J&K Legislative Assembly and also when he was minister in Omar Abdullah led National Conference (NC)-Congress coalition government.

After delimitation exercise, barring



Sunderbani-Kalote Assembly segment, Rajouri and Poonch districts were separated from Jammu Parliamentary constituency and Reasi district, which was earlier part of

Udhampur Lok Sabha seat, was made part of it. The new shape of this constituency is suiting a particular party and its candidates depending upon the earlier trend for the last two Lok

Candidates: 22  
Voters: Over 17.80 lakh  
- Male: 9,21,095  
- Female: 8,59,712  
- Third gender: 28

Special Voters:  
- Persons with Disability: 10,498  
- Voters above 100 years old: 666

Assembly Segments: 18  
Polling Stations: 2,416  
Polling Personnel: Over 15,000

Sabha elections and this time also the incumbent Member Parliament (MP) is hopeful to win it.

At present, 17,80,835 lakh voters including 9,21,095 male and 8,59,712 female voters besides 28 third gender electorates are eligible to vote for this seat. Out of the total voters, 10,498 people are registered as Persons with Disability (PWD) and 666 voters are above the age of 100 who will be exercising their franchise to send their leader to Lok Sabha for the next five years. This | [More on P6](#)

## J&K CEO Optimistic About Voter Turnout

### Press Trust Of India

Jammu: With the terror threat on the wane and changing dynamics in the Kashmir region, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer Pandurang K Pole is hopeful of a significant surge in voter participation during the Lok Sabha elections in the Valley.

The traditional narrative of poll boycotts orchestrated by separatist groups, prevalent for more than three decades, appears to be losing momentum and Pole expressed optimism regarding a manifold increase in voter turnout in the Valley. Historically, factors such as the emergence of militancy in the early 1990s and threats of violence, including incidents such as the mutilation of inked fingers and stone-pelting near polling stations, deterred voters from exercising their franchise.

In an interview with PTI Video, Pole highlighted the current favourable environment created by the proactive engagement of political parties and candidates with the electorate, signalling a potential surge in voter participation.

"This time, the overall atmosphere is great and the way the political parties and the candidates are reaching out to the people, a manifold increase in voter turnout is expected in the Valley," Pole said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during | [More on P6](#)

## Police Drones, Sniffer Dogs To Keep Watch

**A**head of the voting in Jammu during the second phase of the Lok Sabha elections, the security personnel are on high alert and are carrying out patrolling in vulnerable areas. The Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police is patrolling in vulnerable areas to thwart any nefarious designs of adversaries. The J&K Police is using drones to monitor the area and special dogs are also being used to clear any IED threats ahead of the voting. | [More on P6](#)

## Border Issues Take Center Stage

**W**ith the Jammu parliamentary constituency going for polls today (Friday) in the second phase, one of the major issues around which the election campaigning of political parties revolves is border areas. Be it people living on the International Border (IB) or Line of Control (LoC), the politics and politicians of Jammu can't ignore their sufferings and issues. This election also people from both government as well as opposition | [More on P6](#)

## NC's Aga Ruhullah Files Nomination From Srinagar



### Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: National Conference leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Thursday filed nomination papers for the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency which is going to polls in the fourth phase of elections next month.

Accompanied by NC president Farooq Abdullah, vice president Omar Abdullah and Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Vikar Rasool, Mehdi filed the nomination papers before Srinagar Deputy Commissioner Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is the returning

officer of the constituency.

Talking to reporters, Mehdi, an influential Shia leader, said: "The hope of a win is in front of you. But more than a win or loss, the important thing is how to mobilise the sentiments of people towards that (win), the sentiments they have not been able to express in the last four years, and were not given an opportunity to express. The elections have provided them that opportunity," the NC candidate said.

Farooq Abdullah said the party is hopeful of Mehdi's win from the | [More on P6](#)

## INDIA Bloc Seeking Votes For Religion-Based Reservation: PM

### Press Trust Of India

Bareilly: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday attacked the INDIA bloc parties, saying they are seeking votes for changing the Constitution to provide religion-based reservation while he wants 400 seats to prevent them from snatching away the quota rights of people belonging to the SC, ST and OBC communities.

Addressing a rally at Aonla in Bareilly district, he also claimed the Congress not only wanted to conduct an economic survey but also survey institutions and offices.

"INDI alliance is seeking votes for changing the Constitution to provide religion-based reservation. I am asking for 400 seats to put a lock on their plans to rob the reservation to the SC, ST and OBC people. I need 400 seats so that no one takes away your rights," he said.

Referring to backward classes including Yadav, Kushwaha, Maurya, Gurjar, Rajbhar, Tel and Pal communities, the



prime minister said, "I will never let the Samajwadi Party and Congress snatch away your right to reservation. This is Modi's guarantee."

"If two people in a backward or Dalit family work, they will take away the job of one and give it to those whom they say have the first right on the country's resources," Modi said.

He was referring to former PM Manmohan Singh's 2006 remark that minorities, particularly Muslims, have the "first claim" on the country's resources.

He said that the Congress and the SP considered themselves

bigger than Lord Ram and they also insulted Shri Krishna.

Attacking the opposition over dynastic politics, Modi said that for them their family is everything.

"The SP did not find any Yadav outside family to give tickets in Budaun, Mainpuri, Firozabad, Azamgarh and Kannauj," he said.

Modi said this Lok Sabha election is to completely free the country of the mentality of slavery of 1,000 years and to give new heights to India's self-respect.

Seeking to take credit for the construction of | [More on P6](#)

## EC Has To Be Made Independent: Dr Farooq

### Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said here on Thursday that the INDIA bloc is fighting against Prime Narendra Modi's attempts to "create a rift among people" and the opposition alliance will "undo the wrongdoings" committed during the BJP rule.

"The Election Commission has to be changed and made independent. The judiciary has to be made independent as it is the place where people get justice if they do not get justice anywhere else," he said.

"Many things have to be set right. Those have to be made governors who can serve people and not Delhi. Many incapable people have been put in

many institutions, but we have to save those institutions," he added.

Abdullah was addressing an NC and Congress joint rally at Congress party headquarters and later NC workers at his party's headquarters Nawa-i-Subah after its candidate from Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, submitted nomination papers.

"I pray that the INDIA alliance is successful in Delhi so that Ambedkar's Constitution is saved and it will undo the wrongdoings committed," the former J-K chief minister said.

Abdullah claimed that the Constitution was in danger. "You saw what the prime minister said in Rajasthan. He tried to | [More on P6](#)

## Will Campaign For Father: Omar's Sons

National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah's sons, Zahir and Zamir, Thursday said they will campaign for their father who is contesting from north Kashmir's Baramulla parliamentary constituency. Both the sons have been seen attending election campaign meetings of the party with their father across the length and breadth of the valley. | [More on P6](#)

## BANDIPORA ENCOUNTER Search Operation Continues On 2nd Day

### KO WEB DESK

Srinagar: Police and security forces continued search operation for the second day in Renji forest area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday.

A joint team of Police, Army's 13RR and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation in Renji forest area of Bandipora amid specific information about the presence of at least two & three terrorists on Wednesday.

As the joint team of forces approached the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists fired upon them, triggering off a gunfight. "All exit points have been sealed and lights | [More on P6](#)

## Civilian Injured In Sopore Encounter

An encounter broke out between security forces and militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday, police said. "An encounter has | [More on P6](#)

## HC Allows Filling 1395 Panchayat Secretary Posts

### M Ahmad

Srinagar: In a significant development, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has vacated stay on appointment of candidates against 1395 Panchayat Secretary posts by JKSSB in 19 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal passed the orders after it was brought to court's notice that the counsel for respondents including J&K Service Selection Board that the interim directions passed on 16 and 24 June 2022 in all petitions were harshly working against them.

They said interim orders were stalling the whole recruitment process, which not only causes injury to the large number of employees, who are deprived of the right of consideration for appointment, but is also antithesis of public interest and adversely

affects the service as a whole.

The petitions were filed a number of Gram Rozgar Sahayaks/Sevaks (GRSs), contending that their prospect of absorption and encadement in the main service J&K Rural Development (Subordinate) Service was likely to be frustrated in the face of the Selection Advertisement Notification (no. 03 of 2022) dated 26 May 2022 issued by the respondent JKSSB for the purpose of direct recruitment to 1395 district cadre posts of Panchayat Secretary in 19 districts under

the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj. "It is very strange that the petitioners instead of participating in the selection process, have filed the instant writ petitions with a view to stall the selection process by way of misrepresentation of the facts and on mere apprehension, as they have based their claim on | [More on P6](#)

## Srinagar Boat Tragedy: 10 Days On, No Sign Of Missing

### Locals Demand Deep Divers, Navy Commandos

### Agencies

Srinagar: A pall of despair hangs heavy over Gandbal, Srinagar. Ten agonizing days have passed since a boat tragedy on the Jhelum River claimed the lives of six and left three missing – a father and son duo, and another young boy.

Locals from the area continue to request the authorities to deploy deep divers and Navy's marine commandos to search. An official present at the spot said that the ongoing rescue operation to retrieve the missing individuals, Showkat Ahmad, his son Haziq Showkat, another minor boy, and Farhan Parry, continued on the 10th day, with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) continuing with the rescue operations in Gandbal.

"We are continuously searching the waters near



Batwara-Gandbal to Rajbagh, and also near Chattabal Veer, but nothing has been spotted yet. Our teams are actively searching the Jhelum, but on the 10th day, no one has been retrieved yet," ASI SDRF Abdul Rashid said.

"We have checked near the shores close to the bridge and all the possible spots where chances of the body being spotted," he added.

Meanwhile, locals from Gandbal remain hopeful for

a swift resolution, while they continue to urge the administration to deploy deep divers and Navy's marine commandos into the waters of Jhelum to trace the missing persons.

The locals from the area staged a protest near Gandbal - Lasjan road here, requesting the administration to deploy sophisticated machinery and deep divers to trace our missing in Gandbal, Srinagar.

"The only thing we want is the missing | [More on P6](#)

## Ramban-Gool Road Caves In 2 Dozen Houses Develop Cracks

### Agencies

Ramban: Almost two dozen houses have developed cracks after a road caved in at five-kilometer Ramban-Gool road in Ramban district on Thursday evening, officials said.

Official sources said, "20-23 residential houses have developed cracks in Pernote area of Ramban. The families have been shifted to safer places. The road has been blocked and no vehicles are allowed to ply on along the route."

Deep Kumar, Tehsildar Ramban said that 23 families have been evacuated to safer places.

About damage to property, he said they are assessing the losses. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ramban, Basees-Ul-Haq Chaudhary in a post on X stated that the power supply has got affected while the restoration work for road connectivity is underway. "Massive subsidence/sinking at km 5 on Ramban-Gool Road/ Road blocked, all vehicles halted. Restoration work underway for road connectivity | [More on P6](#)





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 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

# 'Many Extreme Events Of 2023 In Line With Predictions Of Warmer World'

Press Trust Of India

Multiple regions across the world simultaneously experiencing heat extremes could become an 'emerging feature' of a warmer planet, according to a new study.

The new research that reviewed the weather and climate of 2023 also said that many of the extreme events experienced last year are consistent with predictions previously made about a warmer world.

Putting the events of the warmest year on record in perspective, researchers said that in a warmer future, more events involving record-breaking hot temperatures occurring earlier in the year, and cyclones exacerbating rainfall extremes are in order.

Change in seasonality of extreme events too is another trend the researchers observed. "We are seeing extremes appearing in seasons in which they are usually less likely. Heatwaves, for example, appeared in spring 2023 in southwestern Europe, Brazil, Morocco and South Africa," Robin Clark of the Met Office in the UK, a co-author of the study published in the journal *Advances in Atmospheric Science*, said.

Further, multiple regions across the world simultaneously experiencing heat extremes could become an 'emerging feature' of a warmer planet, the researchers said. Many regions of North America, southern Europe, northern Africa, and Asia together experienced record-breaking hot extremes in the month of July last year.

The team also found that in-



tense cyclones exacerbated rainfall extremes such as the Libya flooding in September and the North China flooding in July 2023.

They said that an increased occurrence of such events too are in line with projections about the future

under continued global warming. "Many of 2023's events are consistent with projected future changes in a warmer world, showing the challenges that are to come, while some were a surprise, suggesting there is still

more to learn about what's potentially around the corner," Wenxia Zhang from the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the lead author of the paper, said. Droughts in California in the US and the Horn of Africa transitioned into floods in 2023, and more of such events are projected to occur in the coming decades, the authors said.

The compounding effects of drought-to-flood events can be more severe compared to when floods and droughts occur separately, they said.

The researchers also found that wildfires, such as those that occurred in Hawaii and Canada last year, are causing widespread damage, along with threatening emissions targets aimed at limiting global warming.

# Low Back Pain, Depression, Headaches Main Causes Of Poor Health: Study



Press Trust Of India

The main causes of poor health impacting quality of life are low back pain, depressive disorders and headaches, according to a new global research published in *The Lancet* journal.

The study analysed healthy life expectancy during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and found that even though people around the world are living longer, "they aren't spending all those years in good health."

"With low back pain, the leading cause of poor health globally, we see that the existing treatments aren't working well to address it," said co-first author Damian Santomauro, affiliate assistant professor of the Health

Metrics Sciences at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, US. "We need better tools to manage this major cause of global disease burden," he added.

In contrast, Santomauro said that for depressive disorders, therapy or medication or a combination of both for an adequate amount of time can work. "However, most people in the world have little or no access to treatment, unfortunately," he said.

Considering how depression increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, it's urgent to ensure that everyone with this disorder can get treatment," he further said.

Examining how men and women responded to COVID-19, the researchers found

that women suffered more than men when it came to the secondary effects of the viral infection, involving long COVID and mental disorders, even as men were more likely to die from the infection than women.

Women were found to be twice as likely as men to experience long Covid, and most likely to be affected by depression, seen to increase sharply during the pandemic.

The researchers presented updated estimates from the Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) study 2021, which analysed data from 204 countries and territories. The GBD study is the largest and most comprehensive effort to quantify health loss across places and over time, according to the IHME, which coordinates it.

**Office of the Executive Engineer  
 Generation Division USHP-II Kangan**

Email: [xenekangan@gmail.com](mailto:xenekangan@gmail.com)

For and on behalf of Managing Director, JKPCD Ltd., Executive Engineer, USHP-II, Kangan HEP hereby invites online e-bid for below mentioned work at 105 MW (3x35) USHP-II, Kangan HEP. The brief details are as under:

1	e-NIT No	USHP-II/GD/01 of 2024-25 dated: 24.04.2024
2	Work Title	Refurbishment of damaged Runner along with providing and fitting new bottom rotating labyrinth
3	Date/Time of Downloading of SBD	25.04.2024; 10:00 AM upto 11.05.2024; 03:00 PM
4	Date & Time of Online submission of Bid documents	01.05.2024; 10:00 AM upto 11.05.2024; 03:00 PM
5	Submission of DD/EMD in original (end) date & time	13.05.2024; 11:00 AM
6	Date & Time of Opening of Bid-Commercial Bid	13.05.2024 at 12:30 PM
7	e-Tender Cost/Fee (Non-Refundable)	Rs.1000/- in the form of DD in favour of CP&AO Kangan, JKPCD
8	Earnest money deposit/Bid Security (Refundable)	Rs.78600/- in the form of CD/RTDR/BCI pledged to Accounts Officer, Generation Wing, Kashmir, JKPCD

The detailed tender document is available in e-tendering portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and official website of JKPCD [www.jkpcpd.nic.in](http://www.jkpcpd.nic.in). Interested bidders may view, download and participate in the tender through online bidding process.

DIPK-NB-100/24  
 dated: 25-04-2024

**Executive Engineer  
 Generation Division  
 USHP-II, Kangan**

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
 Office Of The Executive Engineer,  
 Flood Control Division Anantnag**

Invitation for Bids (Notice Inviting Tenders)

E-NIT No 02 of 2024-25 Dated: 24/04/2024 Fresh of e NIT No. 01 of 2024-25

For and on behalf of the J.J. Government, JKPCD, e-tendering in Two cover system Part A Techno-commercial Bids Part B Price Bid valid for a period of 90 days commencing with earnest money in shape of CD/RTDR/BCI 2% of the estimated cost in specified in para- of tender notice amounting to ₹ 6.70 Lacs pledged to supervising Engineer Hydraulic Check Damming/JKPCD HQ at Anantnag are invited on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from approved civil contractors/firms of appropriate class having sufficient experience (as per CVC guidelines) as defined in the SBD for the following works:-

S. No.	Work/Item	Estimate Value (₹)	Estimate Value (₹)	Estimate Value (₹)	Estimate Value (₹)	Estimate Value (₹)	Estimate Value (₹)	Estimate Value (₹)
1	Flood prevention and Anti-erosion works at Hady Amarnath ji cave	535.00	1000	Rs. 1000/-	1000	1000	1000	1000

Particulars of Bids: Demanded

- The e-bidder shall deposit earnest money in the form of CD/RTDR/BCI in the amount of ₹ 1000/- in favour of CP&AO, JKPCD, Anantnag.
- Date of issue of Tender Notice: 25/04/2024 at 10:00 hrs.
- Date of downloading of bidding documents: 25/04/2024 at 10:00 hrs.
- Bid submission start date: 25/04/2024 at 10:00 hrs.
- Bid submission end date: 01/05/2024 at 10:00 hrs.
- Date & time of opening Technical Bid (online): 11.05.2024 at 11:00 hrs.
- Date & time of opening Financial Bid (online): To be notified after technical bid evaluation.

1.1. Prospective bidders should visit of BDO.

Bids will be accompanied with tender document for (non-transferable/non-refundable) in the shape of earnest bid to issue of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (Tender Inviting Authority/Bid Issuing Officer).

1.2. Bids will be accompanied with tender document for (non-transferable/non-refundable) in the shape of e-Challan/Security Challan/Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (Tender Inviting Authority/Bid Issuing Officer) approved as Head of Account No. 4782.

2. Earnest money Bid security in shape of CD/RTDR/BCI pledged to Supervising Engineer Hydraulic, Circle Subsequent to opening of bids at Anantnag. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 90 days beyond bid validity.

3. Forgetting the above conditions of bids is the responsibility of the bidder. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bids as per Form No. 1 (S.A. No. 24/17/611 D.O. 07-06-2018).

4. The contractual material for the work/works to be arranged by the successful bidder on the estimated quantity as mentioned in the BIDD. However, the material contract, shall (22 M) etc. what to ever may be the part of estimate, should be of standard quality supported with test check certificate of the concerned authority. The in-charge site engineer should ensure the standard quality as well as the specification as specified and shall record a certificate in respect of criteria of the quality of materials, while submitting the work claim.

5. Further details can be seen in bidding document available on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).

6. The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Sd/  
 (E.Salim Jhanghi Bhanday)  
 Executive Engineer,  
 Flood Control Division, Anantnag

No.SCD/Anp/24/343-61  
 DIPK-215/24 Dated:- 25-04-2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of Fertilizer license for my business unit under name and style Elysa Fertilizer Wholesale Agency Iskanderpora. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Director Horticulture Lal Mandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mushatq Ahmad Kumar  
 S/o Gh. Rasool Kumar  
 R/o Iskanderpora bmg

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of Seed license for my business unit under name and style Elysa Seeds Wholesale Agency Iskanderpora. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Director Agriculture Lal Mandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mushatq Ahmad Kumar  
 S/o Gh. Rasool Kumar  
 R/o Iskanderpora bmg

**SAD DEMISE**

Khwaja Ali Mohd. Dar, S/o Haji Abdul Razak Dar left for heavenly abode on 25th April, 2024. May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannah. His congregational Fatah khawm will be offered on Sunday, 28th April, 2024 at 10.30 AM (Inshallah) at our ancestral graveyard located at Bhaududdin sahib, Nowhatta followed by Taziyat majlis at our residence, at Salda Kadal, near marriage hall opposite Alishah carpets.

Note: Ladies are requested not to bring any fruits/vegetables along.

Grief Stricken  
 Dar Family & Sheikh Family  
 Edit with WPS Office inf

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information of all general public that inadvertently my name in the service records as Mohd Amin Wagay S/O Assadullah Wagay R/O Malipora Tehsil, Devsar District Kulgam when actual is Mohd Amin Wagay S/O Assadullah Wagay R/O Malipora, Tehsil, Devsar, District, Kulgam.

If anybody having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the Commandant JKAP 6th Bn, Mehander Poonch within seven days from the date of publishing of this notice in the daily newspaper. Any representation/objection received after due date shall not be entertained.

Mohd Amin Wagay  
 S/O Assadullah Wagay  
 R/O Malipora, Tehsil, Devsar, District, Kulgam.  
 Mobile No. 6005945793 inf

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Notice My name has been wrongly written in my JK Bank Account details as Mohd Latif Mir. While my correct name is Lateef Ahmad Mir S/O Ali Mohammad Mir R/O Rad-Bugh which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Branch Manager J&K Bank Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Lateef Ahmad Mir  
 S/O Ali Mohammad Mir  
 R/O Rad-Bugh bmg

**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 Elysa Jan D/o Shabir Ahmad Para R/O Andergam Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 10/08/2020 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

**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 Manan Ishaq S/O Ishaq Ahmad Ganie R/O Dara Nambal Tarzoo Tehsil Khoir District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 28/04/2020 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

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Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Arwa Binti Meeraq D/o Meeraq ud din kar R/O Hardhusha Sopore Tehsil Dargopora District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 02/06/2020 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.

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 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The unit M/s Valley Agro Products at Industrial Estate, Wuyan stands formally registered with D.I.C., Pulwama under No. 01/005/11/02775 dated: 24-07-2023 for the line of activity 'Canning of Fruits & Vegetables, Mushroom, Fish & Mutton, Jam & Pickles making & grading, processing & packing of Dry Fruits', as a proprietary concern of **Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Rafter S/o Gulam Qadir Rafter R/o Zakura Srinagar**. The promoter has submitted an application to the office of the undersigned wherein he has requested for transfer of lease hold rights/ownership rights from proprietary concern of Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Rafter S/o Gulam Qadir Rafter R/o Zakura Srinagar to partnership concern of 1) Mr. Abid Ferooz Mir S/o Ferooz Ahmed Mir R/o Nigsen, Hazratbil Srinagar 2) Mr. Tanveer Ahmad S/o Ferooz Ahmed Mir R/o Nigsen, Hazratbil Srinagar. Any person or any organization/dharm having any objection in this behalf should convey in writing to the General Manager DIC Pulwama within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the time frame no objection shall be entertained.

Media Line



## Admin Issues Weather Advisory In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The district administration Srinagar Thursday issued an advisory for the people of the district in general, and those residing on the Left and Right Banks of River Jhelum its tributaries and Nallahs in particular to refrain from venturing in and around these water bodies and limit their activities till the improvement of weather.

The advisory has been issued in view of the inclement weather with forecast of rain-fall/snow in (higher reaches) at many places with Thun-

der/Lightning hailstorm at isolated places from 26th-30th April by the Indian Meteorological department (IMD) Srinagar Station.

Further, the tourists, local Shikara Wallas, Sand Miners and Boat Crossing Points for travel at Dal Lake and River Jhelum and other water bodies shall not attempt to cross before verifying the condition and situation of these water bodies. The general public can contact Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) Srinagar on +911942502254, and Police Control Room Srinagar on 941941619/ 01942477667 for any information.

## Justice Tashi Rabstan Takes Stock Of Facilities At J&K Yateem Khana

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to take stock of facilities being provided to the inmates of J&K Yateem Khana, Benina Srinagar, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh (Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority) today visited the same and interacted with the children staying

na, Justice Tashi expressed satisfaction regarding facilities being provided to the inmates and impressed upon them to make all out efforts in rehabilitation and well-being of the inmates so that they are not left behind while competing with other children in any field.

He further emphasized the importance of providing a conducive environment



In the Yateem Khana.

On his arrival, Justice Tashi, who was accompanied by Abdul Bari Joint Registrar (Protocol), High Court of J&K and Ladakh was warmly received by Mohammad Iqbal Khareed, Chairman and Manzoor Ahmad, Secretary General, J&K Yateem Khana, besides Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar.

During his visit Justice Tashi inspected all the facilities available in the facility including Class Rooms, Hostel, Library, Computer Centre, Dining Hall, Medical Facility unit and Kitchen. Interacting with the administrators of the Yateem Kha-

na, ensuring their holistic development and integration into society. He urged all NGOs and civil society members to step forward and play an active role in shaping the future of these inmates, thereby contributing to the larger cause of nation-building.

Justice Tashi also directed the Legal Services Authority to organize awareness programs on regular intervals for the benefit of inmates of the Yateem Khana by involving panel lawyers and para legal volunteers. The Administrators and staff of J&K Yateem Khana expressed gratitude to Justice Tashi for sparing valuable time out of his busy schedule and visiting their premises.

## Rank Ceremony, Enrolment Drive For NCC Cadets Held At NIT Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The rank ceremony, enrollment drive for session 2024-25 for National Cadet Corps (NCC) girls' unit was held on Thursday at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The session was presided over by Commanding officer (CO) of 1 J&K Girls Battalion Srinagar, Col. SP Tiwari and Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rahman was Guest of Honor on the occasion.

The event was attended by Dean P&I, Dr Yashwant Mehta, Associate NCC Commissioner Officer Lt. Dr. Nidha Kundan, Institute Chairman of selection committee Dr. Srinibash Mishra, SAS Coordinator, and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

During the event, NCC cadets received recognition for their hard work with new ranks. 14 students were successfully selected for the new

batch, bringing the total number of cadets on campus to 50.

These ranks - Lance Corporal, Corporal, and Sergeant - are bestowed upon individuals who exhibit mental resilience, confidence, sociability, and integrity, following a year-long evaluation by the NCC higher ups.

They were also presented with mementos and certificates in recognition of their outstanding contributions. Special acknowledgement was given to NCC Cadets who actively participated in various social activities on the campus.

With proud smiles and a sense of accomplishment, these cadets accepted their new ranks, ready to shoulder greater responsibilities within the unit. During the event, Col. SP Tiwari stated that the NCC unit of NIT Srinagar has been reaching new milestones over the past two years including Commissioning Officer, due to enthusiastic support and involvement of the cadets.



National Conference organizes a road show before its Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency candidate, Syed Aga Ruhullah files nomination papers at the DC office Srinagar on Thursday, KO Photo by Abid Bhat

## Construction Of Flyovers

# Traffic Plying On Just 5.5 Meter Road Surface On Busy Srinagar Highway

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With an aim to bring respite to the commuters, the twin under construction flyovers at Benina and Nowganj are set to be completed and thrown open for the public within the next two months.

The authorities in the Roads and Building department informed that the work on the two flyovers including Benina and Nowganj is in the final stage. "In case the weather remains favorable, we are expecting to complete the two overpasses either in the month of May or June this year," Ashiq Ahmad, Executive Engineer, R&B Project Division 1st.

"The rains are delaying the work. We have to keep everything in mind. At present the traffic which was plying on just a 5.5 meter road is now plying on just a 5.5 meter road, thereby leading to the traffic congestion," he said, adding that they don't want any lacuna

while constructing the flyovers.

Besides, he stated that the utility shift is one among the reasons, which has delayed the process, saying that "at a time when the flyover is under construction, we have to take every precaution and ensure that macadamized roads after its completion are not

everything in mind. At present the traffic, which was plying on the 21 meter road is now plying on just a 5.5 meter road, thereby leading to the traffic congestion

ing for the utility shifts." Appealing to people to cooperate with the department for just a few more months, he said that they are aware of the fact that the people are suffering due to the traffic congestion, but once the road is completed, the commuters will have a smooth and hassle-free movement.

"The riding surface 5.5 meter available space for commuters will be macadamized on prior-

ty so that the traffic will flow smoothly during the construction period," he said. About Sanatnagar flyover, he said that the work on it was started after Benina and Nowganj flyovers, but the work is going on at a fast pace and it will be completed later this year.

However, SE South, Rajinder Kumar Gupta when contacted, said the Sanatnagar flyover cannot be completed this year, but is expected to be completed in the month of March next year.

So far, 86 per cent work on Benina and Nowganj flyovers have been completed and will be completed by June this year, but Sanatnagar flyover will be completed in the month of March next year," he said - (KNO)

## Potholed Pantha Chowk Road Poses Risk To Commuters

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Residents of Pantha Chowk near Chinar Pollution Centre are growing increasingly concerned about a dangerous stretch of road that has witnessed a spate of accidents over the past six months.

Locals have urged the concerned department to address the issue promptly to prevent further mishaps.

Local residents said the condition of the road has become a serious threat to commuters. "We have seen numerous accidents here and it's only a matter of time before a major tragedy occurs if action isn't taken," they said.

A resident Fahim said that potholes and uneven surface make driving on the road a risky affair. "We urge the authorities to prioritize the repair work and ensure the safety of the residents," he added.

The deteriorating condition of the road has become a topic of concern among locals, who fear for the safety of pedestrians and motorists alike, he added - (KNO)

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  - QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

PRAYERS

FAJR	4:19
ZUHR	12:29
ASR	5:15
Magrib	7:14
ISHA	8:41

HIJRI CALENDAR  
17 Shawal 1445

## This Day In History

- 1514 - Copernicus makes his 1st observations of Saturn
- 1755 - 1st Russian university opens (Moscow)
- 1803 - Meteorites fall in L'Aigle, France
- 1828 - Russia declares war on Turkey to support Greece's independence
- 1865 - Battle of Durham Station, NC (Greensboro)
- 1865 - Battle of Ft Tobacco, VA
- 1904 - Bell Telephone Company of Antwerp Belgium forms
- 1915 - Italy secretly signs Pact of London with Britain, France & Russia
- 1920 - Harlow Shapley and Heber D. Curtis hold "great debate" on the nature of nebulae, galaxies and size of the universe at US National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
- 1926 - Germany & Russia sign neutrality/peace treaty
- 1928 - Madame Tussaud's waxwork exhibition opens in London
- 1929 - 1st non-stop England to India flight lands
- 1942 - Coal mine explosion kills 1,549 at Henkoido Manchuria
- 1944 - Papandreu government in Greece forms
- 1945 - World War II: Battle of Bautzen - last successful German tank-offensive of the war and last noteworthy victory of the Wehrmacht.
- 1954 - Nationwide test of Salk anti-polio vaccine begins
- 1956 - First modern container ship, the Ideal X, leaves Port Newark, New Jersey for Houston, Texas
- 1959 - Cuba invades Panama
- 1961 - French paratroopers' revolt suppressed in Algeria
- 1962 - Ariel 1 Launch (1st UK Satellite)
- 1962 - US/UK launch Ariel; 1st international payload
- 1964 - Tanganyika & Zanzibar form The United Republic of Tanganyika & Zanzibar
- 1966 - An earthquake of magnitude 7.5 destroys Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- 1967 - San Marco 2 Launch (1st Equatorial Launch)

## From KO Archives

# Fire Devastates Dachigam Jungle

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A fire that broke-out in Pahlipora jungles of Dachigam this afternoon had spread to a larger area by this evening, devastating flora and fauna, reports said.

The cause of the fire could not be ascertained residents told ONs on the evening that they could see flames raging in the jungles. According to the residents of the nearby areas smoke was seen billowing from out of the forest at around 4 pm and officials were immediately informed, who rushed to the spot in about an hour's time. By then the fire had caught speed and it spread in all directions devastating the thick forest cover in the area. Dachigam is known for its thick plant growth, which is home to hundreds of wild animals, including rare species of Hangul.

Residents living in Miskat Shalimar and Harwan areas told Observer News Service this evening that fires raging in the jungles could be seen from a distance. They feared that by morning it could spread to other jungles nearby and devastate entire Dachigam, which is a national wildlife park. It bears mention that Valley witnessed widespread forest fires last year which left vast tracts of forests in ashes.

(Kashmir Observer, 26 April, 1999)



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## Soaring Airfares

The soaring airfares to Kashmir are causing significant concern for the tourism industry, particularly as the Kashmir Valley approaches peak spring tourism season. Stakeholders in the industry have noted that airfares are increasing daily, negatively impacting tourism in the region.

According to industry insiders, every flight connecting other states to the Kashmir Valley is experiencing significant increases in fares, making it difficult for tourists to afford travel to the region. Despite witnessing a good number of visitors, the industry believes that the numbers could have been higher if airfares were more reasonable.

It has been noted that every summer sees a surge in ticket prices, discouraging potential tourists from booking tickets due to the high rates. For instance, tickets from Srinagar to Delhi, which were previously priced around 3500-4000 rupees, are now being sold for 7000 rupees or even exceeding 10000 rupees.

Moreover, the repercussions extend beyond mere inconvenience for travelers. Local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and tour operators, heavily rely on tourism for their sustenance. A decrease in tourist footfall due to high airfares translates to lost revenue for these enterprises, jeopardizing their viability and the livelihoods they support. Additionally, cancellations prompted by inflated ticket prices disrupt reservations and bookings, further exacerbating the economic strain on the tourism sector.

Tourism players complain that despite repeated pleas to higher authorities, there has been no improvement. Tourists from various parts of India are dissuaded from visiting the Valley by the exorbitant airfares, more so, when travel to destinations outside India is often more affordable than traveling to Kashmir. Moreover, the high airfares are preventing Indian families from traveling to Kashmir, despite their preference for the destination.

The situation is particularly concerning given the recent tourism boom in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2023, the region witnessed an unprecedented surge in tourism, with over 21.1 million tourists visiting, according to the J&K Tourism Department. This surge positively impacted the local economy, propelled by the government's vision of positioning Kashmir as a global tourism hotspot.

However, the high airfares threaten to dampen this growth. With the region hosting prestigious international events and experiencing a surge in film shootings, there is a need to ensure that tourism remains accessible and affordable.

Here the government can step in and play a positive role. The authorities should take steps to increase the number of flights to Kashmir, which would help decrease airfares. Regulatory interventions are imperative to prevent airlines from engaging in predatory pricing practices that exploit market conditions to maximize profits at the expense of travelers.

### OTHER OPINION

## Age is just a number — a study may help make the argument

A minor annoyance often mars birthdays that mark milestones — 30, 40, 50 years on the planet. Friends and family try to console the centre of attention with phrases like "30 is the new 20" or "age is just a number" and worse still, as the birthday person nurses a hangover, "you are as old as you feel". As it turns out, these trite remarks may be right and the perception of when old age begins is as far more malleable than the measure of mortality known as a calendar. A study published in the journal *Psychology and Aging* titled "Postponing old age: Evidence for historical change toward a later perceived onset of old age" has found that over time, the threshold for being considered "old" has moved forward. In addition, the older people get, the farther away they think old age is.

One (awfully cynical) way of looking at these changing goalsposts is that people are either in denial or vain or both. In cultures — most of them, in fact, in the age of social media — that fetishise youth and confuse it with vigour and beauty, this is probably a fair bet. But there's also the more understanding and human explanation. To a teenager, a 40-year-old is over the hill. But when she reaches that age, if well-being and health are not an issue, the fourth decade may well be a peak. In fact, people feeling young for longer is something to be welcomed. For better or worse — for all the talk of "golden years" — old age is associated with ends rather than beginnings.

The problem perhaps, is with beginnings. Several research papers over the last decade have shown that young people are going through an extended adolescence. More gig work, increasingly expensive housing and less social security mean that the independence associated with being an adult is now coming much later. So, if people aren't grown up till their middle age, why shouldn't they be old later?

The Indian Express

Amir Suhail Wani

QUALITY is an ideal rarely achieved in the real mundane world. People suffer inequalities in different ways because of various reasons and at the behest of agencies and organizations, individuals and institutions, social and power structures. These inequalities emerge from a host of systemic and as-systemic factors and in their cumulative effect prolong, sustain, legitimise and officiate the already prevalent inequalities manifest in various forms in society and making their elimination an impossibility of sorts.

Education has often been described as an emancipating and liberating praxis, something which is capable of pulverizing the inequalities in whatever form they exist and to bring in a certain quantum of socio-economic inequality, leverage the lives of underprivileged and brings them at par with the so-called "higher" echelons of social hierarchy. But here too an irony of sorts is witnessed and an unequal access to education for various social groups not only downplays the role of education but further aggravates the social standing of those already marginalised and ostracised.

Here we shall investigate the inequalities in access to education as they exist and manifest with reference to three groups of people in particular — people with disabilities, students from economically weaker sections of the society and the transgender community. It will be investigated as to how each of these groups suffer inequalities as far as access to quality education is concerned. It will explore how this inequality of access increases their state of marginalisation.

The problem with persons with disabilities starts right with the process of admission to educational institutes. There have been reports where persons with disabilities were denied admission at the outset. However, this is not it. The panorama of challenges and the spectrum of problems doesn't end with getting admitted to a school, it rather begins with it.

People living on the disability spectrum have varied needs and diverse educational requirements. In absence of trained teachers, proper logistics, desired gadgets and set of specific equipment and auxiliaries, the mission of imparting education to the specially-abled remains far from reality and doesn't precipitate in actuality.

A report reads, "Jammu & Kashmir is the only state yet to implement a 2016 law that recognises 21 disabilities up from the earlier seven suggesting that actual numbers could be even higher. Infrastructure in the state is not disabled-friendly, activists said, especially in public offices and educational institutions".

The structural barriers in schools, curtailing the accessibility of children with disabilities has often presented a dismal picture. No wonder that the dropout rate of children with disabilities has been alarmingly high, thereby making the prospect of their empowerment

# How Inclusive Is Our Education System?



The state of affairs in education as it reflects in unequal access to people from different backgrounds turns antithetical to the very enterprise and exercise of education and the manner in which it furthers the existing inequalities is tragic and inhuman

ment via education look bleak. Children with disabilities are 27 percent more likely to drop out as compared to their peers who have no disabilities. These structural and visible barriers exist in addition to the intangible and abstract hurdles and blockades which exist in the path to education for people with disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to the bullying and stigmatization of these children by their peers and at times by teachers too. These incidents leave an indelible scar marks on the psyche of the child and these challenges of psychological order at times become more consuming and complicated than the underlying physical disabilities. In this process, a child inevitably undergoes psychological trauma of full range and is left with little energy and determination to face these episodes of recurrent socio-psychological abuse and profers to drop out of the school/institute instead. The augmentative effect of all these detrimental factors not only leaves the children with disabilities behind their able bodied peers but also complicates their perception of the self by their body construction and the ensuing regressive and repressive consequences emerging there from.

Education in the modern world remains mostly privatized and even if a good portion of population attends to government schools, the general perception is that the government schools are a no match to the private institutions in terms of the quality of education provided, the infrastructure available and the emphasis on extra-curricular and overall personality development of a child. Precisely because of the added advantages associated with private schools, the children from economically well-off families are admitted to these institutions and children from economically weaker sections, who can't afford the exorbitant cost of education of private schools have to contend themselves with whatever little facilities are available and offered by the government schools. This results in well known "Private

School Effect", a scenario in which students from private schools outshine government schools and thereby an educational inequality stems from economic inequality which further feeds into the loop, thereby driving it out of limits. It was in the wake of this consciousness and an attempt to curb educational inequality resulting from economic inequality that the Andhra Pradesh government recently announced a reservation quota of 25% for weaker sections in private unaided schools. But the precedent needs to be widely followed across the country to plug in the disparities in the education sector and to ensure that economic considerations are not a hindrance to the education one aspires to. It also calls government schools to wake up to their task of providing quality education and to fill up the vacuum existing in the education sector.

Additionally, the issues faced by and the exclusion meted out to transgender too is multi-pronged with much complicity and nuance accompanying their social stigmatization, marginalisation and otherisation. The social construct is thus that it discourages the entrance of transgender to schools at the very inception. Even if they somehow succeed in the rarest of rare cases to secure admission in some educational institutions, the bullying and taunts they face is beyond imagination leading only to their further marginalization and traumatising them in despicable ways. Right up to the present day, society, in general, has condemned, intimidated, and alienated transgender people who do not conform to the so-called "mainstream" culture. They face discrimination in every aspect of their lives be it employment, legal recognition, access to social and economic opportunities, quality of life and livelihood, education, and other means of survival. In simple words, a life of dignity and respect is denied to them. The members of the transgender community rarely speak about these experiences in public spaces due to the taboos and stigmas attached to

their sexuality and sexual orientation", writes Tahmeena Rizvi. Infact, about 95% of transgender are denied jobs, 60% have never attended schools. This being the situation in the country, the gravity and severity of the issue in Kashmir can be imagined well, which is already bereft by a host of socio-political quagmires.

No formal education for transgender is popular in Indian context. They are deprived from family and school environment, transgender discontinue their education and risk their future career opportunities. A close analysis of various reports and discussion with community and stakeholders suggest that transgender are most uneducated or undereducated, become reluctant to continue schooling. The average qualification is secondary or senior secondary level. The enrolment is significantly low and dropout rate at the primary and secondary level is still very high. They are hardly educated as they are not accepted by the society and therefore do not receive proper schooling. Even if they are enrolled in an educational institute, they face harassment and are bullied every day and are asked to leave the school or they drop out on their own.

The state of affairs in education as it reflects in unequal access to people from different backgrounds turns antithetical to the very enterprise and exercise of education and the manner in which it furthers the existing inequalities is tragic and inhuman. The ideal and objective of education remains defeated in absence of inclusion and this inclusion draws our attention to the marginalised and left out sections of our society and impels all stakeholders to take inclusion to its logical limits by making education an emancipator and leveller. Only then shall education spell out as light in the darkness of the world.

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

## OBSERVER MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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## LG Sahab Your Admin Has Failed Shalimar

A propos news report "Traffic Chaos, Shanty Market Has Srinagar Smart City Project Bypassed Shalimar Garden?". It's a major disappointment to learn that Srinagar Smart City Project Ltd (SSCL) has abandoned Shalimar heritage garden and have no further plans to develop and beautify its surroundings. As nearby Nishat precinct and immediate surrounding areas look better after redevelopment I was certain SSCL has

similar plans for Shalimar. It was shocking to learn that SSCL has no plans to relocate rows of shanty looking shops opposite this aesthetically built garden. They are a stir and need either relocation or makeover. Open spaces around garden with less noise would have been a great tribute to holders of this magnificent garden.

Many would not believe that this world heritage site has no designated parking area for visitors. That too

when there is ample open space between Shalimar and Foreshore on Shalimar Canal Road which could have been procured for a bigger parking lot by SIDA etc thus giving visitors badly needed respite from current chaotic situation around the garden area.

The road ahead near Harwan-Telbal Crossing is always a traffic mess as market around old Chinar tree and Sumo stand just in middle has turned it a nightmare for motorists driving

through the area. Cloke points need to be cleared and encroachments removed to facilitate smooth flow of traffic.

I appeal worthy LG Manoj Sinha who, I am sure, has crossed through the area on his way to Dachigam many times, to take cognisance of it and pull-up the SSCL, LCM&A and Traffic police for their negligence.

Dr Naima Iqbal  
Dhar Bagh, Harwan



Mindful Fridays

# Embracing Setbacks As Feedbacks

Wasim Kakroo

Setbacks are an unavoidable aspect of life's journey. Whether they manifest as personal challenges, career setbacks, or unexpected obstacles, setbacks can leave us feeling disheartened and uncertain about our path forward. However, rather than viewing setbacks as roadblocks, we can choose to see them as valuable feedback that can guide us toward greater growth and success. In this article, we will discuss why setbacks should be embraced as feedback and explore how this perspective shift can empower us to overcome adversity with resilience and determination.

## Understanding Setbacks as Feedback

Feedback and setbacks are two sides of the same coin, offering essential guidance for personal and professional growth. Feedback illuminates our strengths and weaknesses, highlighting areas for improvement and reinforcing successful strategies. Setbacks, on the other hand, present us with challenges and obstacles, pushing us to reassess our approach and adapt accordingly. By reframing setbacks as feedback, we embrace them as learning opportunities rather than obstacles. This shift in perspective empowers us to extract meaningful insights from every experience, fostering resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity. Instead of succumbing to discouragement, we harness setbacks as catalysts for innovation and progress. In essence, feedback and setbacks serve as compasses guiding us toward our goals, enriching our journey with valuable lessons and insights along the way. Embracing both as integral parts of our growth journey, we cultivate a mindset of continuous improvement and resilience, propelling us toward success and fulfillment.

## Learning from Setbacks

Viewing setbacks as feedback offers a profound advantage: the chance to glean wisdom from our missteps. Rather than wallowing

in self-criticism or defeat, we can adopt a mindset of curiosity and self-reflection. Through careful examination of the factors contributing to the setback, pinpointing areas necessitating improvement, and extracting lessons from the experience, we amass invaluable knowledge to steer our future endeavors. Each setback transforms into a pivotal moment on our path to development, illuminating the way forward with newfound insights. By embracing setbacks as opportunities for learning and growth, we cultivate resilience and fortitude, empowering ourselves to navigate challenges with greater efficacy and confidence. Thus, setbacks cease to be stumbling blocks and instead evolve into catalysts for personal and professional advancement, propelling us ever closer to our aspirations.

## Building Resilience

Resilience is the bedrock upon which we build our capacity to face life's trials with courage and tenacity. It's the art of bouncing back from adversity, not just unscathed, but stronger and wiser than before. By viewing setbacks as stepping stones rather than stumbling blocks, we unlock the transformative power of resilience. Every setback becomes a lesson, every failure a stepping stone on the path to growth. Instead of being defeated by challenges, we emerge from them with newfound strength and resilience.

Embracing setbacks as feedback is pivotal in this journey. Rather than seeing failure as a reflection of our worth or abilities, we recognize it as an opportunity for reflection and improvement. Each setback becomes a teacher, offering valuable insights and lessons that propel us forward. With each challenge overcome, our resilience deepens, reinforcing our belief in our ability to overcome adversity.

Moreover, resilience isn't just about bouncing back; it's about bouncing forward. It's about using the lessons learned from setbacks to fuel personal growth and development. Each trial we face becomes an opportunity to



Moreover, embracing setbacks as feedback fosters a growth mindset. It encourages us to see challenges as opportunities for personal and professional development rather than insurmountable obstacles. As we navigate setbacks with this perspective, we become more adaptable and resourceful, better equipped to overcome obstacles and achieve our goals.

evolve, to become more resilient versions of ourselves. Through resilience, we not only weather the storms of life but emerge from them stronger, more resilient, and more capable of facing whatever the future may hold.

## Fostering Adaptability

Life is an intricate dance between plans and the unforeseen. Setbacks, whether minor hiccups or major upheavals, are intrinsic to this journey. Yet, within each setback lies a potential for growth, a chance to recalibrate our path. Viewing setbacks as feedback reframes them from roadblocks to stepping stones. This perspective shift empowers us to harness adversity as a catalyst for transformation.

Adaptability emerges as our

greatest asset in navigating life's twists and turns. Instead of being tethered to rigid plans, we learn to flow with the currents, adjusting our sails as needed. This flexibility not only enables us to weather storms but also to seize new opportunities that arise unexpectedly.

Embracing setbacks as opportunities for innovation fosters a mindset of continual improvement. Rather than succumbing to defeat, we engage with challenges as invitations to explore uncharted territories. Each setback becomes a classroom where we glean valuable insights and refine our strategies.

Central to this approach is a willingness to remain open-minded and receptive to feedback, even when it stings. Con-

structive criticism becomes a guiding light, illuminating blind spots and offering fresh perspectives. By integrating feedback into our journey, we ensure that every setback propels us forward rather than holding us back.

## Cultivating Self-Compassion

In the face of setbacks, it's natural to spiral into self-criticism, but treating setbacks as feedback shifts our perspective. Rather than harsh self-judgment, we can embrace self-compassion, acknowledging setbacks as part of the human journey. With self-compassion, we offer ourselves kindness and understanding, fostering resilience and emotional balance. It's about recognizing our imperfections without harshness, cultivating inner

peace amidst life's challenges. By viewing setbacks through a lens of self-compassion, we build a foundation of self-assurance, knowing that we can weather any storm with grace and resilience.

## Turning Setbacks into Success

Embracing setbacks as feedback is akin to seeing them as stepping stones rather than stumbling blocks. It's about acknowledging that setbacks are an inevitable part of any journey and viewing them not as failures but as valuable lessons. When we adopt this mindset, setbacks become catalysts for innovation and progress.

Every setback presents an opportunity for introspection and improvement. Instead of dwelling on what went wrong, we can focus on what we can learn from the experience and how we can apply that knowledge moving forward. This approach cultivates resilience, enabling us to bounce back stronger and more determined than before.

Moreover, embracing setbacks as feedback fosters a growth mindset. It encourages us to see challenges as opportunities for personal and professional development rather than insurmountable obstacles. As we navigate setbacks with this perspective, we become more adaptable and resourceful, better equipped to overcome obstacles and achieve our goals.

Ultimately, the ability to transform adversity into success lies in our willingness to embrace setbacks as feedback. By reframing setbacks as opportunities for growth and learning, we unlock our potential to turn adversity into triumph. It's not about avoiding setbacks altogether but rather about leveraging them to propel ourselves forward on the path to success.

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## DIGITAL DILEMMA Parenting Challenges in the Age of Virtual Autism

Mehvish Shakeel

Autism, a complex neurodevelopmental condition, casts a shadow over the serene valleys of Kashmir. Among its youngest inhabitants, a new concern has arisen: virtual autism. While traditional autism is a well-understood neurodevelopmental disorder, virtual autism presents a unique challenge, often fueled by excessive screen time and digital exposure.

Autism and virtual autism, though related, differ in their origins and manifestations. Autism, a complex disorder with multifaceted causes, manifests early in childhood and affects communication, social interaction, and behavior. Conversely, virtual autism primarily stems from the pervasive influence of digital technology.

In an era dominated by screens, children in Kashmir, like their counterparts worldwide, are increasingly exposed to smartphones, tablets, and computers from an early age. It is found that children from 0-3 years, who started at screens for over four hours a day, had "sensory-motor and socio-affective deprivation". Dr. Bilal, a Clinical Psychologist at CGWC, reported 189 diagnosed cases of autism registered from 2019-2021, with 75 cases in 2022 and 78 cases till December 2023. Over the last two years, around 50 percent to 60 percent of children have exhibited symptoms akin to virtual autism.

The unintended consequences of excessive screen time are profound. Prolonged digital exposure during critical developmental stages can disrupt neural pathways, impair cognitive functions, and hinder social-

emotional growth, leading to symptoms resembling autism.

Modern parenting dynamics, shaped by busy lifestyles and technological advancements, contribute to the rise of virtual autism. Parents may resort to digital devices as convenient distractions or rewards, inadvertently exacerbating the issue. As we see in our society, Parents often say phrases like:

- ▶ 'Khe bate ba haaval YouTube reels.'
- ▶ 'Maa near nebar beh Andra kan vich phone.'
- ▶ 'Vich taam phone ba karai kaam.'
- ▶ 'Ma hae wadun Rath phone.'

They consider it as love or care, but they're inadvertently giving poisonous exposure to their children

phone.' They consider it as love or care, but they're inadvertently giving poisonous exposure to their children.

Addressing virtual autism requires a multifaceted approach. Parents should reassess their reliance on digital devices, create screen-free zones, and allocate quality time for face-to-face interaction. Educators can promote digital literacy and critical thinking skills among children, while policymakers must enact measures to regulate digital device marketing and accessibility.

In conclusion, virtual autism poses a significant challenge to Kashmiri children's well-being in the digital age. By recognizing the nuanced interplay between technology and development, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards reducing risks and fostering resilient and digitally empowered individuals.

The author is a student of clinical psychology

## Grow Proficient in Forgiveness: Practice Small Acts of Love

Robert Enright

44 I am so sick of feeling lonely. When my spouse abandoned me, that was a long time ago. I did not realize, at the time, that the effects of that betrayal would live in my heart for years. It is time to confront this and change, but I wonder if forgiving is too much for me? This is not a rare lament. I have heard such cries for help from those who have experienced deep injustice and yet, when the idea of forgiveness is brought up, people are not necessarily eager to enter this realm.

When people have been treated severely unjustly by another, it is hard to forgive. For example, when Suzanne Freedman, Ph.D., began her forgiveness work with incest survivors, virtually all of them said that they would never forgive, that it just was too much for them (Freedman and Enright, 1996). This certainly is understandable given the gravity of the injustice. Yet, in the end, all of the participants in our study were able to forgive and shed psychological depression.

If your heart has been crushed by another person's (or even other persons') injustice against you, it is good to prepare for forgiveness before entering the forgiveness arena. At such times, I recommend certain preparations before starting to forgive (Enright, 2015). Such preparations are meant first to transform your inner world for the better before you begin the process of forgiving. There are moments when we can con-

front pain head-on and willingly choose to start forgiving. At other times, it is preferable to take a step back and prepare carefully so that your heart is stronger and ready to forgive. This essay deals with one possibly important preparation for you before forgiving anyone who has deeply hurt you. We need to be certain that your heart, your psychological heart, is strengthened and more inclined to forgiveness before you move forward with it as a healing strategy.

### First Understand Love and Practice It

I do not mean romantic love when I use the word love. Rather, I am discussing the kind of love Martin Luther King, Jr. expressed in his book, *Strength to Love*. His home was being firebombed when he was writing that classic work. Despite this challenge, he called on his readers to see the worth in others and not to retaliate with hatred. This is selfless love, done for others and not the self. Gandhi exhibited this kind of selfless love when he participated in hunger strikes to support the people of India.

It is this kind of love that Mother Teresa extended to Calcutta's impoverished population when she braved the streets to save and tend to the sick and dying. She was serving others by offering herself. The kind of service love is seen in the adult child caring for an aging parent—it takes effort and can even be painful to extend this kind of love to others for their good. Cultivating this form of love is more difficult than, for example,

the mutual affection that characterizes an engaged couple. It is more difficult since it costs the one who loves, especially when that love is not returned. Maturing in this kind of love requires time and effort.

### Practice Service Love Before Forgiving

I call this "service love" because it is in service to other people, not done for one's own benefit. As an exercise for today and in the coming weeks, recognize three or more possibilities you have to spread a little more service love throughout your family or community.

For instance, you could take the time to smile at a cashier who appears worn out and under pressure at work. You may spend more time with a friend who needs your attention, even if you are exhausted. Consider getting the family together to select a worthy organization and make a financial donation. What other acts of love-giving could you think of doing today? What other creative ideas can you generate about this kind of love for tomorrow and next week? The point is to begin softening your heart toward others who have not crushed your heart so that you can grow more deeply in service love.

### When It Is Time to Forgive

I am not suggesting that your first move in forgiving is to start loving the one who was cruel to you. Instead, take a smaller step. When you practiced service love toward a cashier or a friend, were you aware of seeing the

personal worth in this person? Were you aware that you were seeing this person as special and unique as a person? Were you aware that you certainly did not wish ill on this person? These insights can be brought to the forgiveness arena with the one who harmed your heart. Can you see that this person has worth, not because of the injustice, but despite it? Can you see the humanity in the other? Are you aware that you can commit to not harming this person who offended you, just as you did, even if subconsciously, toward those you gave service love in the past days and weeks?

### In Conclusion

Learning to practice service love toward a tired co-worker or family member when you are busy and under pressure can be good preparation for your heart to now be ready, at least in time and when you so choose, to offer even a little of this to those who have deeply offended you. As you do that, this service love actually acts as an antidote to your inner discontent, to your inner anger. The practice of service love can slowly remove some of that anger until the majority of that which is dissipated. A heart prepared for this kind of love through daily practice can assist you in forgiving deeply and well, with the result that you are healed from the inner discontent that could be with you for years without working toward forgiveness.

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## CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

### 39 Nominations

From National Youth Party also filed their nominations from 02-Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat.

Those who filled their nomination papers as Independent candidates include Wahida Tabasum, Dr. Qazi Ashraf, Fida Hussain Dar, Abdul Hamid Rafter, Arun Kumar Raina, Bansil Lal Bhat, Saqib Rahmat Mahkdooni, Shadib Hanief, Javid Ahmad Wani, Jehangir Ahmad Sheikh, Shabir Ahmad Malik and Sajad Ahmad Dar.

The scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on April 26.

The candidates have the option to withdraw their candidature by or before April 29 until 03:00 PM.

Voting in the constituency is scheduled on May 13, 2024 under the fourth phase and the counting of votes is set for June 4, 2024.

### LS Elections Phase II

constituency consists of 11 Assembly segments of Jammu district including Bishnah, Suchetgarh, Ranbir Singh Pura (Jammu-south), Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota, Jammu West, Jammu North, Marh, Akhnor and Chamb, three Assembly segments of Samba district including Ramgarh, Samba and Vijaypur, three Assembly segments of Beasri district including Gulabgarh, Reasi and Shri Mata Vashino Devi and one Assembly segment of Rajouri district Kalakote-Sunderbani.

According to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) J&K, around 2,416 polling stations have been established all across three districts and one Assembly segment of Rajouri district to ensure smooth polling. More than 15,000 polling staff, including reserves will be deployed on duty on the polling day and the election staff including Presiding Officers will be stationed in every polling station.

Around 50 polling stations have been established in border areas of Jammu district whereas 2 such polling stations are there in Samba district.

The voting will begin at 7 am and the first voter will be provided a rose at every polling station and the polling will continue till 6 pm. The voting will go beyond 6 pm if there will be voters' queue is still there inside the polling station premises. Before the polling begins, a mock polling drill will be held at every polling station to test the preparedness.

To facilitate the smooth polling, the election commission of India has provided Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) like drinking water, electricity, toilet, ramp, furniture, verandah, sheds besides wheelchairs will also be provided to the needy. The ballot unit will also have a list of contesting candidates in hand script. Wherever required, there will be separate queues for senior citizens and specially-abled persons facilitating them with early polling. Additionally, there will be a voter help desk, manned by the concerned Booth Level Officer (BLO).

On the directions of ECI, 10 Pink booths, which will be managed by only women staff for women voters, have been established in the constituency whereas 10 booths have been established particularly for specially-abled voters. The ECI has also established nine booths for the youth.

The voter can carry any of the 12 types of document which can establish his identity to the polling station and the electoral photo identity card (EPIC) hasn't been made mandatory for the ECI.

Besides the Voter Turnout App will be used to display estimated provisional voter turnout details of each Parliamentary Constituency entered by the Returning Officer (RO). The approximate voter turnout data of each phase of the elections will be displayed through this app. There will be two hourly reporting of voting percentage from 9.00 am to the end

of the poll. The concerned ARO and RO will share the data with the media accordingly.

Around 1454 polling stations in phase 2 will have CCTV cameras for live webcasting to control rooms established at the District and CEO office. Around 124 polling stations will have two cameras for inside and outside surveillance. Around 2000 vehicles of Polling parties and sector officers will be equipped with a GPS system so as to locate the vehicle and monitor movement, including over speeding, Satellite Phones, Wireless sets and Special Runners have been put in place in around 13 polling stations which fall in communication shadow areas.

### J&K Eco Optimistic

an election rally in Udhampur on April 12, credited the improved ground situation in the Valley to the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019.

He emphasised that the Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory are anticipated to transpire without the shadow of terrorism, disruptions or cross-border tensions.

Significant shifts within separatist factions, notably the separatist amalgam Hurriyat Conference, have also contributed to the evolving political landscape.

Divisions in the conglomerate in 2003 and subsequent developments, including the passing of influential leaders like Syed Ali Shah Geelani in 2021 and the incarceration of key figures on terror-related charges, have altered the region's political landscape.

Despite historical trends of low voter turnout in Kashmir, 2014 showed promising signs with assembly polls in the then-state witnessing a record turnout of more than 65 per cent in the region.

Pole emphasised that the ongoing aggressive campaigning by political parties and the encouraging response from the public are likely to lead to improved voter participation.

He said the assembly polls, unlike the parliamentary elections, mostly used to have good voter turnout ranging between 50 and 60 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Voting in north Kashmir was relatively higher than south and central Kashmir, maybe because of local issues, presence of more candidates and active politics... What we are seeing today is that the political parties and the candidates are canvassing aggressively and the response of the people is also encouraging," the chief electoral officer said.

With preparations in place to ensure security and build public confidence, Pole anticipates a notable improvement in polling percentages, particularly in north Kashmir where Omar Abdullah of the National Conference is contesting against separatist-turned-politician and former minister Sajad Gan Lone of the People's Conference. The Anantnag-Rajouri seat goes to the polls on May 7, Srinagar on May 13 and Baramulla on May 20.

Udhampur-Kathua, which went to the polls in the first phase on April 19, recorded a turnout of 68.27 per cent. The Friday polling will be held for the Jammu seat.

### Police Drones

Recently, a civilian named Mohammad Razaq was killed in a targeted attack by the terrorists in Shalidra Sharief area of Rajouri.

In wake of the incident, the J&K police are on high alert and making preparations to thwart any such attacks.

Jammu will go to polls during the second phase of Lok Sabha elections on April 26.

Polling in Udhampur was held on April 19 (Phase 1), while

Anantnag-Rajouri, Srinagar, and Baramulla will poll on May 7, May 13, and May 20 respectively. The counting of votes will be held on June 4. In 2019, polling for the Lok Sabha was held for six seats in Jammu and Kashmir. BJP won three seats while the National Conference won the remaining three. (ANI)

### Border Issues

sides have tried to raise the issues which suits their politics and which can earn them votes of the border dwellers.

Out of the 18 Assembly segments of Jammu constituency, nine segments have votes in border areas, both on IB and LoC. These include Ramgarh and Samba Assembly segments of Samba district, Bishnah, Suchetgarh, Ranbir Singh Pura, Marh, Akhnor and Chamb of district Jammu and Sunderbani-Kalakote Assembly segment of Rajouri district.

The border belt is home to Jats, scheduled caste, west Pakistani refugees and Sikh population and mostly they are dependent on farming for their livelihood. Youth were getting employment in the Army and their farming background was helping them to earn a place in the Army but due to tough circumstances.

One major issue which the border people faced was firing and shelling from across the border which had made their life hell.

"Every now and then border people had to migrate to the places when Pakistan was resorting to shelling mortars on the borders. Firing had made their lives hell but since 2014 when Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister things have changed and border dwellers are happy. There are no more shelling and firing on the borders, which enable smooth farming, and children can attend their schools without any hindrance," Ashwani Sharma, former MLA Bishnah and senior BJP leader said.

He said that beside the peaceful atmosphere on the borders, the Modi government has given reservation to the people living on IB. "Earlier, the reservation was only for people living on LoC but now IB people are also getting the reservation. Moreover, in case of any untoward death on IB, the government provides Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia to next of the kin which was not earlier there," Sharma added.

The Election Commissioner of India has established 62 polling stations on border areas which include 50 in Jammu district and 12 in Samba district where thousands of voters living close to the border will be casting their votes.

On the other hand, the Congress party believes that all this is a hoax and border people are suffering more as compared to yesteryears. "The BJP government has done injustice to the people of border areas who were part of the farmers' protest and have intentionally reserved their seats to schedule caste (SC). Farmers are suffering and they have nowhere to go," said T.S. Tony, DDC member from Suchetgarh and a senior Congress leader.

"Unemployment is the major issue of people of border areas and another major issue is Agrievance. Youth living on borders preferred working in the Army then doing any other thing but since this Agrievance scheme has been launched, it has brought down the morale of educated youth," he said.

"Now, due to this scheme, the son is returning before his father and they see a depressing future ahead," Tony added.

Another opposition leader and former RTI activist Rohit Choudhary, who is associated with National Conference (NC), has echoed Tony's statement and said that people living on the borders are not happy with the incumbent system. (KNO)

### NC's Aga Ruhullah

constituency. "We are here to file nomination papers and we pray to God to make him successful," the senior NC leader told reporters.

Earlier, Mehdi travelled from his hometown Budgam, the central Kashmir district, to Srinagar with hundreds of his supporters in a car rally, and reached the deputy commissioner's office here.

The NC has also submitted the nomination of a covering candidate, Salman Sagar, the president of the party's youth wing from Srinagar.

Nineteen candidates, including Mehdi and Sagar, have submitted their nominations from the constituency.

The last date for filing nominations for the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency is Thursday. Polls will be held in the constituency on May 13.

### INDIA Bloc Seeking

Ram temple in Ayodhya, the prime minister said that people from the SP and Congress used to say that the BJP would not tell the date of temple construction.

"With your blessings we also got the temple built and consecration ceremony also took place. We told them the date, time, place, and also invited them. They considered themselves greater than Lord Ram. They rejected the invitation of the consecration ceremony so that their vote bank did not get upset," he said.

Modi said that the SP and Congress had to even leave Lord Krishna. "When I had entered the sea to see Shri Krishna of the Dwarika which was submerged in it, the 'shahzade' (Rahul Gandhi) of Congress had made fun of me. The dynastic people of SP are also performing 'aarti' for those who insult me," he said.

The PM said, "The SP, Congress and their INDI alliance can go to an expert for appeasement there is an uproar in the entire country due to the dangerous intentions of the Congress. The dangerous 'panji' (poll symbol of Congress) is going to snatch the rights of the people of the country again." He reiterated that the opposition alliance wants to snatch away 'mangalrut' of women.

### EC Has To Be

shred the Indian Constitution into pieces. The Indian Constitution provides dignity to everyone," Abdullah said.

"The PM of the country has to speak for all and has to protect all, he is like a father. He should not differentiate between people on religious lines or food habits or languages. He has to serve everyone whether they belong to his party or not," he said and expressed disappointment at Modi's speech.

Abdullah alleged Modi wanted to "break the country and separate people on the religious lines".

"He (Modi) wants to create a rift among the people. The INDIA alliance is fighting against that. The INDIA alliance wants to keep the country united and safeguard Ambedkar's constitution," he added.

The former Union minister said, "A movement will start from this crown (JK) which will change the seat of power in Delhi and bring a revolution in the country".

"The BJP wants to dictate to the people what to eat or wear... They want everyone to be like them. They want to tell you which God to pray to, they want to wipe out everything," he alleged.

The former Union minister said to fight this onslaught, many parties in the opposition came together and formed the INDIA bloc.

Referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Biharat Jodo Jatra which commenced here on January 30 last year, Abdullah said the Congression wants to address the pain and

difficulties of the people of Kashmir.

"That was his aim and today also that is his aim. That is why the JKPC president is here with us," Abdullah said.

For the first time, the NC president on Thursday went inside the Congress party headquarters at M A Road here after Mehdi submitted his nomination papers.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief Vikar Rasool Wani later visited the NC headquarters - also for the first time.

Addressing a gathering, Wani expressed the hope that the INDIA bloc will succeed on the five seats in J-K and one seat in Ladakh.

Wani said that after the 2014 election both the Congress and NC had "tried to tell the BJP that BJP will not desist from implementing its agenda. Then August 5, 2019 happened and our apprehensions were proven right."

The JKPC president claimed the Democratic Progressive Azad Party led by Ghulam Nabi Azad's campaign slogan only in the Muslim-dominated areas to divide votes.

"You have to stand united to defeat these powers. These parties with symbols like Apple (Sajad Lone-led Peoples conference), Bat (Altaf Bukhari's Apni Party) and Gun (DPA's symbol in bucket) are all BJP. The lotus is inside them... We have to fight all of them," he said.

"Some people try to defame us by saying that they are a part of the INDIA alliance. They are not. This decision (to support NC) was taken by party high command," the JKPC president said, adding, "We will crush the BJP" on all seats.

### Will Campaign

"In Sha Allah, God willing, we both will go and campaign," Zahid told reporters when asked if the brothers will campaign for their father.

The two accompanied their father to the deputy commissioner's office here where party candidate Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi submitted nomination papers from the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency.

However, Zahid refused to answer another question, saying he had to meet the people. "I want to meet people. You take Omar sahab's byte," he told media persons.

His brother Zameer said while he has no intention of joining politics, yet he wants to remain connected with the people.

"I have no plans yet. I am a lawyer. We have a connection with the people and that will stay forever," he said, when asked if he had any plans to join politics.

Zameer said the two will always remain connected with the people.

"I have no more plans than this as of now. I am with Omar. Mehdi submitted the nominations today. I am with him. They have my support till the very end. Our job is to connect with the people," he added.

### Search Operation

were instaled to prevent terrorists from escaping," quoting an official news agency Kashmir Scroll reported.

He said that the search operation continued throughout the night and it is going on Thursday at Anantnag.

He further added that helicopters and other services have been pressed into service to track down the terrorists while the escaping of terrorists can't be ruled out.

### Civilian Injured

started at Check Mohalla Nowpora in the area of PD (police district) Sopore, the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKPC) Zone said in a post on X.

A civilian was injured during an ongoing encounter that broke out in Sopore village of north Kashmir on Thursday evening.

Officials said that a civilian

identified as Farooq Ahmed Dar received a bullet injury in his shoulder during an ongoing operation at Check Mohalla Nowpora in Sopore.

The injured was shifted to a nearby health facility and his condition is stable as per reports.

Earlier officials said that a joint team of Army's 22 RR, CRFF and Jammu and Kashmir Police laid a cordon and search operation in Nowpora village of Sopore after having credible inputs about the presence of some militants in the area.

As the joint team approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon forces triggering off an encounter, the officials said.

### HC Allows Filing

the draft rules, the proposal of which has already been rejected by the competent authority," the court said, observing that due to the passing of the interim orders in these petitions, the whole selection process has been set at naught.

"As per the learned counsel appearing for the official respondents, the department is suffering due to death of staff and has prayed for vacation of the interim orders," the court said.

Even otherwise, the Court said, prima-facie the petitioners have no locus to challenge the selection process for direct recruitment as there is "no preferential fundamental right of the petitioners for seeking regularization."

"After hearing learned counsel for the parties, the court is of the opinion that no fruitful purpose will be served to extend the interim directions, which are being harshly working against the interests of the candidates, who have since been selected and not being appointed due to the rider imposed by this Court," the court said, adding, "in the aforesaid backdrop, the interim directions passed by this Court vide orders dated 16.06.2022 & 24.06.2022 ..... are hereby vacated and the official respondents are directed to finalize the selection process, expeditiously." However, the selection/appointment of the selected candidates, the court said, shall be subject to the final outcome of the instant petitions.

### Srinagar Boat

bodies of the father-son duo and the minor student who left all of us, and we want nothing but their missing dead bodies," says the locals from Gandbal while being today on the road as they were on protests against the administration.

Pertinently, on April 16, a pall of gloom descended throughout Kashmir after a boat ferrying 15 people capsized in the River Jhelum at Gandbal, leaving six persons dead while three persons, including a father-son duo and another minor boy, remained missing on the 8th day.

Local women from Gandbal said, "we are here on the road as there are no traces of the missing three persons on the 10th day. We know the SDRF has been searching tirelessly for the past 10 days, but they too are helpless and are searching on top of the water."

Among the protesters was the mother of Shoukat Ahmad, who continues to wait for his son's and grandson Haseeb Shoukat's missing bodies. (KNO)

### Ramban-Gool

and power supply affected by road blocking. Ramban-Gool road currently blocked," DC Ramban wrote on X.

He further directed immediate restoration of road connectivity, electricity and availability of essential services including placing of Ambulance at landslide site between Ramban-Gool main road at Pernote.

Also on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, ambulances have been kept stationed on the site, men & machinery mobilised to restore the connectivity & power supply to the affected area, the post reads. (KNO)

27<sup>th</sup> year OF PUBLICATION

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OR SCAN



# CS reviews Centrally Sponsored Schemes in J&K

Agencies

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Thursday reviewed the take-up of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes like PM Vishwakarma and Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity (RAMP) implemented by the Department of Industries & Commerce (I&C) in the UT.



Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Thursday reviewed the take-up of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes like PM Vishwakarma and Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity (RAMP) implemented by the Department of Industries & Commerce (I&C) in the UT.

The meeting, besides Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Secretary, R&D, Secretary, SDO was also attended by MD, TPO, representatives from Ministry of MSME, NSDC, HoDs of the Department from Kashmir/Jammu and other concerned officers from these Departments.

The Chief Secretary asked to make an effective strategy for training and capacity building of the artisans registered for the PM Vishwakarma scheme. He asked DCs to visit the training centers to ensure that the aspirants are given quality training as mandated under the scheme.

partment to create awareness among its artisans to take advantage under this scheme. He advised for making representatives from Ministry for the Ministry as per the guidelines of this scheme.

Regarding the RAMP scheme he asked the concerned to take the necessary measures for formalization of MSME sector here. He advised for making innovative strategies to create a better ecosystem, space and generate ideas for its growth here. He asked them to give training, exposure and extend hand-holding to make MSMEs flourish here like other regions of the country.

The Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh divulged details of different kinds of activities the Department has undertaken for smooth implementation of these schemes here. He informed the meeting that under PM Vishwakarma scheme the registered artisans in 18 designated trades are eligible for collateral-free credit support of upto Rs 3 lakhs in 2 tranches at a concessional interest rate of 5%.

It was further made out by him that the registration and verifications are done by the Department and had been fast-paced since last meeting. He revealed that the progress is monitored and issues resolved simultaneously for making the scheme a success.

It was given out that around 60,924 artisans were trained till date through 70 government and 152 (NSDC approved) private training centers. It was said that after giving the basic skill these would be provided advanced skills besides a certificate of their skilling to receive the necessary assistance and toolkit.

As far as the implementation of RAMP scheme is concerned the MD, TPO, Khalid Jahangir apprised the meeting about the aims and objectives of this scheme. He said that 461 and 420 consultations with stakeholders had been done across the districts of J&K.

It was also revealed that the baseline survey of about 1835 Udhym and 1434 non-Udhym registered MSMEs were surveyed by the organization here. It was given out that there are some 3.9 lakh micro, 0.49 lakh small and 290 medium enterprises here in the UT.

The meeting also discussed the formalization of MSME sector, industry-academic collaboration, training/incubation through different universities and institutions, empanelment of Business Development Services, branding, packaging and market access to be provided to such MSMEs under this scheme—(KNO)

# Secretary Planning Inspects JTFRP Works In Srinagar, Budgam

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Secretary Planning and Civil Aviation Department, Aijaz Asad, on Thursday inspected various ongoing Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Projects being executed under World Bank funding in Srinagar and Budgam districts.



During the visit, the Secretary took stock of progress on additional block at Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla in Srinagar and Emergency Operations Centre in Budgam. While inspecting construction of 120 bedded Specialized Orthopaedic Unit (additional hospital block) at Bone and Joint Hospital, Barzulla, he directed the concerned officers to focus on quality parameters thereby ensuring timely completion.

Aijaz Asad, while enquiring about the technical specifications of the building, directed the concerned engineers to keep regular check on the technical and quality parameters for effective implementation.

The Secretary was informed that the building will be G+4 structure with 120 beds capacity and technically advanced modular Operation theatres besides pre-operative and post-operative units which will considerably augment the infrastructure of valley's largest centre for orthopedic care.

The block will also feature the Pneumatic Tube System in J&K, ensuring seamless transport of various medical items, including blood samples, test reports from one floor to another. The system will minimize human interference in supply of these items like blood samples sent from one floor will directly reach its destination without any hassle.

Pertinently, the prestigious project has been taken up under the component "Critical Infrastructure" of JTFRP being funded by the World Bank. The Secretary also reviewed work progress on the prestigious project of Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Control Building at Ompora, Budgam. The EOC will be fully equipped with all the latest modern technologies, software being used world over in this kind of hospitals, disaster recovery and coordinating the relief and rescue operations in case of any natural disaster. Besides, the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Centre building would be the central control room for the dewatering pumping stations in Srinagar City for scientific controlling and managing all the pump stations in the City using IT enabled services. He directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work on the project and mobilize more men and machinery on site to ensure that work is completed within the stipulated timeframe. Earlier, the Secretary visited the Government Woolen Mills, Bemina here and took stock of ongoing works undertaken under World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project there.

# Class 8 Results: Website Crashes, No Alternative Medium to Access Results

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** As the class 8th students were anxiously waiting for their results, however, they met with the disappointments after witnessing the poor management from the JKSCERT.

Dozens of aggrieved students from many districts of Valley told the news agency that they were yet to check the results. "As the students try to open the website or the links to check their results, the links are not opening or the website is crashing," said one of the students, Inaadh Shabir.

Another student Zoya Imran said, "Ironically, there was not any other medium of checking the results that could have reduced the traffic on websites and online links." Zoya said that she had been trying to check her results from 9:30 PM and couldn't check it till 11:20. "From the commencement of exams till the declaration of result was a complete mockery in the name of board exams."

Officials at SCERT told KNO that there was some correction in the gazette to put it in public domain. "We are trying to resolve the issues in website and links," the official said. Before the commencement of 8th standard exams, JKSCERT had asked the DIET principals of J&K to conduct final examination of 8th standard on the pattern which was used during the COVID times. Copies of the question papers were provided with Uniform Question Papers in soft format through DIETs via Email and Complex Heads used to print the number of copies as per the appearing students.

"It is pertinent to mention that the DIETs were reported non-availability of funds in the pool fund and accordingly the DIETs Complex Heads were requested to print additional copies of answer scripts," it reads. Pertinently, JKSCERT on Wednesday informed all the principal DIETs of both Jammu and Kashmir divisions to declare the results of Examination (MSE) Session for 8th standard out of the available printing or local funds lying with the Complex Heads.

The JKSCERT had further said that it has decided to conduct the examination for the current session on the analogy of the examinations conducted during the COVID times wherein Complex Heads were provided with Uniform Question Papers in soft format through DIETs via Email and Complex Heads used to print the number of copies as per the appearing students.

However, before this notification the exam was supposed to be held from March-05 in soft zones. However, on March-23, JKSCERT postponed examination of all papers of 8th standard except for the English subject. Joint Director Central for JKSCERT had said that the postponement was announced in view of the representations from various quarters in the UT of J&K.

2023-2024 of both soft and hard zone after fulfillment of all the required norms today on Apr-24-2024 in one go. On March-02 JKSCERT rescheduled the annual examination dates for 8th standard.

JKSCERT had said that the exams in the soft zones will commence from March-26 and will culminate on April-10 respectively.

JKSCERT had said that the postponement was announced in view of the representations from various quarters in the UT of J&K.

# Ladakh Leads in Stock Market Interest with Highest Demat Accounts

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Investment into the stock market is gaining pace in Ladakh, which currently tops India for having maximum demat accounts.

A demat account is required to buy and sell securities on the Indian stock exchanges. As per news agency, as on April 22, Ladakh saw a staggering yearly increase of 375.77 per cent in the number of clients. BSE's total client base for Ladakh now stands at 1,551. This is followed by Mizoram with 76.10 per cent rise year-on-year (Y-o-Y) with 11,022 clients added, and Lakshadweep with 57.81 per cent Y-o-Y rise, having added 885 clients.



In addition, Jammu and Kashmir has a total of 8,06,090 active demat account holders. This represents a significant 50.34% increase over the past one-year period from April 8, 2023 to April 8, 2024, with 2,69,924 new demat accounts opened during this time.

Experts attribute the surge in demat accounts to a paradigm shift in the mindset and aspirations of the younger generation and the expanding middle class. Due to the availability of online investment choices made possible by the use of digital technology, Tier II and Tier III cities are now generating demand in addition to metropolitan and major cities, they said.

"Traditionally, Indians keep their surplus cash in gold and bank accounts, the traditional ways of storing wealth. The opening of new demat accounts is primarily motivated by the stock market's appeal as an option due to the economy's development," said Sayer Ahmad Bhat, an BSE expert.

"The strong growth of the stock market combined with growing awareness, ease of investing and almost zero cost of opening a demat account through a fintech platform has been one of the key drivers for the surge in the demat tally across India," he

# Sonamarg Welcomes 1.5 Lakh Tourists In Three Months

Agencies



**GANDERBAL:** Sonamarg is witnessing a heavy footfall of tourists with 1,62,281 visitors flocking to the popular destination in the last three months. Sonamarg, with a literal meaning "the meadow of gold" and with snowcapped mountains sharing a spectacular blue sky, situated at an altitude of 2730 m, is a mesmerising hill station in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

The place has become a premier attraction for travellers, both local and non-local, in Kashmir. "Local shopkeepers are elated with the upsurge in tourist activity, expressing gratitude to the tourism department for its promotional efforts." The current influx of tourists has surpassed previous records, indicating the growing appeal of the region among travellers," they said.

Members of the tourism sector warmly welcomed the tourists, seeing it as a revival of their businesses after nearly three years of dormancy. They urge the tourism department to maintain its efforts to attract even more visitors. The current tourists are visibly content, contributing to a lively and hospitable atmosphere in the region—(KNO)

# Army Trains VDCs In Weapon Handling In Mendhar

Agencies



**MENDHAR:** Army in its efforts to maintain peace and stability in Mendhar and surrounding areas has trained the village Defence Guards in terms of weapon handling and firing. "Local shopkeepers are elated with the upsurge in tourist activity, expressing gratitude to the tourism department for its promotional efforts." The current influx of tourists has surpassed previous records, indicating the growing appeal of the region among travellers," they said.

handling provided an extended security in far flung areas," it added. The VDCs are equipped with 303 and B/A rifles and were enthusiastic in sharpening their skills.

The training has helped the VDCs in reorienting their training process and skills in weapon handling and firing. "VDCs are also a vital source of intelligence gathering and their prowess in weapon handling and firing practice was carried out at Mendhar, Hami and Jaran wali gali by the Indian Army. "A lecture cum demonstration on weapon handling, musketry and firing positions was also conducted as part of the training," the army said.

# Three Drug Peddlers Arrested With Heroin In Kathua

Agencies



**JAMMU:** Three drug peddlers were arrested on Thursday from Kathua district here, and over 250 grams of heroin were recovered from their possession, police said.

A police team intercepted the trio in the Bhagthali area and recovered 284.41 grams of heroin, they said. However, the fourth accused, in the name of Gulzar Ahmed alias Lahu, managed to flee, they said.

A case has been registered and further investigation is underway, they added.

09478 Patna-Sabarmati Special Express 01 Trip			
Train No. 09478	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS
---	11:30	---	Patna Jn.
22:45	22:55	---	Lucknow
19:40	---	---	Sabarmati

  

08481/08482 Puri-Anand Vihar(T)-Puri Special Express (Weekly) 18 Trips			
Train No. 08481	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS
---	23:45	---	Puri
09:50	---	---	Anand Vihar (T)
---	---	---	21:30
---	---	---	11:50

  

04672 Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Special Exp. 01 Trip			
Train No. 04672	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS
---	17:35	---	Jammu Tawi
04:20	---	---	New Delhi

  

04221 Varanasi-Delhi Jn. Special Express 01 Trip			
Train No. 04221	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS
---	19:20	---	Varanasi
10:55	---	---	Delhi Jn.

  

02250/02249 Delhi Jn.-Patna Jn.-Delhi Jn. Special Express 02 Trips			
Train No. 02250	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS
---	19:30	---	Delhi Jn.
11:45	---	---	Patna Jn.
---	---	---	13:00

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## T20 WC: It's Rahul v Samson; Hardik For Continues To Worry

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** KL Rahul is believed to be slightly ahead of Sanju Samson in the race for second wicketkeeper's slot even as Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya's indifferent batting form remains a worry for the national selection panel which is expected to announce the 15-member squad for the T20 World Cup in Americas by the end of this month.

The other bone of contention in drafting the final squad could be the choice of an extra bowler.

It remains to be seen whether an extra pace bowler in Avesh Khan will be accommodated or whether the choice would be between Lucknow Super Giants leg-spinner Ravi Bisnoi and Delhi Capitals all-rounder Axar Patel considering the low and slow tracks in the West Indies.

It is understood that skipper Rohit Sharma is likely to have a meeting with chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar to discuss



the outline of the team.

With the ICC setting a May 1 deadline for the announcement of 15-member squads, the BCCI is expected to reveal the names anytime between the end of this week or the beginning of



next week.

Pandya has so far bowled 17 overs out of a possible 32 in eight games for MI. As a designated finisher, he has hit only seven sixes in these games, which is below par by



every measure. The free-flowing bat-swing is completely missing in the 150 odd runs that he has scored in the tournament so far at a strike-rate of 142. However, Pandya can be called a 'TINA' option (There Is No Alter-

native) for the selectors as Shivam Dube, who is also expected to board the New York bound flight, isn't bowling either.

Also in terms of skill and pace, Dube the bowler isn't anywhere close to Pandya but his current batting form (22 sixes in eight games) can't be ignored either.

### KL RAHUL VS SANJU SAMSON

It can be safely concluded that Rishabh Pant who is now third among the top run-getters in the competition with 342 at a strike rate of 161, has sealed his place as the team's No. 1 keeper-batter and also as a designated finisher.

The fight is pretty intense for the second keeper's slot and despite KL Rahul (302 at 141 SR) not batting in the middle-order, his range of strokes might just help him pip Samson (314 at SR 152). Samson might again have to be content with being a stand-by inclusion like last year's 50 over World Cup.

### Short TAKES

#### Gulbadin Naib Replaces Injured Mitchell Marsh In DC Squad



Delhi Capitals on Thursday drafted in Afghanistan all-rounder Gulbadin Naib as a replacement for Mitchell Marsh for the remainder of the IPL 2024. Naib joins the Capitals for his base price of Rs 50 lakh.

Marsh was ruled out of the IPL with a hamstring injury, and the Australian all-rounder had flown back to Perth on April 12 to have detailed medical check-up. Marsh played four matches in this IPL, making just 61 runs and taking one wicket.

#### Punjab Kings Batter Shikhar Dhawan Ruled Out Of KKR Clash

Punjab Kings skipper Shikhar Dhawan, who is nursing a shoulder injury, was ruled out of Friday's match against Kolkata Knight Riders and the team is hoping for his return against Chennai Super Kings on May 1.

The 38-year-old last played against Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 9 and since then he missed three matches with Sam Curran stepping in as the captain. PBKS said Dhawan is on a recovery course and could return in their next game in Chennai.

#### IPL Betting: Maha Cyber Cell Summons Actor Tamannaah Bhatia

Maharashtra cyber cell has summoned actor Tamannaah Bhatia in connection with the alleged promotion of the viewing of IPL matches on a subsidiary app of the Mahadev online gaming and betting application, officials said on Thursday. The actor has been asked to appear before the Maharashtra cyber personnel on April 29.

Bhatia has been summoned by the Maharashtra cyber cell for allegedly promoting the viewing of IPL matches on the Fairplay betting app.

#### FIFA Signs Four Year Worldwide Partnership Deal With Saudi Aramco

World soccer governing body FIFA has signed a partnership with oil and gas conglomerate Saudi Aramco that will run through the end of 2027, it said in a statement on Thursday. The four-year deal will see Aramco become a worldwide partner of FIFA, including in major tournaments such as the World Cup 2026 and the Women's World Cup 2027.

Saudi Arabia has been pouring billions into sports worldwide such as golf, football, motorsports and martial arts.

#### Spanish Govt To Oversee RFEF, Raising Concerns From FIFA, UEFA

The Spanish government on Thursday announced the creation of a special committee to oversee the country's football federation (RFEF) until the governing body holds new elections.

The decision was taken "in response to the crisis in the organisation and in defence of the general interest of Spain".

FIFA and UEFA say they are closely monitoring the situation with great concern. FIFA regulations state that members shall manage their affairs independently and without influence from third parties.

## KKR Bowling Woes Under Spotlight v Shaky PBKS



Press Trust of India

**KOLKATA:** Mitchell Starc will be desperate to justify his USD 3 million price tag as Kolkata Knight Riders bowling unit try to find ways to be less profligate when it is pitted against perennially under-achieving Punjab Kings in an IPL match here on Saturday.

KKR is currently second in the 10-team table with 10 points, four behind table toppers Rajasthan Royals (14 points) and the team's success is largely due to the batting efforts from the top-order.

In Punjab Kings, they meet a side that has been inconsistent and despite two good finds in Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma, they haven't exactly done well during key moments and like every other year, they are all but out of play-off contention.

Sunil Narine (286 @176.54 SR) and Phil Salt (249 @169.38 SR) have been phenomenal at the top. Andre Russell (155 @184.52), skipper Shreyas Iyer (190 @126.66) have all been among the runs. Even Rinku Singh, who has just faced 67 balls in 7 games has a strike-rate of close to 160.

Save captain Iyer, all the special-

ist batters have scored at a strike-rate northwards of 150 and that has been instrumental in the Shah Rukh Khan co-owned team posting four 200-plus totals in their seven games so far.

Only Venkatesh Iyer's poor form against a perennial sore thumb and Nitish Rana's finger fracture has not only robbed KKR of a master player off spinners but also a very handy off-break bowler.

But it is Starc, whose underwhelming performance (6 wickets at ER 11.48) is the worst among the specialist bowler.

Compared to Starc, uncapped India pacers Harshit Rana (ER 9.25, 9 wickets) and Vaibhav Arora (9.57, 7 wickets) have been more impressive but they have also got hit at times.

Against a side like Kings with some power-hitters at the back-end, a better performance will be warranted from the bowling unit.

This is one area PBKS would like to exploit as they would look to return to winning ways. While KKR top-order has done the bulk of their scoring, it's the opposite in case of Punjab Kings who have struggled to get it going from the outset.

## Anantnag Colleges Host SVEEP-Focused Cricket, Football Matches

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** Anantnag district witnessed an exciting day of sportsmanship as Government Degree Colleges from Anantnag (Boys), Bhubhakra and Vering joined forces with the Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag to organize football matches at their respective college grounds under the Systematic Voter's Education & Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program.

The Government Degree College for Boys in Anantnag, in partnership with the Department of Youth Services and Sports, launched a highly anticipated football match at the college's sports ground under the SVEEP program.

The event aimed to culti-



vate a love of athletics, camaraderie, and to raise awareness among the youth about the importance of voting, particularly for first-time voters. Teams competed on the college's well-maintained pitch, showcasing impressive talent and sportsmanship.

The opening ceremony was attended by Principal Degree College Anantnag, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, and other notable dignitaries. The Zonal Physical Education Officer Bhubhakra, in collaboration with Government Degree College Bhubhakra, organized a football match at the Sports Ground BHSS Bhubhakra.

At the opening ceremony, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Raja Yagob highlighted the importance of voting. GDC Bhubhakra emerged victorious with a 4-3 win.

## DFA Srinagar Announces Team Registration For All Divisions

Observer News Service



**SRINAGAR:** District Football Association Srinagar on Thursday announced the commencement of the registration process for the 2024-25 season.

The association stated that teams and academies interested in competing in the Premier Division, Super Division and A Division can collect registration forms from Bakshi Stadium from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM.

"We encourage all teams and academies to send their representatives to collect the forms within the specified time," DFA Srinagar said in a statement.

# Xavi & Barca Remain Tied In Marriage Of Convenience

Agencies

**BARCELONA:** Xavi Hernandez and Barcelona's relationship seemed on the rocks in January but they have made the decision to stay together in a marriage of convenience.

After the coach said he would walk away at the end of a season from a dream job that turned out to be "cruel" and "unpleasant", three months later he changed his mind in a dramatic U-turn.

"In January I saw the best thing was for me to leave, but now I see it differently," Xavi said at a press conference Thursday.

President Joan Laporta said the club needed "stability" and not drastic decision-making, despite failing to meet any of their objectives this season.

The decision came hit on the heels of Barcelona's Clasico defeat by Real Madrid that leaves them 11 points behind the leaders in La Liga, and Champions League elimination by Paris Saint-Germain.

Those losses virtually guarantee Barcelona will end the campaign without a trophy, a disappointment after their first La Liga triumph in four years last season.

Barcelona did manage to compete with Europe's giants on an even keel in a way they have not in years past — securing their best Champions League result on the road in a decade with a 3-2 win at PSG. They reached the quarter-finals for the first time since 2020 and knocked-out Serie A winners Napoli.

While Xavi's list of excuses this season has run longer than the club's constrictive salary bill, Ronald Araujo's early red card against PSG in the second leg was a key factor in the second-leg 4-1 collapse.

Lamine Yamal's hotly disputed "ghost goal" in the 3-2 Clasico defeat by Real Madrid is another crucial flashpoint which went against Barcelona.

"It is in our hands now," said Xavi, after years fearing the worst in the biggest nights against superior forces.

However, the club's improvement since Xavi's initial decision in January is not the chief reason they club are willing to keep him, instead only the easy explanation.

Despite Laporta claiming they had not looked into alternative options, Barcelona could not see a suitable one. Reserve team coach Rafa



Marquez was not particularly convincing, nor was the favourite to replace Xavi, Hansi Flick. Julian Nagelsmann is staying with Germany. Thomas Tuchel has struggled with Bayern Munich and would likely prove too expensive for Barcelona in any case.

As would Jurgen Klopp, who wants a break after his time at Liverpool — taking over at chaotic, cash-strapped Barcelona would be entirely contrary.

Next season if things go awry Laporta has Marquez as an escape plan. To appoint the Mexican

now would open the door to another potential new coach having to be found after that, along with the financial consequences.

"Regarding money, Xavi has behaved with great dignity," said Laporta. "He has never been greedy."

## Xavi A Shield?

Xavi also offers Laporta an umbrella from the steady rain of criticism — the only reliable deluge in drought-ridden Catalonia — with the 44-year-old's glittering past as a Barcelona player making him an easy target.

Barcelona can also hope keeping Xavi will still work out, with each year at the helm providing vital new experiences for a novice coach.

Giving up on Xavi would also mean renouncing Barcelona's style of possession football to some extent, as the Catalan is the main proponent of it this side of Pep Guardiola — even if that has not always translated on the pitch.

For Xavi too, there is clear appeal in staying. Despite the waves of criticism he must surfeit, it really is his dream job and one he may never get the chance to do again.

For years he spoke about his determination to coach the club he loves and it may be Barcelona or bust for him.

While the club's financial problems restrict his transfer options, the explosion of teenagers Lamine Yamal and Pau Cubarsis mean Barcelona have "signed" two world class players from the youth academy.

They have been crucial in Barcelona's improvement and may have given Xavi the belief he can help the club compete for silverware again next season.

Now Xavi can dream of leaving on a high, presenting a major trophy at the club's renovated Camp Nou stadium next summer.