

Omar Has No House, No Land, No Loans: Poll Affidavit



Agencies

Srinagar: In a comprehensive declaration submitted as part of his nomination affidavit, National Conference (NC) Vice President and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has revealed that he has no residential house, no agriculture land or any immovable assets registered in his name, nor in the name of his spouse or dependents. Comparing his past poll affidavit that Omar submitted as a candidate for assembly elections from Srinagar's Sonwar assembly segment in the year

2014, his movable assets have witnessed a decline of more than 16 percent from 65.59 lacs in the year 2014 to 54.45 lacs - a total decline of 11.45 lacs over the last ten years.

What's striking is Omar's consistent pattern of not owning any residential property or agricultural land, a status unchanged since his tenure as Chief Minister. He reiterated this stance in his recent declaration submitted by him before the returning officer Baramulla on May 2, this year. Omar is NC's candidate for Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency.

Furthermore, | [More on P6](#)

Omar, Fayaz Mir File Nominations

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah and former Rajya Sabha member and PDP candidate Mohammad Fayaz Mir on Thursday filed nomination papers for the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu and Kashmir. Accompanied by NC's treasurer Shammil Obeoi and senior vice president of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee G N Monga, Abdullah filed the nomination | [More on P6](#)

A MULTI-CORNERED CONTEST IS ON THE CARDS IN THE CONSTITUENCY WITH PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Sajad Gani Lone and jailed leader of the Awami Ittehad Party, Abdul Rashid Sheikh alias Engineer Rashid, joining the fray.

Omar Seeks Timeline For Restoration Of Statehood

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid the Centre's claims that statehood will soon be restored to Jammu and Kashmir, former chief minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said Union Home Minister Amit Shah should set a 'timeline' for the same. Coming down heavily on the BJP-led NDA at the Centre over its landmark decision to revoke special constitutional privileges to the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state under Article 370 of the Constitution and split the region into two Union Territories (UTs)—Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the National Conference (NC) leader said his party wanted statehood restored before the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. Upholding the

Centre's revocation of Article 370 from the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, the Supreme Court, last year, directed the Election Commission (EC) to hold assembly polls in the state by September, this year.

Speaking to ANI on Thursday, the former Jammu and Kashmir CM said, "They (Centre) should not have taken it (Article 370) in the first place. We wanted statehood restored before the (Lok Sabha) elections. Union Home Minister Amit Shah should set a timeline within which to ensure the return of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The Supreme Court has already set September 30 (2024) as the deadline for the restoration of statehood. | [More on P6](#)

I Have Buried Article 370, It Is Gone Now: PM

Dares Congress To Restore Article 370

Press Trust Of India

Junagadh: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday challenged the Congress to restore Article 370 in Jammu-Kashmir, abolish the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the law that bans triple talaq.

"I have buried Article 370. It is gone now. I want to challenge the Congress' royal family and its 'shehzada' (a jibe at the Gandhi family and Rahul Gandhi) that if it is your hidden agenda, then come out in the open and tell people you will restore Article 370," he said.

Modi said the ongoing Lok Sabha elections were not for satisfying his personal ambitions, but for fulfilling his "mission."

A strong and stable



government was important not only for the country but also for the world, he said at a poll rally in Junagadh in Gujarat.

"These elections are not for my ambition, as people have fulfilled that ambition in 2014. The 2024 elections are for Modi's mission," the PM said.

Accusing the opposition Congress of having a

"dangerous mentality", Modi said its manifesto is written in the language of Muslim League.

For Congress, this election was all about saving its existence and the party was taking help of its "Mazhabi vote bank" to stay afloat, the prime minister claimed.

"I want to see how much

courage they (Congress) have to insult the Constitution drafted by Babasaheb Ambedkar. You (Congress) will fail because this (standing in your way) is Modi," the PM asserted.

Referring to the controversy surrounding Katchatheevu island, he said during Congress rule, the Union government had no idea about the exact number of islands India had.

"I then got a satellite survey done and found that we have 1,300 islands. Some of them are as big as Singapore. We will develop some of them for tourism purposes," said Modi.

A Congress leader had recently spoken about separating south India and forming a new nation, while those in the opposition INDI alliance also make statements on similar lines, he said.

"Congress leaders have inherited this mentality of partition. It | [More on P6](#)

'Congress Speaks Language Of Muslim League'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Congress was fighting the 2024 Lok Sabha polls with the twin strategy of dividing society in the name of caste and uniting its vote bank through appeasement. Addressing a rally in Jamnagar in Gujarat, the PM said the Congress government in Karnataka issued a "fatwa" overnight to include Muslims in the Other Backward Classes segment to give them quota benefits. "The Congress is contesting | [More on P6](#)

27 Year Old On Way To Hospital Dies In Srinagar Traffic Jam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A 27-year-old city resident on his way to hospital, barely 3 kilometers from his residence, died after being caught up in a traffic jam for over two hours on Thursday.

Jahangir Ahmad, a resident of Khaiwan, Narwara was rushed to State Hospital at Headwon after suffering a stroke, but died midway after being caught up in a traffic jam at Sekidafar-Eidgah for nearly two hours.

Residents and family said Jahangir was suffering from a neurological issue for the last couple of months, however, his condition deteriorated on Thursday afternoon.

"His family members



immediately tried to shift him to SMHS hospital, however, due to traffic jam in the Sekidafar area, the vehicle got stuck and despite hectic efforts by the local police, the patient couldn't reach hospital in time and died

mid-way," they alleged. Even intervention by the personnel of Safa Kadal Police Station could not help pave a way for the vehicle he was being shifted to. The vital stretch of Ali Jan Road connecting two major hospitals of the city SKIMS, Soura and SHMS remains clogged with traffic ever since work on the Srinagar Smart City Project began last year. "The work goes at snail's pace while the major city roads have been dug making it difficult for traffic to move smoothly," allege residents.

"Narwara is barely three kilometers from SMHS and it took the vehicle carrying ailing Jahangir two hours to reach Safa Kadal where he breathed his last," said | [More on P6](#)

Era Of NC, PDP Has Ended: Altaf Bukhari

Agencies

Srinagar: Apni Party President, Syed Altaf Bukhari, on Thursday, said that the leaders of both the NC and the PDP desire to continue their family rule in Jammu and Kashmir. However, he expressed hope that the people will not allow the Abdullahs and Muftis to exploit them any longer. He made these remarks while addressing a public rally in south Kashmir's Shopian today. The event was part of the party's ongoing campaign for the Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing the rally, Altaf Bukhari said, "Over the

decades, the traditional parties, especially the two family-based parties, have divided Jammu and Kashmir like Rajwadats to rule the people. Both the family parties, NC and PDP, were in consensus to stay at the helm of affairs alternatively. But things have now changed. They can no longer fool people through their deceptive narratives and fake promises. I am sure that their era has ended, and people will reject both political dynasties through the power of their vote." Urging people not to fall prey to the deceptive slogans and fake promises | [More on P6](#)

I'm With Congress For A Big Cause: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday attacked the BJP-led Centre and accused it of undermining the locals' rights by granting power projects, land, sapphire mines, lithium deposits, and water resources to outsiders.

She said the Centre has turned J&K into a "prison," where freedom of speech is curtailed and people are repressed.

Mufti dismissed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as a mere "rhetoric to win votes" and said his party had



power supply is generated from our resources," Mufti said. Campaigning in the Rajouri-Poonch belt, a part of the Anantnag-Rajouri seat, Mufti asserted that the revocation of Article 370 had caused more harm than good.

Mufti is contesting the election from Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat and will face National Conference's candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed as her main rival. "Our assets are being sold. Power projects, lands, sand, sapphire mines, lithium deposits, and water resources have been given to outsiders. We get costly power while maximum

Polls Being Conducted Peacefully In J&K: CEO

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer Pandurang K. Pole on Thursday said that elections are being conducted peacefully across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to the media during his visit to the historical Lal Chowk area in Srinagar, Pole said Kashmiri Sroll said that the upcoming elections in Kashmir are going on smoothly, similar to other parts of the country. He stated that voting will be held on May 13 for the Srinagar parliamentary constituency and on May 20 for the Baramulla parliamentary constituency.

Pole expressed optimism that voter turnout will be good this time, and urged people to exercise their democratic right and duty to vote for the candidate of their choice. He emphasized that voting is not just a right but also a responsibility.

The Chief Electoral Officer assured that the election department is ensuring a smooth and peaceful electoral process throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

Political Rift Emerges In Ladakh Namgyal Files Papers Amidst Congress-NC Split



Agencies

Srinagar: Ladakh is finding itself in the middle of a political storm as the Lok Sabha elections draw near. The icy winds blowing through the region seem to

mirror the political chill between the National Conference (NC) and Congress, particularly evident in the nomination filing of Tsering Namgyal from the Congress party for the Ladakh parliamentary seat in Leh. | [More on P6](#)



LG Flags Off Road Safety Awareness Tour

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off Road Safety Awareness Tour "Mission Save Lives J&K Tour 2024" from Raj Bhawan, Srinagar on Thursday. The LG commended the endeavour of Kashmir Road Safety Foundation to create

awareness, educate communities, and implement measures to enhance road safety across UT of Jammu Kashmir.

Mission Save Lives J&K Tour 2024 will cover all the Districts of J&K and spread awareness about the importance of Road Safety and Sustainable Development Goals. | [More on P6](#)

Infrastructure Strain, Pressure On Mountains

What Caused Land Sinking In Ramban

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: On a calm April 25 evening at around 5 PM, Nadeem Iqbal and his family were gathered for a leisurely tea session at their home in Pernote village of Ramban. Suddenly, they were startled as cracks started to snake their way across the walls of their room. Initially baffled, they momentarily mistook it for an earthquake, but as the fissures rapidly spread, they quickly evacuated the house.

"When we came out, we witnessed chaos engulfing the village. Everyone was rushing towards safety," Iqbal recalled.

Iqbal saw at least 25 houses damaged that day including his own. The government said over 60 residential houses received major cracks, forcing nearly 500 people to relocate.



"Majority of these houses are inhabitable now," Iqbal said, adding, "It was so heartbreaking."

Pernote village, known as

the most picturesque in the district, lies approximately seven kilometers from the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Ramban on Gool-Sangaldan

road. Most of the residential houses are built on a hillock, making them more susceptible to landslides. Ramban township is located on the right bank of the Chenab river and the national highway.

According to Iqbal, the affected area spans approximately six to seven kilometers in length and two to three kilometers in width. The sinking originated from the base, approximately 50 meters from the Chenab River.

A local news agency quoted officials saying that the area is continuously sinking and one evening if the sinking is recorded 10 meters, the next morning it becomes 20 meters. The area has loose soil with minimal rocks and water is also present inside which was witnessed by the officials as well. | [More on P6](#)



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OpenAI's ChatGPT Is A Failure In Assessing Heart Risk, Finds Study

IANS

Although OpenAI's ChatGPT could pass several medical exams, it lacks potential in assessing heart risk, found a study on Wednesday.

Research, published in the journal PLOS ONE, showed that "it would be unwise to rely on it for some health assessments, such as whether a patient with chest pain needs to be hospitalised".

ChatGPT's predictions in cases of patients with chest pain were "inconsistent".

They also provided different heart risk assessment levels for the same patient data—from low to intermediate, and occasionally a high risk.

The variation "can be dangerous" said lead author Dr. Thomas Heston, a researcher with Washington State University's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine.



Further, the generative AI system also failed to match the traditional methods physicians use to judge a patient's cardiac risk.

"ChatGPT was not acting in a consistent manner," said Heston. However, Heston sees great potential for generative AI in healthcare, but with further development.

"It can be a useful tool, but I think the technology is going a lot faster than our understanding of it, so it's critically important that we do a lot of research, especially in these high-stakes clinical situations."

NOTICE
I have changed my name from (Old name) Arshid Ahmad Baba to (New Name) Arshid Ahmad. In future I will be known as (New name) Arshid Ahmad. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media Line

Subject: Grant of registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name, M/S BREEZE ADVENTURE TOUR AND TRAVELS " Situated at Shalimar Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr./Ms Gowhar Nazir S/o Nazir Ahmad Shah R/o Banigam Shalimar Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style" M/S BREEZE ADVENTURE TOUR AND TRAVELS "situated at Shalimar Srinagar Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID-ddreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

fko

In The Forum Of The Authorized Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

Extract of order passed by the Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division vide No.DFO/LGT/AO/24-25/190-196 dated :- 25-04-2024

IN CONNECTION WITH CASE NO. 21/2020-21

Now therefore, in view of the facts enumerated above, it is ordered that:-
1 The seized vehicle bearing Registration No- JK05B/8479 liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub- Sec. 03 of Sec. 52 of IFA (1927) is hereby confiscated.

2 The seized forest produce i.e.Kail/Sawn 05 NOs = 26 cfts liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub Sec 3 of Sec 52 of IFA is hereby confiscated.

3 The Range Officer, Mawar under whose custody the confiscated timber is lying shall make necessary entries in the records.

4 The Range Officer concerned will report compliance of order to this forum latest by 05th of May, 2024.

5 The copy of this order be communicated to Conservator of Forests (Kashmir North Circle) for favour of information. The copy of this order be also communicated to accused persons. The copy of this order be published in two leading newspapers having wide circulation in the U.T. The file be consigned to records after its due completion.

Typed to my dictation, corrected by me and pronounced the order in the open forum on this 20th day of April, 2024.

Sd- Ihazaz Ahmad Pajwari, SFS Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

In The Forum Of The Authorized Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

Extract of order passed by the Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division vide No.DFO/LGT/AO/24-25/197-102 dated:-25-04-2024

IN CONNECTION WITH CASE NO. 11/2021-22

Now therefore, in view of the facts enumerated above, it is ordered that:-
1 The seized vehicle bearing Registration No- JK02G/3625 liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub- Sec. 03 of Sec. 52 of IFA (1927) is hereby confiscated.

2 The seized forest produce i.e.Kail/Round 14 NOs = 160 cfts liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub Sec 3 of Sec 52 of IFA is hereby confiscated.

3 The Range Officer, Mawar under whose custody the confiscated timber is lying shall make necessary entries in the records.

4 The Range Officer concerned will report compliance of order to this forum latest by 05th of May, 2024.

5 The copy of this order be communicated to Conservator of Forests (Kashmir North Circle) for favour of information. The copy of this order be also communicated to accused persons. The copy of this order be published in two leading newspapers having wide circulation in the U.T. The file be consigned to records after its due completion.

Typed to my dictation, corrected by me and pronounced the order in the open forum on this 20th day of April, 2024.

Sd- Ihazaz Ahmad Pajwari, SFS Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

In The Forum Of The Authorized Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

Extract of order passed by the Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division vide No.DFO/LGT/AO/24-25/103-108 dated:-25-04-2024

IN CONNECTION WITH CASE NO. 09/2021-22

Now therefore, in view of the facts enumerated above, it is ordered that:-
1 The seized vehicle bearing Registration No- JK09A/4148 liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub- Sec. 03 of Sec. 52 of IFA (1927) is hereby confiscated.

2 The seized forest produce i.e. Deodar/Sawn 133 NOs = 43.65 cfts liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub Sec 3 of Sec 52 of IFA is hereby confiscated.

3 The Range Officer, Mawar under whose custody the confiscated timber is lying shall make necessary entries in the records.

4 The Range Officer concerned will report compliance of order to this forum latest by 05th of May, 2024.

5 The copy of this order be communicated to Conservator of Forests (Kashmir North Circle) for favour of information. The copy of this order be also communicated to accused persons. The copy of this order be published in two leading newspapers having wide circulation in the U.T. The file be consigned to records after its due completion.

Typed to my dictation, corrected by me and pronounced the order in the open forum on this 20th day of April, 2024.

Sd- Ihazaz Ahmad Pajwari, SFS Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

In The Forum Of The Authorized Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

Extract of order passed by the Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division vide No.DFO/LGT/AO/24-25/129-134 dated:-30-04-2024

IN CONNECTION WITH CASE NO. 09/2019-20

Now therefore, in view of the facts enumerated above, it is ordered that:-
1 The seized vehicle bearing Registration JK05/3096 liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub- Sec. 3 of Sec. 26 of JKFA now (Sub. Sec. 3 of Sec. 52 of IFA 1927) is hereby confiscated.

2 The seized forest produce i.e. Deodar/Kail 08 NOs = 24.74 cfts liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub- Sec. 3 of Sec. 26 of JKFA now (Sub. Sec. 3 of Sec. 52 of IFA 1927) is hereby confiscated.

3 The Range Officer, Mawar under whose custody the confiscated timber is lying shall make necessary entries in the records.

4 The Range Officer concerned will report compliance of order to this forum latest by 05th of May, 2024.

5 The copy of this order be communicated to Conservator of Forests (Kashmir North Circle) for favour of information. The copy of this order be also communicated to accused persons. The copy of this order be published in two leading newspapers having wide circulation in the U.T. The file be consigned to records after its due completion.

Typed to my dictation, corrected by me and pronounced the order in the open forum on this 20th day of April, 2024.

Sd- Ihazaz Ahmad Pajwari, SFS Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

In The Forum Of The Authorized Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

Extract of order passed by the Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division vide No.DFO/LGT/AO/24-25/116-119 dated:-30-04-2024

IN CONNECTION WITH CASE NO. 79/2020-21

Now therefore, in view of the facts enumerated above, it is ordered that:-
1 The seized vehicle (Truck) bearing Registration No- JK09/6233 liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub- Sec. 03 of Sec. 52 of IFA (1927) is hereby confiscated.

2 The seized forest produce i.e. Deodar/Sawn 11 NOs = 22.16 cfts liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub Sec 3 of Sec 52 of IFA is hereby confiscated.

3 The Range Officer, Mawar under whose custody the confiscated timber is lying shall make necessary entries in the records.

4 The Range Officer concerned will report compliance of order to this forum latest by 05th of May, 2024.

5 The copy of this order be communicated to Conservator of Forests (Kashmir North Circle) for favour of information. The copy of this order be also communicated to accused persons. The copy of this order be published in two leading newspapers having wide circulation in the U.T. The file be consigned to records after its due completion.

Typed to my dictation, corrected by me and pronounced the order in the open forum on this 20th day of April, 2024.

Sd- Ihazaz Ahmad Pajwari, SFS Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

In The Forum Of The Authorized Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

Extract of order passed by the Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division vide No.DFO/LGT/AO/2023-24/135-146 dated:-30-04-2024

IN CONNECTION WITH CASE NO. 34/2018-19 OF RAFIABAD RANGE.

Now therefore, in view of the facts enumerated above, it is ordered that:-
1 The seized vehicle bearing Registration No.JK01U/4113 liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub-Section 3 of Sec. 26 of JKFA now (Sub- Sec.3 of Sec. 52 of IFA 1927) is hereby confiscated.

2 The seized forest produce i.e. Deodar Sawn 02 No = 5.25 cfts liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub-Section 3 of Sec. 26 of JKFA now (Sub- Sec.3 of Sec. 52 of IFA 1927) is hereby confiscated.

3 The Range Officer, Mawar under whose custody the confiscated timber is lying shall make necessary entries in the records.

4 The Range Officer concerned will report compliance of order to this forum latest by 05 th of May 2024.

5 The copy of this order be communicated to Conservator of Forests (Kashmir North Circle) for favour of information. The copy of this order be also communicated to accused person. The copy of this order be published in two leading newspapers having wide circulation in the U.T. The file be consigned to records after its due completion.

Typed to my dictation, corrected by me and pronounced the order in the open forum on this 20th day of April, 2024.

Sd- Ihazaz Ahmad Pajwari, SFS Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

In The Forum Of The Authorized Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

Extract of order passed by the Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division vide No.DFO/LGT/AO/2024-25/186-189 dated:-25-04-2024

IN CONNECTION WITH CASE NO - 63/2018-19

Now therefore, in view of the facts enumerated above, it is ordered that:-
1 The seized vehicle bearing Registration No.JK05O/0968 liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub- Sec 3 of Sec. 26 of JKFA is hereby confiscated.

2 The seized forest produce i.e. Deodar Sawn 30 Nos = 15.62 cfts

liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub Sec 3 of Sec 26 of JKFA is hereby confiscated.

3 The Range Officer, Mawar under whose custody the confiscated timber is lying shall make necessary entries in the records.

4 The Range Officer concerned will report compliance of order to this forum latest by 05th of May 2024.

5 The copy of this order be communicated to Conservator of Forests (Kashmir North Circle) for favour of information. The copy of this order be also communicated to accused persons. The copy of this order be published in two leading newspapers having wide circulation in the U.T. The file be consigned to records after its due completion.

Typed to my dictation, corrected by me and pronounced the order in the open forum on this 20th day of April, 2024.

Sd- Ihazaz Ahmad Pajwari, SFS Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

In The Forum Of The Authorized Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

Extract of order passed by the Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division vide No.DFO/LGT/AO/24-25/120-123 dated:-30-04-2024

IN CONNECTION WITH CASE NO. 83/2020-21

Now therefore, in view of the facts enumerated above, it is ordered that:-
1 The seized vehicle (Tata Mobile) bearing Registration No- JK09/2724 liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub- Sec. 03 of Sec. 52 of IFA (1927) is hereby confiscated.

2 The seized forest produce i.e. Deodar 16 NOs = 28.95 cfts liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub Sec 3 of Sec 52 of IFA is hereby confiscated.

3 The Range Officer, Mawar under whose custody the confiscated timber is lying shall make necessary entries in the records.

4 The Range Officer concerned will report compliance of order to this forum latest by 05th of May, 2024.

5 The copy of this order be communicated to Conservator of Forests (Kashmir North Circle) for favour of information. The copy of this order be also communicated to accused persons. The copy of this order be published in two leading newspapers having wide circulation in the U.T. The file be consigned to records after its due completion.

Typed to my dictation, corrected by me and pronounced the order in the open forum on this 20th day of April, 2024.

Sd- Ihazaz Ahmad Pajwari, SFS Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

In The Forum Of The Authorized Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

Extract of order passed by the Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division vide No.DFO/LGT/AO/24-25/110-115 dated:-30-04-2024

IN CONNECTION WITH CASE NO. 71/2020-21

Now therefore, in view of the facts enumerated above, it is ordered that:-
1 The seized vehicle (Truck) bearing Registration No- PB08ED/2738 liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub- Sec. 03 of Sec. 52 of IFA (1927) is hereby confiscated.

2 The seized forest produce i.e. Deodar/Kail 07 NOs = 82 cfts liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub Sec 3 of Sec 52 of IFA is hereby confiscated.

3 The Range Officer, Mawar under whose custody the confiscated timber is lying shall make necessary entries in the records.

4 The Range Officer concerned will report compliance of order to this forum latest by 05th of May, 2024.

5 The copy of this order be communicated to Conservator of Forests (Kashmir North Circle) for favour of information. The copy of this order be also communicated to accused persons. The copy of this order be published in two leading newspapers having wide circulation in the U.T. The file be consigned to records after its due completion.

Typed to my dictation, corrected by me and pronounced the order in the open forum on this 20th day of April, 2024.

Sd- Ihazaz Ahmad Pajwari, SFS Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

In The Forum Of The Authorized Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

Extract of order passed by the Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division vide No.DFO/LGT/AO/24-25/124-128 dated:- 30.04.2024.

IN CONNECTION WITH CASE NO. 87/2020-21

Now therefore, in view of the facts enumerated above, it is ordered that:-
1 The seized vehicle (Tata Mobile) bearing Registration No- JK01R/4052 liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub- Sec. 03 of Sec. 52 of IFA (1927) is hereby confiscated.

2 The seized forest produce i.e. Deodar 03 NOs = 9.91cfts liable for confiscation within the meaning of Sub Sec 3 of Sec 52 of IFA is hereby confiscated.

3 The Range Officer, Mawar under whose custody the confiscated timber is lying shall make necessary entries in the records.

4 The Range Officer concerned will report compliance of order to this forum latest by 05th of May, 2024.

5 The copy of this order be communicated to Conservator of Forests (Kashmir North Circle) for favour of information. The copy of this order be also communicated to accused persons. The copy of this order be published in two leading newspapers having wide circulation in the state. The file be consigned to records after its due completion.

Typed to my dictation, corrected by me and pronounced the order in the open forum on this 20st day of April, 2024.

Sd- Ihazaz Ahmad Pajwari, SFS Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Langate Forest Division, Langate

DIPK-326/24 dated: 02-05-2024

سَاتِلَهُ وَآقَاتِ رَاجُونَ SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of W/O Haji Ghulam Hussain Bhat R/O Nabdipora Hawal, who left for heavenly abode on 29th April, 2024 (Monday) at her residence. May Allah(SWT) grant Jannat-ul-Firdous to the departed soul. The congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on 3rd May, 2024 Friday at our ancestral graveyard **Gulistan-e-Baba Mazar at 6.30 AM.** Followed by Dua-e-Majlis at our residence Nabdipora Hawal, Srinagar.

Bereaved: Haji Mohammad Ibrahim Bhat, Haji Ghulam Qadir Mir, Haji Ghulam Hussain Bhat, Haji Ashaq Hussain Bhat & Mohammad Iqbal Bhat.

NOTE: LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO BRING FRUIT ETC. WITH THEM

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Sabeena Baba to Sabeena. In future I will be known as Sabeena. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

SS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that "Manzoor Ahmad Gujree" and "Manzoor Ahmad Khandawar" are one and the same person. Any references to either name should be understood to pertain to the same individual.

Name: Manzoor Ahmad Gujree
S/o: Ali Mohammad Gujree
R/o: Dar Mohalla Saura Srinagar.
Contact: 9906302000

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 Waqar ali malla S/o Javaid Ahmad malla R/o Hygam Khoie Tehsil Khoel District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 01-05-2011 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohammad Hadi Bhat S/o Mohammad Amin Bhat R/o Chichilora Tehsil Karhama District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 20/06/2021 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate . As per school records my DOB is 16-09-2011. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of BDO Beerwah within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sibtain Ahmad Rather
S/o Gulzar Ahmad Rather
R/o Mulla-Shulla

msl

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate . As per my Matric Certificate my DOB is 21-09-2008 . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of BDO Beerwah within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Mubashir Ganaie
S/o Mohammad Baqir Ganaie
R/o Mulla-Shulla

msl

Srinagar Tops District List, Receives Large Excess Rainfall From March 01-May 01

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar is the only station in the Union Territory where large excess rainfall has been recorded in the past two months as according to the figures available, Jammu & Kashmir in general has recorded a normal precipitation from March 01, 2024 to May 01, 2024.

According to the details, against the normal precipitation of 255.9 mm, Jammu & Kashmir received 278.8 mm rainfall during the period.

However, Srinagar is the only station where large excess rainfall has been recorded during the period as against the normal precipitation of 211.1 mm, the summer capital has recorded 377 mm rainfall from March 01, 2024 to May 01, 2024. The station has recorded 79 per cent more rainfall than the normal precipitation.

As per the document prepared by the local Meteorological department here, eight other stations of Kashmir including Anantnag, Budgam, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Kupwara and Pulwama have recorded excess rainfall.

Anantnag district has recorded 329.1 mm rainfall against the normal precipitation of 261.5 mm during the period while Budgam has received a rainfall of 242.9mm against the precipitation of 197.1 mm.

Against the normal precipitation of 206.8mm during the period, Bandipora has recorded 259.2mm rainfall, the data reads, adding that Baramulla has received a rainfall of 376.5mm against the normal precipitation of

272.4mm.

Ganderbal has recorded 304.6 mm rainfall against the normal precipitation of 242.1 mm during the period while Kulgam has received a rainfall of 433.7 mm against the precipitation of 316.1 mm.

Kupwara in north Kashmir has received a rainfall of 400.2mm against the normal precipitation of 334.3mm, the data reads, adding that Pulwama also recorded excess rainfall during the period as against the normal precipitation of 153.7mm, it has recorded 185.2mm during the period.

Nonetheless, despite witnessing heavy rainfall as well as the snowfall and hailstorm at many places, Shopian district has recorded a deficient rainfall during the period as against the normal precipitation of 217.9mm, a rainfall of 102.7mm was received in the district from March 01, 2024 to May 01, 2024.

In Jammu division, several stations like Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur, Doda and Rajouri recorded normal precipitation during the period while Samba district recorded a deficient rainfall of 22 per cent during the period.

Kathua and Poonch in Jammu division have recorded large deficient rainfall in the last two months while Ramban has recorded an excess rainfall of 36 per cent during the period.

Pertinently, J&K parts received fresh snowfall and rains for the three consecutive days from April 27-April 29, leading to the flood like situation in many areas as the water level increased rapidly, prompting the government to take several preventive measures including the closure of schools across the Valley as well—(KNO)



On a bright Thursday in Dal Lake, a fisherman uses a seine fishing net to capture fish. KO Photo by Abid Bhat.

Minutes After Discharge, Patient Readmitted To SMHS Due To Bad Road Condition

Majid Nabi

Srinagar, Apr 30: Minutes after being discharged from the SMHS hospital, a patient from Chadoora Budgam in central Kashmir had to be readmitted as the vehicle carrying him had to make its way along a section of pothole-filled, crumbling road.

The doctors treating the patient at the Sri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital informed that he had recently undergone a stomach surgery.

Discharged from the hospital after surgery, the patient was on the way to his home when the vehicle he was travelling in when the car he was traveling in came across a patch of rough, pothole-filled road, which caused his health to worsen.

The impact of the short but clashing journey proved costly for his health post surgery, leaving his family with no option than to return to the hospital for readmission.

It may be in place to mention

that the road that connects Karan Nagar with SMHS undergoes construction as part of the Srinagar Smart City Project.

Pedestrians, commuters, and patients have all experienced significant disruptions

"A patient being readmitted to the hospital is regrettable, since the authorities don't seem to care about the consequences of their bad decisions. In such circumstances, the patient's health may deteriorate, and God forbid, they

A patient being readmitted to the hospital is regrettable, since the authorities don't seem to care about the consequences of their bad decisions. In such circumstances, the patient's health may deteriorate, and God forbid, they may even pass away

as a result of the construction delay, local traders informed Kashmir Observer.

"On one hand the authorities claim that Srinagar will be developed on the modern lines as part of the Smart City project, while on the other, they dug roads and gave them an odd appearance," they said.

may even pass away," said the doctors at SMHS.

They said the ambulances get stuck in massive gridlocks for hours together as a result of the under construction roads in the vicinity. The patients and their attendants are the worst sufferers of the poor policies of the government.

Secretary Civil Aviation Reviews Upgradation Of Facilities At Srinagar Airport

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Secretary Civil Aviation, Aijaz Asad, today reviewed the upgradation of the existing infrastructure, besides taking stock of other ongoing development works at Srinagar Airport.

The Secretary, while addressing a meeting of officers held in this regard, was given a detailed presentation highlighting various facilities and Srinagar airport expansion plans, besides apprising of certain land hindrances at the proposed site. He had detailed deliberation on various passenger facilities in departure and security hold areas, upgradation of Instrument Landing system, CAT-II installation, and preparedness for Haj flight operations and acquisition of land for expansion plans among other vital issues.

The Secretary issued directions to the concerned agencies regarding several issues including CAT-II installation, transfer of land adjacent to the drop gate, handing over

of patch of land as well as other important matters related to smooth execution of the project.

He also took notice of the passenger facilities at the airport while asking for evolving a systematic approach to ensure a seamless and efficient travel experience for all the passengers. He said that airlines have to be prompt in grievance redressal for the ease of passengers. He also enquired about the arrangements being put in place for departure of Haj pilgrims to the holy pilgrimage of Mecca and Madina.

He emphasized on concerned officers to ensure all arrangements are put in place for the convenience of pilgrims. He also stressed on close synergy and coordination among departments to ensure smooth and hassle-free arrangements.

In this regard, the concerned Airline representatives briefed the Secretary about the flight arrangements in place for the pilgrims embarking on holy journey to Mecca.

ذہنی صحت کی حفاظت کے لئے
مفت مشاورت
ہمارے کلینک پہ روزانہ میسر ہے۔
اور ساتھ ساتھ ہم آن لائن موڈ میں بھی
مشاورت کے لئے دستیاب ہیں

HAPPY AND HEALTHY MINDS
خوشحال اور صحت مند ذہن

HAPPY MIND

HEALTHY MIND

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

درج ذیل ذہنی صحت سے وابستہ مسائل پہ قابو پانے کے لیے رجوع فرمائیں:

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

مفت ذہنی مشاورت کے لیے پیر سے ہفتہ، صبح 10 بجے سے شام 5 بجے تک رابطہ کریں۔

9070806160

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
Sr. Divisional Material Manager, N.Rly. Store Branch DRM Office, Firuzpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due date
94225128C	Stainless Steel Dustbin to RDSO Drg. No. CG-13031 ALT-NIL, along with all sub Components Drg. CG-13029 Alt-NIL, CG-13030 Alt-NIL, CG-13021 Alt-1, CG-13032 Alt-NIL, Grade-SS304	1379 Nos.	21.05.2024

NOTE: Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate from certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

Tender Notice No. 2/2024-25 Dated: 01.05.2024

1329/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
24 Shawal
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR 4:08
ZUHR 12:28
ASR 5:18
Magrib 7:18
ISHA 8:49

- ### This Day In History
- 1515- Persian Gulf: Portugese fleet occupies Ormuz
 - 1660- Sweden, Poland, Brandenburg & Austria sign Peace of Oliva
 - 1678-French conquering fleet at Curacao, 1200 die
 - 1715- Edmund Halley observes total eclipse phenomenon "Baily's Beads"
 - 1830-1st regular steam train passenger service starts
 - 1919-Afghanistan Emir Amanollah begins war against Great Britain
 - 1928- Japanese atrocities in Jinan, China.
 - 1938- Vatican recognizes Franco-Spain
 - 1939- The All India Forward Bloc is formed by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
 - 1941-German air raid on Liverpool
 - 1942- Japanese troop attack Tulagi, Gavutu & Tanambogo, Solomon Islands during WWII
 - 1945- Allies arrests German nuclear physics Werner Heisenberg
 - 1945- British troop join in Rangoon
 - 1945- WWII: German ship "Cap Arcona" laden with prisoners sunk by Royal Air Force in East Sea, 5,800 killed - one of largest maritime losses of life

Tsunami Theory Has 'Support' In Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar - The report on April 17 that a retired Atomic Energy Department scientist had attributed the Asian tsunami to planetary alignment has come as a boost for those who believe that cosmic changes influence events on earth.

A Kashmiri Naqash Ghulam Jeelani who says he has written about the phenomenon of interplanetary and cosmic forces having a bearing on what happens on earth as far back as 1911, feels vindicated by the report. Also, he takes issue with the view by some scientists

That (he earthquake which caused the Asian tsunami might have changed the earth's spin, Naqash says: "My point is that if at all there is a connection between earth's spin, wobble, axial tilt and the tsunami, then the wobble, or change in spin or axial tilt must have occurred first, causing the Asian tsunami."

"Because, primarily my opinion is based on the observation that cosmic changes or forces, and interplanetary changes affect intra-planetary activities and phenomena."

Naqash says that he has neither the resources nor the equipment to collect data about natural disasters but his opinion stems, among other things, from "observations" about the varying frequency of incidence of events such as earthquakes, appearance of comets, cyclones and formation and extinction of geographical features, "which have sometimes occurred at a high rate of movement and sometimes at a comparatively low rate."

Paramahatnsa Tewari, the retired Atomic Energy Department scientist, had said that his conclusion about the causes of the tsunami stems from his theory that all spinning cosmic objects including the sun develop electric fields that repel each other.

According to Tewari on December 26, 2004 when the Saturn, Moon, Earth and the Sun were perfectly aligned, there was an imbalance of these electrical forces on Earth, because the repulsive force due to Saturn was reduced as it as shielded by the Moon which does not spin, while the Sun, which was on the other side exerted its force on Earth.

Tewari had said that the imbalance pushed solid earth away from the sun causing sea water to overflow due to its fluidity, causing the tsunami. (Kashmir Observer, 03 May, 2005)

KASHMIR OBSERVER[™]

Friday | 03-05-2024

Students Break Gaza Silence

Across college campuses in the United States, a powerful wave of student protests has erupted, demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Their voices have transcended the confines of lecture halls, transforming campuses into centers of activism and solidarity. The protests, characterized by their determination and unity, deserve our utmost praise and support.

The students are demanding an end to the ongoing violence that has engulfed Gaza since October 7. In a show of solidarity with the Palestinian people, these young activists are urging their universities to divest from Israel. They argue that financial ties with companies involved in the conflict make their institutions complicit in the violence.

Their demands are not unfounded. Universities, with their massive endowments, have significant financial power. By divesting from Israel, they seek to make a statement: that profiting from violence and human suffering is unacceptable. It's a bold move, one that challenges the status quo and demands accountability from those in power.

The protests have not been without obstacles. Many students have faced arrests, police raids, and even physical altercations. Despite these challenges, their determination remains unshaken. They continue to raise their voices, refusing to be silenced until their demands are met.

These protests are not isolated incidents. They are part of a global movement advocating for justice and peace in Gaza. Similar demonstrations have taken place on university campuses across the world, from Australia to Canada, France, Italy, and the UK. The solidarity shown by students transcends borders and underlines the universal demand for an end to the violence.

At the heart of these protests lies a deep sense of empathy and compassion. The students recognize the human cost of the conflict in Gaza. They understand that behind the headlines and statistics are real people, families torn apart by violence and displacement. Their demand for a ceasefire is a demand for humanity, for compassion, and for the recognition of the dignity and rights of all people, regardless of nationality or ethnicity.

The protests are a testament to the power of young people to effect change. They are a reminder that the fight for justice and peace is not confined to the halls of power but can begin on college campuses, in classrooms and dormitories, among students who refuse to accept the status quo.

In the spirit of the protests of the 1960s against the Vietnam War, these students are making history. They are challenging the powers that be, demanding accountability, and standing up for what they believe is right.



Your
FINANCIAL

Islamic Investing:
Trading Diligently

Did you know?

Irshad Mushtaq

Islamic principles of investing in shares must be diligent in conducting thorough research and due diligence before making any investment decisions. Islamic finance experts recommend consulting with scholars or advisors well-versed in Shariah law to ensure compliance with Islamic principles. One such investor, Ali, was a devout Muslim who wanted to grow his wealth through investments while adhering to his faith's guidelines. He was cautious about where he put his money, making sure that his investments aligned with Shariah-compliant principles. Ali attended seminars and workshops to educate himself on Islamic finance and the guidelines for halal investments in shares. He learned about the importance of ethical and just business practices, as well as the need to avoid industries that went against Islamic teachings. Armed with this knowledge, Ali began to carefully research companies before making any investment decisions. He would spend hours analyzing financial statements, researching the core business activities, and checking the debt ratios of companies he was interested in. One day, Ali came across a tech company that seemed promising. The company was involved in the development of educational software for children, which aligned with Ali's values of promoting knowledge and learning. After thorough research and consultation with a Shariah advisor, Ali determined that the company's business activities were halal, and he made the decision to invest in their shares. As the company grew and prospered, so did Ali's investment. He was able to grow his wealth while staying true to his religious beliefs. Ali's story served as an inspiration to other Muslim investors looking to navigate the world of investments in a way that was both financially rewarding and spiritually fulfilling. Through careful research, diligence, and adherence to Shariah-compliant principles, Ali demonstrated that it was possible to invest in shares in a manner that was ethical, just, and in line with Islamic teachings. As more investors like Ali followed suit, the world of Islamic finance continued to grow and prosper, providing a viable alternative for those seeking to invest in a way that reflected their values and beliefs.

Email: irshad@bp.sharekhan.com



Is India's Economy Overhyped?

SHANG-JIN WEI

“The business sector has enthusiastically embraced initiatives like ‘Make in India,’ ‘Self-Reliant India,’ and ‘Digital India.’ And with Indian wages roughly one-third of those prevailing in China and less than one-fourteenth of US wages, there is significant scope for rapid catch-up growth”

Perhaps no phrase better captures the changing views of financial markets and the news media regarding the world's two largest developing economies than the title of a 2023 S&P report: “China slows, India grows.”

While China is grappling with an economic slowdown, India appears to be thriving. The Indian stock market is booming, with the number of trading accounts registered with its National Stock Exchange skyrocketing from 41 million in 2019 to 140 million in 2023. Moreover, as Western companies exit China, India is emerging as a leading alternative. With an annual growth of 7-8%, it is widely expected to become the world's third-largest economy by the end of this decade.

But could India really overtake China and the United States to become the world's largest economy by the end of this century, as some predict? Or is its economic boom overhyped?

On surface, India holds significant advantages over other major economies. The first is its favorable demographic profile. In April 2023, India officially overtook China as the world's most populous country. With 43.3% of its population under the age of 25, compared to just 28.5% in China, its workforce is also significantly younger.

Moreover, higher US and EU tariffs on Chinese imports, together with rising labor costs and regulatory pressures within China, will sustain multinational corporations' shift away from the Chinese market. India, with its vast population and booming economy, is a natural alternative. The significant presence of Indian expatriates in senior roles within major Western firms and international organizations also yields substantial benefits for the Indian economy.

The Indian economy also stands to benefit from the government's ambitious economic-reform agenda. Over the past few years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration has introduced various reforms aimed at improving the country's investment climate. The business

sector has enthusiastically embraced initiatives like “Make in India,” “Self-Reliant India,” and “Digital India.” And with Indian wages roughly one-third of those prevailing in China and less than one-fourteenth of US wages, there is significant scope for rapid catch-up growth.

Nevertheless, there are compelling reasons to believe that India's economic potential has been overstated. For starters, India's demographic advantage over China is not as significant as it seems. According to the United Nations' population statistics, the Indian fertility rate, at two births per woman, has already fallen below the replacement level of 2.1. Importantly, India's female labor force participation rate stood at 32.7% in 2023, far below China's 60.5%. As a result, India's total labor force participation rate was just 55.3%, compared to China's 66.4%.

Likewise, although Indian wages are significantly lower than in China, India's workforce is also less educated and skilled. According to the World Bank, 97% of Chinese adults aged 15 and older were literate as of 2020, whereas India's literacy rate was 76% in 2022. This means that the gap in quality-adjusted labor costs between the two countries is much smaller. Moreover, given China's more developed roads, ports, and infrastructure, manufacturing and exporting goods from India is often less cost-effective than doing so from China.

While India is certainly benefiting from the escalating rivalry between the US and China, this geopolitical advantage is offset by its protectionist policies. According to the World Trade Organization's World Tariff Profiles 2022, barriers to trade are noticeably higher in India than in China. According to the FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index compiled by the OECD, barriers to foreign direct investment are also more severe in India. For these reasons, many of the Western firms exiting the Chinese market may favor more investor-friendly countries

such as Vietnam and Bangladesh.

Crucially, corruption levels are persistently higher in India than in China. Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index produces an annual ranking of national probity, for which a bigger number means more serious corruption, based on a combination of surveys of firms and experts. In 2023, India ranked 93rd (out of 180 countries), whereas China ranked 76th.

The UK government's guidance for overseas business risk in India states: “TI's Global Corruption Barometer Asia found that India has the highest bribery rate in Asia (39%) and the highest number of people who had to use personal connections to access public services (46%). Although reporting corruption is essential to curb the spread, a majority of those surveyed (63%) feared retaliation if they reported corruption. A large number of people (89%) felt government corruption was a big problem.” Given that corruption significantly affects the overall cost of doing business, the Indian government would need to take more decisive action to make the country more attractive to foreign investors.

Overcoming these challenges requires a multifaceted approach. Implementing sweeping anti-corruption reforms is a crucial first step. Over the medium and long term, India must invest in better infrastructure, raise education standards, and empower women to participate in the labor force.

Achieving all this will not be easy. But without progress in these areas, India will not be able to live up to the hype and become the world's next economic superpower.

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



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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Letter To Editor | Embracing Beauty And Change!

Kashmir has always been well-known for its stunning beauty and the simple joys that define living in the area. Recollections from my early years in Kashmir are a delightful combination of fondness, companionship, and a profound sense of unity. An essential aspect of this intriguing mixture is the magical arrival of snow, which impacts the lives of the people living there, especially the lovely children.

The onset of snowfall in Kashmir is not just a shift in weather; it is a festive event profoundly ingrained in the local customs. Children eagerly await the first snowfall, turning the landscape into a snowy playground. Kids giggle while engaging in snowball fights and building snowmen,

creating cherished memories.

However, the sad reality is that snowfall has decreased, turning what was once a frequent event into a rare and incredible occurrence. Let us be serious: Climate change presents a notable danger since increasing temperatures are changing the fragile equilibrium of ecosystems in the valley. Fast urban growth has begun to cause habitat degradation and soil erosion, putting Kashmir's diverse range of plants and animals at risk. Furthermore, pollution caused by industries and vehicle emissions has increased like anything. It threatens the health of the environment and the people living in the valley.

We should not take it lightly that the snowfall reduction changes Kashmir's appearance and affects

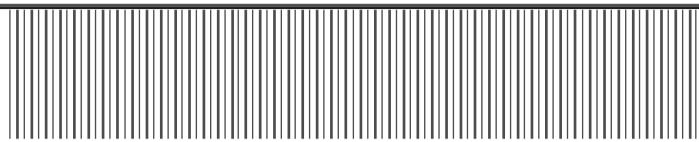
its water sources. Kashmir relies heavily on snow melting for its water supply, and less snowfall may result in lower water levels in rivers and lakes. It may mean the summer will be full of water crises if the situation continues. This has also resulted in a growing acknowledgement of the importance of water conservation. As we witness decreased snow results, we must acknowledge our role in this natural shift. As a society, we have engaged with nature in harmful ways, and now it seems that nature is responding unfavourably to us.

In the middle of the significant hurdles, however, there is optimism. Basic yet efficient steps can be made to reduce the extent of environmental damage and protect the natural beauty of Kashmir for future generations.

More afforestation is the need of the time. There is a need to adopt sustainable development practices to ensure progress does not harm the environment. In addition, strict rules can be implemented to reduce pollution from industry and cars while encouraging renewable energy alternatives.

Education and awareness initiatives enable local populations to take care of their environment, promoting a feeling of duty and satisfaction in the natural heritage of Kashmir. Through combined effort and collaborative action, we can protect the beauty and abundance of our land, guaranteeing that its magnificence continues for future generations.

Dr. Shahid Amin



Mindful Fridays

Understanding School Refusal in Children

Causes and Strategies for Intervention

Wasim Kakroo

School refusal is a complex issue that can significantly impact a child's academic, social, and emotional well-being. While occasional reluctance to attend school is normal, persistent refusal can indicate underlying issues that need to be addressed. In this article, we will explore the reasons behind school refusal in children and discuss practical strategies for parents, teachers, and mental health professionals to effectively manage and support affected children.

Understanding School Refusal

School refusal is not simply a matter of truancy or disobedience; it often stems from various factors, including anxiety, depression, ADHD, ODD, and CD, learning disabilities, bullying, family problems, or medical conditions. Children may refuse to go to school to avoid specific stressors or due to generalized anxiety about school-related activities. Identifying the root cause of school refusal is crucial for developing targeted interventions.

Common Reasons for School Refusal

School refusal is a complex issue that can stem from various underlying factors affecting a child's emotional well-being and academic engagement. Understanding these reasons is crucial for developing effective interventions to support children who are struggling to attend school regularly. Here are some common reasons for school refusal:

Anxiety and Fear: Children may experience anxiety related to various aspects of school life. Academic pressures, such as fear of failure or performance expectations, can trigger anxiety, making school attendance distressing. Additionally, social interactions with peers and teachers, especially for children who struggle with social skills or have experienced bullying, can evoke feelings of unease and fear. Separation anxiety from parents or caregivers, particularly in younger children or those with attachment issues, can also contribute to reluctance to attend school. Stranger anxiety can exacerbate school refusal, as children may fear unfamiliar environments and people, making it difficult

for them to feel comfortable or safe in new school settings.

Depression: Feelings of sadness, hopelessness, or worthlessness can significantly impact a child's motivation to engage in school activities. Children experiencing depression may lack the energy or interest to participate in learning, socializing, or extracurricular activities, leading to avoidance of school. The school environment may exacerbate feelings of isolation or inadequacy, further contributing to school refusal behaviors.

ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Conduct Disorder: Children with ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), and Conduct Disorder (CD) may experience school refusal due to various factors. ADHD can lead to difficulties in focusing, staying organized, and following routines, making school challenging. ODD and CD are characterized by defiance, aggression, and antisocial behavior, which can result in conflicts with teachers and peers, leading to school avoidance. Additionally, these disorders may be accompanied by co-occurring emotional and behavioral issues, such as anxiety or depression, further contributing to school refusal behaviors. Addressing these underlying conditions through comprehensive interventions is crucial for supporting these children in overcoming their school refusal.

Bullying: Being subjected to bullying or harassment at school can have profound effects on a child's mental health and well-being. Fear of encountering bullies or experiencing further mistreatment can lead children to avoid school altogether. The constant threat of bullying can create a hostile and unsafe school environment, making it challenging for children to feel comfortable or secure in attending school.

Learning disabilities: Struggling with learning disabilities like dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia can profoundly affect a child's self-esteem and confidence. These challenges often lead to feelings of embarrassment and frustration, potentially causing avoidance of school environments where their difficulties are highlighted. Without proper support and accommodations, school can become associ-



Feelings of sadness, hopelessness, or worthlessness can significantly impact a child's motivation to engage in school activities. Children experiencing depression may lack the energy or interest to participate in learning, socializing, or extracurricular activities, leading to avoidance of school

ated with failure rather than a nurturing learning environment. Addressing these learning disabilities with tailored interventions and understanding can help children overcome these obstacles and thrive academically, fostering a sense of belonging and achievement in their educational journey.

Family Issues: Family conflicts, parental separation, or traumatic events at home can spill over into a child's school life, affecting their emotional well-being and ability to cope with academic demands. Children may experience stress, anxiety, or sadness related to family dynamics, making it difficult for them to focus on school or engage in learning activities. Additionally, major life changes, such as relocation or parental divorce, can disrupt a child's sense of stability and routine, leading to school refusal behaviors.

Medical Conditions: Chronic illnesses, physical disabilities, or undiagnosed health issues can pose significant challenges for children attending school. Physical symptoms such as pain, fatigue, or discomfort can interfere with a child's ability to participate in school activities, leading to absenteeism or refusal to

attend altogether. Cognitive impairments or neurological conditions may also affect a child's learning abilities and social interactions, further complicating their school experience.

Strategies For Handling School Refusal

School refusal can be a challenging issue to address, but there are several effective strategies that parents, teachers, and mental health professionals can employ to support children in overcoming their reluctance to attend school. Here are seven key strategies:

- 1. Open Communication:** Creating a supportive environment where children feel comfortable expressing their concerns about school is essential. Parents and educators should actively listen to children's worries and validate their feelings without judgment. By fostering open communication, children are more likely to feel understood and supported, which can help alleviate their anxiety about attending school.
- 2. Identify Triggers:** Collaborating with the child to identify specific triggers or

stressors that contribute to school refusal is crucial. This may involve conducting assessments, engaging in open dialogue, or seeking input from teachers and counselors. By understanding the underlying causes of school refusal, parents and educators can develop targeted interventions to address the child's specific needs.

3. Gradual Exposure:

Implementing gradual exposure techniques can help children gradually reintegrate into school routines. Starting with small steps, such as attending school for short periods or participating in preferred activities, allows children to gradually acclimate to the school environment at their own pace. This gradual approach can help reduce feelings of overwhelm and increase feelings of comfort and familiarity.

4. Establish Routines:

Establishing consistent daily routines and rituals can provide structure and predictability, which can help alleviate anxiety and increase feelings of security for children. Parents and educators should work together to create a daily schedule that includes

regular mealtimes, bedtime routines, and dedicated study or homework time. Consistency and predictability can help children feel more in control of their environment and reduce school refusal behaviors.

5. Positive Reinforcement:

Acknowledging and reinforcing brave behaviors related to attending school is essential for encouraging continued progress. Parents and educators should praise and reward children for their efforts, no matter how small, to attend school or participate in school-related activities. Positive reinforcement can help boost children's confidence and motivation to overcome their reluctance to attend school.

6. Collaborate with School Personnel:

Working closely with teachers, school counselors, and administrators is critical for developing individualized support plans tailored to the child's needs. This collaboration may involve implementing accommodations, modifications, or access to additional resources to support the child's successful attendance at school. By working together as a team, parents and educators can ensure that the child receives comprehensive support both at home and at school.

7. Seek Professional Help:

If school refusal persists despite interventions, it may be necessary to seek professional help from mental health professionals specializing in child and adolescent mental health. Psychologists or therapists can provide therapeutic interventions, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) or family therapy, to address underlying issues contributing to school refusal. These professionals can offer valuable support and guidance to both children and their families in navigating the challenges associated with school refusal.

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“What If” Thinking Could Improve Our Choices

Eva M. Krockow

Last weekend, we hosted a large party to celebrate a big family birthday. Ever the optimists, we assumed that spring weather would be on our side. We invited 60 guests to join outdoor celebrations in our garden. Unfortunately, the unpredictable British weather turned against us. With a meagre 8° Celsius (46° Fahrenheit) and intermittent drizzles, even our heated marquee did little to keep us warm. We did our best to defy the harsh conditions with a plentiful supply of hot drinks and warming food. Yet, I spent the better part of the day apologising to our guests, who were putting on brave faces, while huddling up in big winter coats.

It wasn't until the day after that my feelings of guilt began to dissipate. I was woken by the sounds of heavy rain drops drumming against the skylights of our home. It was pouring down with rain and temperatures had dropped another few degrees. I quickly dawned on me: Things could have been a whole lot worse on the day of our party! Imagining how things might have turned out differently provided immediate relief.

What is counterfactual thinking?
It could have been worse.

This simple thought is an example of what psychologists refer to as “counterfactual thinking”. Broadly speaking, this type of thinking describes human attempts to consider how things may have turned out differently. It involves imagining hypothetical, alternative scenarios which are different from what actually happened.

Counterfactual thinking sounds abstract when trying to define it. Yet, it is surprisingly common and an important part of making and evaluating decisions. Most people engage in some form of counterfactual thinking on a daily basis. You know those niggling “coulda”, “woulda”, “shoulda” thoughts? All are examples of considering alternatives to how things actually turned out.

There are many different types of counterfactual thoughts. Researchers have proposed a number of theory-based distinctions to capture and categorise their differences.

- 1. Upward versus downward counterfactuals.** A key distinction describes tendencies to imagine either better or worse hypothetical scenarios compared to how things actually turned out. In my example of the rainy garden party, I ended up creating a



downward counterfactual by considering how things could have turned out worse (pouring rain). By contrast, an upward counterfactual would have involved imagining a better alternative, such as beautiful sunshine and comfortable temperatures.

- 2. Additive versus subtractive counterfactuals.** This distinction refers to thoughts about how add-

ing or omitting a specific behaviour would have created a different outcome. “If only I had ordered a larger marquee and more heat lamps” is an example of considering additional behaviours that might have improved the comfort of our guests. By comparison, “I wish I had never moved to England, where the weather is always pretty rubbish”

would indicate counterfactual thoughts of the subtractive type.

- 3. Self versus other counterfactuals.** A final theoretical distinction is made between counterfactuals generated about one's personal actions and those of others. “I wish I had cancelled the party after checking the weather forecast” is an example of a counterfactual created

about decisions made by myself. Alternatively, an other-oriented counterfactual would involve considerations of other decision makers, for example: “My husband should have scheduled the party for the summer.” After all, the late Queen Elizabeth II always celebrated her April birthday on the second Saturday in June!

What's the point of counterfactual thinking?

Counterfactual thinking is an important and highly prevalent aspect of human cognition, because it appears to serve specific functions for decision making. Psychologists have proposed two separate pathways through which counterfactual thoughts may help to prepare and improve future choices: a content-neutral pathway and a content-specific pathway.

The content-neutral pathway involves the generation of emotional or motivational responses. Thinking about how things may have turned out better can paint a picture of more desirable outcomes. This may motivate us to strive for those outcomes in the future. The content-neutral pathway might also elicit responses of regret or relief. By imagining how the weather could have been even worse for our party,

my counterfactual thinking provided emotional comfort. It helped to soften the blow of what I believed to have been poor planning. It put things into perspective and made me realise that the party had been a success after all. People seemed to enjoy themselves and nobody got soaking wet.

The content-specific pathway, by comparison, refers to detailed information contained within our counterfactual thoughts. Explicit ideas about hypothetical actions might help to create a plan for future decision making. For example, the additive counterfactual about ordering a larger party tent could be a useful consideration for organising future outdoor celebrations.

While this functional theory is unlikely to explain and capture all aspects of counterfactual thinking, it offers helpful insights about the evolutionary advantages of the arguably difficult task of creating alternative realities. Mentally reversing reality is a tricky thing to do! Appreciating the scope of our imagination and drawing attention to the advantages of counterfactual thoughts could help us to harness their benefits to the fullest and improve future decisions.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

Lok Sabha Polls: DEO Srinagar Organizes 'Jashn e Jugalbandi' Under SVEEP At Polo View Market

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A musical evening 'Jashn e Jugalbandi' under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) was Thursday organised by the District Election Office at Polo View market, here.

Chief Election Officer (CEO), J&K, Pandurang K Pole was the chief guest, while District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din; Nodal Officer SVEEP, Chief Education Officer Srinagar, officers from District Administration, Information and Public Relations, Tourism, Excise and Taxation, Education besides other departments also attended the event.

On the occasion, sufi songs with Jugalbandi were presented by the artists with main attraction being Sanson ki Maala, Chaap Tilak blended with voter motivational lyrics in jugalbandi. People



also grooved on popular Punjabi sufi number Dum Gutkoo.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO said that the objective of this event is to enhance voter awareness and boost the public participation in the upcoming

Lok Sabha Elections particularly sensitizing the young voters about the value of vote.

He said our constitution has given us the right to vote to choose the candidate of our choice and appealed voters'

especially first time voters, to cast their vote on 13th May 2024, the day 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency is undergoing polls.

Pole appreciated Kashmiri talented youth, students and the guest performers.

Several banners, posters and SVEEP selfie stands were placed at the venue by the District Election Authority Srinagar where participants and passers-by captured memorable selfies.

Later speaking to the media, the CEO said that a great enthusiasm is found among voters especially our youth. Their vote is going to satisfy them in terms of employment, development and prosperity. The historical Polo View Market was decorated in such a way that it exhibited a festive ambiance.

Meanwhile, people flock the venue in large numbers to watch the musical evening, and were equally mesmerized by the sufi performances.

Paras Health Srinagar's Swift Action Saves Life of 22-Year-Old Man in a Matter of Minutes

Srinagar: Doctors at Paras Health in Srinagar have successfully treated a life-threatening bleeding complication in a 22-year-old male patient, completing the entire procedure in just 14 minutes. The patient had renal dysfunction and high blood pressure for which he had been visiting nearby clinics, but the underlying cause (Polyarteritis Nodosa) remained undiagnosed until the investigations including a renal biopsy done at Paras revealed disease process. This case highlights the importance of comprehensive health assessments and the need for patients to seek medical attention for persistent symptoms like high blood pressure and renal dysfunction in young patients.

The patient, a young college student, had been unknowingly living with underlying hypertension and vasculitis, predisposing him to renal dysfunction and severe bleeding risk.

Despite his seemingly healthy lifestyle, the silent progression of his condition went unnoticed until his recent presentation to the nephrology department.

The patient presented to the nephrology department with deranged renal function, leading to a suspicion of underlying renal parenchymal disease. A renal biopsy was performed, but shortly after the procedure, the patient developed severe abdominal bleeding and a large hematoma around the kidney. Despite blood transfusions, the bleeding did not stop, prompting an emergency renal angiography. The patient was quickly transferred to the cath lab, where doctors performed an emergency renal angiography and embolization.

Highlighting the case, Dr. Irshad Ahmed Bandy, Interventional Radiologist at Paras Health Srinagar, said, "The angiography revealed a pseudoaneurysm in a branch of

the renal artery that was bleeding into the retroperitoneum. The bleeding was successfully treated with micro-coil embolization, a minimally invasive procedure done on awake patient without need of major anesthesia and only with a small pinhole in the groin of the patient with the help of advanced medical hardware (catheters and micro-coils). The procedure was completed in only 14 minutes. The patient was stabilized and discharged after two days, with no further bleeding complications."

He further added that, "In emergencies like these, every minute counts. Our ability to quickly diagnose and treat the patient's condition in a minimally invasive manner significantly contributed to the successful outcome."

The patient's underlying conditions, including hypertension and vasculitis, had increased his risk of bleeding complications.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Omar Has No House,

as per the poll affidavit, Omar Abdullah, a graduate in Commerce from Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics, disclosed his marital status, stating that he is separated from his wife with divorce proceedings pending before the Supreme Court.

His source of income primarily stems from a pension as a former legislator and former parliament member. Notably, he carries no loans or liabilities from any bank. His income has varied over the years, with earnings of Rs 7,92,093 in 2019-20, Rs 11,73,030 in 2020-21, Rs 13,20,460 in 2021-22, and a notable decrease to Rs 13,20,460 in 2023-24, following a

peak of Rs 19,39,620 in 2022-23.

I Have Buried

was the Congress which accepted the country's partition for the sake of power," he said.

The Congress had gifted Katchatheevu island to Sri Lanka nearly 30 years ago as it was their personal property, he said.

"If Sardar Patel was not present, Junagadh would have gone to Pakistan. The Congress will create a dangerous situation for the country if it comes to power. They may give away the Kutch desert claiming no one lives there," he said.

The Congress just does not care and had given away several uninhabited islands, the PM pointed out, adding "if given a free hand" that party will "sell off the Himalayan peaks".

Attacking Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over a recent remark pertaining to Lord Ram and Lord Shiva, the PM said the opposition party had declared this election is a fight against Lord Ram.

"The Congress president said his objective was to defeat Lord Ram and that Lord Shiva will defeat Lord Ram. What are they thinking? The Mughals destroyed Ram Temple in Ayodhya and Somnath Temple with this same mentality," the PM asserted.

Speaking about reservation for Muslims, Modi said after Independence it was decided following careful deliberations that religion-based quotas would not be given.

"Those deliberations went on for months. And no BJP or RSS leader was in the picture. Learned Congress leaders as well as Babasaheb Ambedkar took part in the discussion. After deliberations, they decided reservation will not be granted on the basis of religion," he said.

The Congress now wants to snatch such quota and give it to others, Modi said.

'Congress Speaks

elections on two strategies. The first is to divide society in the name of caste and the second is unite its vote bank through appeasement," Modi said.

He further said the Congress planned to change the Constitution to give reservation on the basis of religion.

This is why the Congress party spread an "absolute rumour" regarding (curtailing of) reservations to Dalits, Adivasis and OBCs and tried to make it an election agenda, the PM said.

The Congress is trying to take away reservations of SCs, STs and OBCs and give these benefits to Muslims.

In Karnataka, 27 per cent OBC quota was "looted overnight" by the Congress to appease its vote bank, whereas those who drafted the Constitution were clear that religion-based quota could not be provided, the PM said.

"The Constituent Assembly did not have leaders from BJP, RSS. Scholars like Babasaheb Ambedkar were present and after detailed discussions they decided that reservation cannot be given in the name of religion as it would create a grave danger for the country," he said.

"The poison sprayed by Congress has gone very high and I don't know to what places it will spread by end of this election," the PM said, adding the opposition party's leaders were at the forefront of supporting "terrorists" and were now calling for "vote jihad".

The then prime minister served as the guest of Kashmiri separatists and Congress leaders came forward to save Ajmal Kasab, the lone gunman arrested after the 26/11 terror attack on Mumbai, Modi said.

"Books were written to save jihadis of the Mumbai terror attack and a Congress leader released (one such) book. In Delhi, when terrorists were killed at Batla House, the 'madam' of the Congress could not stop tears. When Afzal Guru was sentenced to hang, people from this ecosystem reached the Supreme Court and the President," the PM said.

These people are now calling for "vote jihad" (religion based voting to stop the BJP), he

pointed out.

Slamming the Congress' manifesto, Modi said it was a sign of danger for the country.

"INDI alliance leaders are asking Muslim voters to go for vote jihad. It is not something being uttered by a child studying in a madrasa but by Congress leaders who come from highly educated families," the PM said.

"The kind of language that the Muslim League used, the narrative on which the country was divided are unfortunately the same on the basis of which they are seeking votes," he said.

The Congress leaves no opportunity to mock "our faith" but would it dare to make fun of anything related to other religions, the PM asked.

"They boycott the Ram Temple, they call Dwarka a lie. They say we will make Lord Shiva and Lord Ram fight and ensure Ram's defeat. The 'shehzada' of the Congress even ridiculed my offering prayers in submerged Dwarka. Therefore, I say we should be careful of the Congress," the PM said.

The Congress' politics started with false propaganda and has now fallen into despair, Modi said.

"The Congress has the same frustration and hatred towards the country's development that it once had for Gujarat. While India's stature is rising across the world, the shehzada of the Congress and his ecosystem go abroad and defame our country with long lectures," the PM said in a swipe at Rahul Gandhi.

When the Congress-led UPA was unseated in 2014, the country's economy was the 11th largest in the world, whereas India was ranked 6th when it gained Independence, the PM pointed out.

"They were intellectuals. However, then came a chaiwala who had Gujarat blood and the economy rose to 5th rank," the PM said, adding he did not seek people's blessings for power, prestige and position but to fulfil the pledge of making India the third largest economy.

"You can imagine how much the world's attitude will change towards India when we achieve third rank. India will be self-reliant and will not have to spread its hand before the world for anything. I need blessings to make such an India," Modi asserted.

Slamming the Congress' "scholars" for claiming that the country's economy would achieve third rank by itself and for stating that poverty can be removed in an instant, Modi said these persons had never thought about facing and overcoming challenges and solving problems.

"When the intentions are clean, the results are grand," the PM emphasised.

Modi said he has three challenges for the Congress, and these are, firstly, giving in writing whether it would provide religion-based quota to Muslims by changing the Constitution, secondly, not taking away reservation benefits of Dalits, tribals and OBCs, and thirdly, that its state governments will not run a hidden agenda of including Muslims in the OBC segment.

"Will Modi stay silent when the country is facing such dangers? Will he ever allow the country to be divided? As long as Modi is alive, he will not allow the country to be divided again in the name of religion," he asserted.

The Congress' leaders, instead of responding (to such challenges) are misleading the public, he added.

Voting on 25 of Gujarat's 26 Lok Sabha seats will take place on May 7. The BJP has won the Surat seat unopposed.

Namgyal Files

The rift between the two major political entities surfaced when the NC expressed its desire to nominate Haji Hanifa Jaan from the Kargil region, backed by the Kargil unit of Congress. However, disagreement brewed from the Leh unit of Congress, leading to Namgyal's nomination instead. The decision has left NC pondering its next move in the electoral chessboard. Congress and NC had earlier announced a collaboration for the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh elections. With Ladakh's seat designated to Congress, this move has intensified the divide between the two parties.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has entered the fray with Tashi Gyalson filing his nomination for the Ladakh parliamentary seat. Gyalson's nomination was accompanied by a robust show of support from party leaders and workers, who held a rally in Leh.

Senior BJP leaders emphasized the party's unwavering commitment to the development of Ladakh, contrasting it with what they perceive as neglect and exploitation by other

political entities. They lauded the Modi government's initiatives, claiming they have brought tangible progress and welfare schemes to the region.

Former minister Sat Sharma reiterated the BJP's pledge to modernize Ladakh, while Phunchok Stangin, President of Ladakh BJP, highlighted Gyalson's advocacy for local development issues.

Advocate Tashi Gyalson, the BJP candidate, echoed the party's grassroots-focused approach, vowing to prioritize the needs of the marginalized in Ladakh.

Omar, Fayaz Mir

papers before Baramulla Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa, the returning officer of the constituency.

PDP candidate Mir also filed his nomination papers for the constituency, which will go to polls in the fifth phase of elections.

A multi-cornered contest is on the cards in the constituency with People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone and jailed leader of the Awami Ittehad Party, Abdul Rashid Sheikh alias Engineer Rashid, joining the fray.

The total number of candidates in the north Kashmir constituency has now risen to 12.

The last date for filing nominations for the seat is May 3, while the polling is scheduled to take place on May 20. PTI

27 Year Old On

a resident Showkat Hussain Mir. Many residents blame massive traffic jams on city roads on bad planning by SCL as pedestrian tracks have been widened and roads narrowed down making it difficult for ever increasing traffic to move smoothly.

Omar Seeks

With respect to the deadline set by the country's highest court, he should state clearly in how many days statehood would be restored."

In a historic piece of legislation in 2019, the Parliament passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, reconstituting the erstwhile state into the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The reorganisation took effect on October 31, 2019. With the historic passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 by the Parliament, Article 370 ceased to exist. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on his last campaign-related visit to the UT, assured that the Centre was committed to restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir while adding that the assembly elections would be held soon.

Era Of NC, PDP

by the NC and PDP, the Apni Party president said, "They are trying to allure you again through deceptive promises. Earlier, they used to take your votes, promising to ensure things like 'Raishumari', 'Autonomy' and 'Self-rule.' Now, since these promises are things of the past and Article 370 has been abrogated, they are trying to convince you that they will restore the abrogated Article. They have been misleading you for years, even decades. Tell them that 'enough is enough.' Reject them through the power of your vote."

Altaf Bukhari promised people that the Apni Party, if given the mandate to serve, would take Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of peace, prosperity, and development.

He said, "We do not raise any misleading political slogans, nor do we promise you the moon and stars. Our primary agenda is to ensure permanent peace, enduring prosperity, and equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir. To achieve this, we have a clear-cut vision and roadmap for the development of every area in Jammu and Kashmir."

Speaking specifically about Shopian, Altaf Bukhari promised that the Apni Party, once given a public mandate to serve, will transform Shopian into a modern city.

He said, "I have a clear vision for the development of this beautiful place. The Apni Party's government will not waste a single day in speeding up the completion of the Mughal Road tunnel. This tunnel will not only improve Shopian's connectivity, making it easier to transport fruit to outside markets, but it will also shorten the distance between sub-regions and establish these roads as all-weather roads. Furthermore, we will build tourism infrastructure here to create employment opportunities for local youth. We will also ensure that daily wagers in various government departments are regularised."

He added, "I know that orchardists here are unable to afford refrigerated vehicles to ferry the fruit to outside markets, thus facing losses

as the perishable fruit sometimes gets spoiled during transportation. Apni Party's government will ensure a 50 per cent subsidy in the fare charges of refrigerated vehicles. Also, I promise you that our government will ensure the waiver of the due interest amount on the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to provide relief to the people."

Apni Party's President reiterated the party's intention to provide 500 units of free electricity to domestic consumers across Jammu and Kashmir. He also stated that his government would provide relief to people living below the poverty line by addressing their outstanding electricity bills.

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari promised that his government would ensure the return of jailed youth to their homes, allowing them to resume their normal lives with their families.

Addressing the rally, Zaffar Iqbal Manhas, the party's candidate for the Lok Sabha polls in the Rajouri-Anantnag constituency, said, "Unlike traditional parties, I will never mislead you and seek your votes by claiming that these elections are for political interests such as autonomy and azadi. To me, these elections are solely for development and prosperity. I assure you that I will leave no stone unturned to ensure the well-being of my people and the development of this place."

He said that parties like the NC and PDP have been deceiving people for years and decades through emotional sloganeering. Both parties are responsible for the killings and bloodshed in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2010, when the NC was at the helm, more than a hundred people, mostly children, were killed here. And in 2016, more than a hundred children were killed, and dozens of boys and girls were blinded by the use of pellet guns.

"I wonder how these parties and their leaders muster the courage to face the people and seek their votes despite their role in the deaths and destruction on this land. It is your responsibility to reject them through your vote. Don't allow them to exploit you further."

I'm With Congress

J&K for the last five years? All recruitment are ridden with scams."

The Lok Sabha elections in the redrawn Anantnag-Rajouri constituency were initially slated for May 7 but were rescheduled to May 25 after several parties requested a change in date.

"I have come here to seek your votes so that I can represent you in parliament. Please come out of your homes on May 25 and vote for me," the former J&K chief minister said.

Mufti said the Union Territory needs a railway line and tunnel on the Mughal road for a better connectivity of the area with the rest of Jammu and Kashmir and pledged to have them made if she gets elected.

She said J&K is unique in that people of different faiths here have always lived together in peace.

"Despite Jammu and Kashmir being a Muslim-majority region, Hindus, Muslims, and Buddhists live together. There is no such state. It is our uniqueness. We have different languages, different dresses, but we live together in a peaceful way," she said.

Mufti said that she has not come here to seek votes in the name of the alliance, community, or her party but because of the demotion of Jammu and Kashmir to a Union Territory and snatching its inhabitants' identity.

Mufti alleged that the BJP has been threatening the public to vote for its proxies "or face the 1947 situation."

"Should you be giving votes to such a party with the power to create such a situation?" she asked the public.

Mufti also took exception with the Election Commission of India for its deferring polls, and alleged that the postponement was to facilitate a particular candidate.

"You should ensure that the candidate loses his deposit," she urged the voters.

Mufti said that she was not seeking votes in the name of the alliance but on the back of the work done by her father, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, another former J&K CM.

She credited her father with bringing peace in the region and taking several developmental initiatives for it, including the construction of the Mughal road, reopening of the Rawalkot cross-border road, and establishing the Baba Gulam Shah Badshah University.

Responding to BJP's accusations of dynasticism, Mufti said that her father had been chief minister for just three years and she for only two years.

"How is it a dynastic rule? Why did the BJP

stand at my door with hands folded for three months? Please ask them" she said.

On her support to Rahul Gandhi and the Congress, Mufti said, "I am with them for a big cause, not just for fighting elections."

What Caused

Over the last more than 10 years Ramban has seen massive infrastructure projects including construction of a four-laning project that connects Kashmir with the rest of the country, 1,850 MW Sawlakote hydel power project, and Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Line (USBRL) project. Locals say that dynamite blasts and hill cutting for building roads and power projects have shaken the mountains.

"At least four tunnels have been constructed piercing the mountains and extensive blasting was carried out. Entire area has become prone to land subsidence," said Bashir Ahmad Magray, another resident of Ramban.

He said that the entire region is mountainous and that it was shaken with blasting and other developmental projects.

The landslides, according to locals, typically occur during the rainy seasons, the water is commonly the primary factor. Slides frequently follow periods of heavy rainfall.

According to a study, more than half of the Jammu region including Reasi, Poonch, Ramban, Doda, and Kishtwar is classified as moderate to high-risk zones and these areas are more vulnerable to earthquakes because of the centrally positioned Main Central Thrust and Udhampur Fault in the Region.

The study titled "Seismic Response and Vulnerability Evaluation of Jammu Region" was conducted in 2022 by a group of scholars.

These locations, according to the study, are vulnerable to damage from either near-field or far-field earthquakes due to their "fragile sub-surface strata".

The locals maintain that while they aren't against the development, it should not come at the cost of the environment and the lives of the people.

"For years the concerned agency that has been entrusted with the construction of National Jammu Srinagar National highway has been dumping the waste material exactly on the opposite side of Pernote village where the incident occurred," said Iqbal.

He said that all traffic between Jammu and Srinagar travels on this road, increasing the pressure on the mountains.

"The soil in the region is loose. The hydro-electric projects are causing water seepage into the mountains and subsequent land sinking," said Naresh Kumar, a resident of Ramban.

Anmol Ohri, a Jammu-based climate activist, argues that these incidents reflect something amiss regarding mega infrastructure development works or human intervention.

"...now the problem is the government isn't making people aware about the consequences and what people need to do. There is no clarity or transparency, thus more panic," said Ohri, who heads Climate Front Jammu.

He further said that his NGO is dispatching a team of experts to understand the reason behind the incident.

While the government has also dispatched geological experts to understand the cause of the landslide, the locals argue that such surveys have been conducted in the past and the reports are yet to be made public.

Notably, in February 2023, the government had to shift over nineteen families after around 21 structures developed large cracks due to the sinking surface in the Chenab valley's Doda district.

The government then constituted a committee to understand the reason for the land sinking.

An official from the geology department of the Jammu and Kashmir told Kashmir Observer that the soil is red, loose and sandy with very high moisture in the Pir Panchal and Chenab region. He said that the rate of soil erosion is very high and road blockage is frequent during the rainy season.

"But we can take precautions and avoid major tragedies and disasters in advance," he said, adding, "Landslides can be forecasted 100 percent."

With limited land, he emphasized that extensive tree planting, efficient drainage systems, and tackling the root causes of environmental issues are crucial for sustainable living.

LG Flags Off Road

Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG; Nasir Ali Khan, Chairman, Kashmir Road Safety Foundation, senior officials and other concerned were present.

LG reviews Accommodation Progress for PM Package Employees



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Thursday chaired a meeting with senior officials and reviewed the ongoing construction work of the Transit Accommodations for PM Package Employees.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the progress of Transit Accommodations across the Kashmir Division.

He directed the officials to accelerate the pace of work and complete the construction and associated in-

frastructure, approach roads, water and power supply and other basic amenities.

Meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; G Prasanna Ramaswamy, Secretary Revenue Department; Bipinder Kumar, Secretary, Public Works (R&B); Anil Koul, Secretary to Government, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Department and other senior officials.

Chairman JKSCC calls on LG Sinha

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: S. Ajit Singh, Chairman, J&K Sikh Coordination Committee on Thursday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

He was accompanied by S. Balbir Singh, father of deceased Avtar Singh, a resident of Mangowali R.S. Pura, who was killed in Greater Kailash, Jammu.

Singh requested the Lieutenant Governor for a thorough and impartial investigation in the matter. The Lt Governor issued on spot directions and assured every support and assistance to the family members.

RR Swain, DGP J&K was also present in the meeting.

BJP Announces Incharge For Assembly Segments Of Anantnag Seat

Agencies

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Thursday announced incharge and co-incharge for all the 18 Assembly segments of Anantnag parliamentary constituency who will be working among the people to seek votes.

Those who have been made incharge are mostly the leaders who have come from other political parties and joined BJP during these years.

As per news agency, prominent among these leaders are former ministers Sham Lal Sharma, Surjit Singh Slathia, Abdul Gani Kohli and Shakti Raj Parihar, former legislators Balwant Singh Mankotia, R S Pathania, Shenaz Ganai, Pardeep Sharma and other leaders.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina has given these leaders charge of different Assembly segments and they will be supported by co-incharge.

Sources told KNO that BJP is working out to support a like minded party or parties of Kashmir valley in all the three Lok Sabha seats of Kashmir valley, Anantnag, Srinagar and Baramulla, but so far list of incharge and co-

incharge have only been announced for Anantnag-Rajouri seat where the saffron party claims to have stake as well. BJP hasn't fielded candidates in these constituencies.

"There are chances that for Anantnag and Srinagar Lok Sabha seats, BJP may support J&K Apni Party candidates and these leaders have been told to seek votes from people, on whom the party have invested by giving ST status to Pahari population and strengthening ST status of Gujjars and Bakarwals, and ensure that they people come and vote as well. For Baramulla seat, BJP may announce support for Peoples Conference president Sa-



jad Lone," said a source. "In this regard, a press conference may be addressed by senior party leaders in coming days," the source said. He said that the party high command doesn't want to lose the ground in Rajouri and Poonch districts and continue to hold the grip on the people for Assembly elections, whenever held. The J&K BJP president has given responsibility of Poonch Assembly segment to former Balwant Singh Mankotia, Mendhar to Pardeep Sharma, Surankote to Shenaz Ganai, Rajouri to Surjit Singh Slathia, Budhal to Abdul Gani Kohli, Thanamandi to Iqbal Malik, Nowshera to Sham Lal Sharma, Anantnag to Shah Nawaz Khanda, Anantnag west to Rajeshwar Kumar, Anantnag East to Javed Zargar, Bijbehara to Firdous Bhawani, Pahalgam to Shakti Raj Parihar, Kokernag to Majnoo, Dooru to R S Pathania, Kulgam to Tariq Hussain Keen, Devsar to Saleem Bhat, D.H. Pora to Nazir Ganai and Zainpora to Kousar Nattuz. The Anantnag Lok Sabha seat is all set to go for polls on May 25 after the Election Commissioner of India postponed the polling date from May 7 owing to bad weather conditions—(KNO)

CS Calls For Enhancing Overall Efficiency Of Credit Linked Schemes To Benefit Farmers



KO news Service

SRINAGAR: Underscoring the importance of effective implementation and monitoring optimal utilization of resources allocated for agricultural development, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today emphasized the need for collaborative efforts towards streamlining processes, addressing challenges and enhancing the overall efficiency of credit linked schemes for the benefit of farmers across the region.

Addressing a meeting, convened to evaluate the effectiveness of credit-linked schemes of agriculture and allied sectors, the Chief Secretary called upon all concerned departments and officials to redouble their efforts in achieving the outlined objectives.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to ensure the welfare of farmers and promote agricultural prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, attended by senior officials and representatives from the Agriculture Production Department, lead bank, and other stakeholders, focused

on enhancing support for farmers through efficient utilization of available resources.

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, presented an overview of the current credit-linked schemes designed to benefit the farmers.

During the meeting, emphasis was laid on understanding the intricacies of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN) scheme, particularly regarding land seeding dependencies, and outlining measures to mitigate any associated delays. Deliberations also encompassed the status of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) programme, including the sanctioned amounts and total outstanding balances, with a spotlight on issuance of fresh KCCs in the current fiscal year.

The meeting assessed progress made in the past three months regarding the Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF), as well as discussions on the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), PMFME, HDP, RGM, National Livestock Mission, and other pertinent schemes.

ECI Failed To Act On BJP's MCC Breaches: Omar



Agencies

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) Vice-President and former chief minister Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah Thursday alleged BJP of breaching Model Code of Conduct (MCC), and added that Election Commission of India (ECI) has failed to take action on it.

Talking to media persons after filing nomination papers at the Office of Returning Officer Baramulla, Omar Abdullah alleged that ECI has given free hand to BJP who spreads hate and using religion to influence voters.

"ECI has given free hand to BJP while as others are being told to strictly adhere to Model Code of Conduct (MCC). BJP star campaigners are repeatedly using religion in their speeches and are spreading hate to charge communal atmosphere across the country,"

Omar said.

He said NC is yet against the decisions taken on August 05, 2019 and it is why today the party is seeking votes from people on the matter. "National Conference opposes the decision taken on August 5th, we're asking for votes to fight against it. Many of our friends stand with us on this, and we're seeing a good number of people joining our cause," he said.

He added it is after a gap of twenty-years when I am filing nomination papers to take part in the election, even in Jammu and Kashmir I'm filing nomination papers after a decade, which itself states how democracy flourishes in J&K.

"NC and INDIA bloc is fighting LS elections jointly in Jammu and Kashmir. We are hopeful our togetherness will bag all five seats in J&K, and one of Ladakh," Omar stated.(KNS)

Intruder Might Have Been Sent To Test Troops' Alertness: BSF IG

Agencies

SAMBA: A senior BSF official on Thursday said an intruder killed along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district might have been sent to carry out reconnaissance of the area and test the alertness of troops for a potential infiltration attempt.

Border Security Force (BSF) troops thwarted an infiltration bid on Wednesday night at Samba's Regal post along the IB and killed an intruder, officials said. The body of the intruder was retrieved from the spot on Thursday.

"The troops noticed movement from across the border around 8:15 pm on Wednesday. It was closely monitored. The intruder first approached the border and then crossed the International Border. Despite being challenged by the troops, he continued to advance aggressively. Even after being challenged twice more, the intruder did not halt, leading to the troops firing at him," BSF Inspector General (IG) D K Boora told reporters during his



visit to a forward post here.

He said the intruder might have been sent to conduct reconnaissance of the area and assess the security along the border.

"There is a gap in the embankment near the spot of the incident and also a gate, which is usually closed. He attempted to breach the border. There is a possibility that he was being followed by more individuals from across (the border) but they were not visible (to the troops)," the officer added.

Voicing suspicion that the intruder could have been part

of an infiltration plan, the IG said, "He might have been sent to probe the area. Had he succeeded in sneaking in from across the border, others who might have been observing him would have followed him. Such tactics are employed at the border."

Lauding the troops, the IG said, "Our alert troops neutralised the intruder. That is our duty. Such actions also serve to demoralise the enemy."

Responding to concerns raised by police about two groups of terrorists, who recently infiltrated from across the border, reportedly hiding in the Basantgarh hills, the officer said, "I can only comment on this particular incident. Basantgarh is not within our operational area, it is quite distant. Police are investigating and we will learn of the outcome in due course."

Asked about potential infiltration attempts along the IB, he dismissed any such incidents, saying, "We have no information about any infiltration attempts along the International Border."

Over 54% Academic Positions In DIETs Lying Vacant

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir, more than 54 percent of academic positions in DIETs and nearly 39 percent positions in SCERT are lying vacant against the sanctioned positions.

According to the official figures available with the news agency the vacancy of academic positions includes 219 in District Institute of Education and Trainings (DIETs) and 62 in SCERT.

The official documents with regard to vacancies in TEIs states, "There are 219 (54.07

Pc) vacancies of academic position against the sanctioned post in DIET and 62 (38.99 Pc) in SCERT."

The Ministry of Education (MoE) accordingly has said that considering the important role of these institutions in empowering of teachers, the vacant positions of the DIETs may be filled on priority.

"In addition, it was informed that the release of funds under the DIET of excellence scheme will be contingent upon the filling up of existing vacancies latest by 30th of June 2024," it reads.

In the last week of April, KNO reported that in MoE has said

that in Jammu and Kashmir, "hundreds of government-run schools are with zero student enrolments. Besides, the majority of the institutions are having less than 50 student enrolments.

Moreover, the official documents and latest figures state that more than 18 percent of government schools at elementary level have an adverse Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR).

The officials from Jammu and Kashmir in 2023 had said that the count of overall public schools had reduced by nearly 19 percent owing to the "zero or low enrolment of students in government schools"—(KNO)

NLCO launchS Phase II of Mission 50000 Plantation Drive

KO NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL: In an eco conservation event in Ganderbal's environmental journey as Phase-2 of the Mega Plantation Drive, Mission 50000 organised by Nigen Lake Conservation Organisation (NLCO) in collaboration with District Administration Ganderbal, concluded with great enthusiasm and dedication at Badarkund, Ganderbal.

The event saw the successful planting of 10,000 plants (4000 in phase-1 and 6000 in phase-2), paving the way for a greener, more sustainable future for the district.

Chairman NLCO in a statement said that "The inauguration of the spring, now accessible to the public, was met with joy and optimism. This spring will serve as a vital resource for locals grappling with water scarcity issues, underscoring NLCO's commitment to addressing community needs through eco-conscious initiatives.

Wangnoo expressed gratitude to all who contributed to the success of this event. He paid special acknowledgment to DC Ganderbal Shri Shyamir Singh, IAS, Dy Director FPF, Range Officer, DFO Sindh, Chief Planning Officer, ACD Ganderbal, along with officials from the Forest Dept., Social Forestry Dept., Education Dept., Traffic, and JK Police for their unwavering support and active participation.

Wangnoo also appreciated NLCO volunteers, stakeholders, and collaborators, including patron NLCO SFA Gillani, former Adnl. Chief Conservator Forests, Lateef Ahmad Bhat EC Member KCC&I, Nadeem Qadri Environmental Lawyer, Amjad Rizvi Environmental Enthusiast, and coordinator Abdul Rauf Khan Public Relation Officer District Ganderbal, for their invaluable contributions.

A special gratitude was paid by all to the students from vari-

ous colleges and schools whose enthusiastic participation added a unique charm to the event. Their involvement from institutions like SSM College, Crescent Public School, Salvator International School, Bilaliya Educational Institute, R. P school Nagbal, Alamdar-e-Kashmir Memorial Educational Institute, Evergreen High school, HEMHS, NEW DREAM LAND EDUCATION INSTITUTE, New moon land public school, New Tiny Hearts school, Qamariya model high secondary educational institute, among others, was truly commendable.

In a statement issued NLCO chairman said that their organisation has set a precedent for environmental stewardship, urging other green groups, eco organizations, and administrations to follow suit. He also expressed hope that the Forest Dept. and other allied agencies will ensure the care and maintenance of these plants.

Experts Urge Orchardists To Spray Immediately After Recent Rains



Agencies

SRINAGAR: With the recent spate of rains causing concern among orchardists, experts from SKUAST Srinagar have issued an advisory, urging orchardists to take immediate action to protect their orchards from potential diseases, particularly scab.

Speaking with the news agency, Dr Tariq Rasool, a pathologist at SKUAST Srinagar, said it is important for orchardists to spray their orchards promptly, especially if they haven't done so before the recent rains. "Those who have already sprayed their orchards before the rains that they are safe and need not repeat the process," he said.

However, Dr Tariq said it is necessary for those who haven't sprayed their orchards to take action immediately to mitigate the risk of diseases.

He advised orchardists to conduct spraying in the morning to allow the spray to dry before dusk, cautioning against leaving pesticide/fungicide

residues on leaves for extended periods in wet conditions, which could lead to rusting.

If pesticide and fungicide remain on leaves for a longer time in wet conditions or if different sprays are mixed, it may lead to rusting," Dr Rasool said, adding, "There are some growers who have been regularly facing issues of fruit set and fruit fall as well and despite working on different techniques they have failed to get desired results."

Addressing concerns of growers facing issues such as fruit set and fruit fall, Dr Tariq suggested transitioning to high-density plantation, citing its efficacy in mitigating such problems.

Dr Irfan, another scientist from SKUAST, said it is important to follow department guidelines at every stage to achieve desired results.

"The orchardists must adhere to advisories and guidelines issued by SKUAST. Doing so would enable them to produce quality fruit without encountering significant problems," he said.—(KNO)

Dr Tajamul Gets Addl Charge Of Director Family Welfare

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Health and Medical Education (H&ME) department, Jammu and Kashmir assigned Dr. Tajamul with the additional charge of Director Family Welfare MCH & Immunization, Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Tajamul, who is Medical Superintendent of JLNH Hospital, Srinagar shall look after the charge of the post of Director, Family Welfare, MCH and Immunization, J&K in addition to his own duties till further orders," reads an order—(KNO)

been, looking after the charge of Director, Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization, J&K on 30.04.2024 and due to the Model Code of Conduct being in place because of General Elections to Lok Sabha-2024, it is hereby ordered that Dr. Tajamul Hussain, Medical Superintendent, JLNH Hospital, Srinagar shall look after the charge of the post of Director, Family Welfare, MCH and Immunization, J&K in addition to his own duties till further orders," reads an order—(KNO)

CIK Arrests Youth Trying To Join Terrorist Ranks In Budgam

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) Thursday claimed to have arrested an individual trying to join terrorist ranks in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

In a statement issued to news agency, that April 29, an input was received from reliable sources that terrorist outfit Ansar Gazwat-Ul-Hind is trying to re-establish its base and revive its cadres in Kashmir.

The statement reads that in furtherance to this conspiracy, a Pakistan based terror handler of AuGH identified as Hamzah alias Gazi has been learnt brainwashing Kashmiri youth to join terrorist ranks.

"It was further learnt that AuGH has brainwashed and cultivated few committed hybrid OGWs in Kashmir and these OGWs in connivance are

planning a terrorist recruitment drive in the Valley," it reads.

It added that the input was further developed technically and one individual namely Waseem Ahmad Sheikh of Beerwah was identified on ground and was accordingly detained for questioning.

During preliminary investigation it was revealed that he was in constant touch with the handlers through virtual mode and was about to join the terrorist outfit by forming a new group."

The statement reads that he had been further assigned to identify a group of youth willing to join terrorism with AuGH terrorist outfit. "It was further revealed that the Pak based terrorist commander had assured him of supplying arms and ammunition for him and his group in coming days."

T20 WC: Wanted 4 Spinners, Can't Plan Squad Around IPL, Says Rohit

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: India captain Rohit Sharma on Thursday said the team management was crystal clear about picking as many as four spinners for the T20 World Cup in the Americas, asserting that IPL had very little role to play in deciding the final 15.

India have picked four spinners and three pacers in the squad, a move that has attracted diverse views.

Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal are the two wrist spinners while Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel are the all-rounders who bowl left-arm spin.

"I don't want to go into details on this. I definitely wanted four spinners. We have played a lot of cricket there. The match starts at 10 am in the morning. There is technical aspect involved in this," Rohit said in a press conference to address



queries on the squad selection here.

"The reason for picking four spinners is something I won't reveal now. I definitely wanted our spinners. With two of them

being all-rounders and two attacking options, it gives you balance. Based on opposition, we can decide who to play," added the skipper.

The India squad was picked

on Tuesday and Rohit said a lot of attention was given to the team's needs in the middle overs. Shivam Dube was picked ahead of Rinku Singh and that too divided opinions.

"We've got to understand what the pitches will be like and the opposition composition. One thing we really looked at is our middle overs hitting. Our top order hitting has been alright, it has not been bad.

"There are other options there as well. We picked a guy based on his performance in the IPL and few games he played for India. There is no guarantee what our playing eleven will look like," he said referring to Dube.

The captain added that he had figured out 70 to 80 per cent of the squad before the IPL. "The talk of what are final 15 is going to be started much before IPL. It is just few spots we had to look in the IPL.

"In IPL performances change everyday. Anyone will come and score a hundred or to take five wickets. We knew 70-80 percent of our squad (before the IPL)," he said.

J&K Sports Council To Host Two Camps For U-17 Indian Football Team



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Insisting that J&K has become the preferred venue for training camps of Indian youth national football teams, J&K Sports Council on Thursday announced it will host two training camps for the India Under-17 Team this year. The team is led by head coach Ishfaq Ahmed and is scheduled to participate in the SAFF U-17 Championship Qualifiers in September and October, respectively.

While thanking the J&K Sports Council and J&K Administration, a communique from the All-India Football Federation expressed its gratitude for hosting and providing the best possible facilities to the India U-16 National Team training camp in Srinagar last year in August.

The team had trained under the tutelage of the renowned footballer of the J&K, Ishfaq Ahmad who was nominated as the head coach of the team for the SAFF U-16 Championship held at Thimphu, Bhutan in September 2023, where the India U-16 team won the title.

"The initiatives and assistance received towards the development of Indian Football and the impact of national camps in J&K as an acclimatization had helped the team a great deal and earned applause from all corners," JKSC said in a statement.

"The AIFF has requested for the arrangement of both lodging and boarding facilities, and transportation for a 42-member contingent, comprising 35 players and seven officials from the first week of June this year.

"To get the teams trained for the international events, Ishfaq Ahmed has been appointed as the Head Coach of the team," it added.

J&K has hosted the Santosh Trophy, Federation Cup and Hero I-League matches before, but training camps in Srinagar have training and acclimatization factors and is fast turning into the preferred location for national football teams.

Head coach for the twin camps Ishfaq Ahmed, said: "The hosting of camps in Srinagar is a unique opportunity to host National Camps one after other to make it a routine affair in the region which will not only boost the local football players but simultaneously infuse the new energy into the youngsters who are eager to take up the affair."

"With an eye on the growth of football and the involvement of the youth in the game in the region which enjoys the numero-uno status due to its wide popularity the focus on grassroots and its professional aspects shall add a new chapter in the football history of J&K," said Nuzhat Gull Secretary J&K Sports Council.

YSS Hold Multiple Sports Activities Across Anantnag

Observer news Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services and Sports on Thursday organised multiple sports events across Anantnag. The events were held in various zones of the district for students from various schools to promote physical activity and raise awareness against drug abuse.

In Achabal, a cycle race for Under-14 and Under-17 boys and girls took place from Shelipora to Imoh. ZPEO Achabal Mohammad Abbas Dar and the headmistress of Middle School Imoh flagged off the race. They encouraged the students to engage in more sports activities and stay away from drugs. Medals were awarded to the winners at MS Imoh.

In Bidder, YSS organized an inter-school badminton competition for Under-17 girls at HS Sagam. The event began with an Anti-Drug Pledge, and the headmaster of HS Sagam interacted with the



players, advising them to continue participating in sports and avoid drug abuse.

In Mattan, a volleyball competition was held at Government High School Kehribal, under the banner of Systematic Voter's Education & Electoral Participation. The aim was to raise awareness about the importance of universal participation in future elections.

In Zone Shangus, A girls volleyball competition took place at Girls Higher Secondary School Nowgam, under the SVEEP program. Principal Umer Sultan Teeli advised

students to stay away from drugs, participate in sports, and cast their votes in upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

In Verinag, an inter-school chess and carrom competition for Under-14 boys and girls was held at the ZPEO office in Verinag.

Zone Bijbehara witnessed two days of inter-school zonal-level competitions in chess, carrom and rope skipping for Under-14 boys and girls, held at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Bijbehara. On the second day, competitions took place among U-14 boys, with 144 students participating.

Veteran Carrom Trials Registration To End May 7

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Carrom Association on Thursday announced registration of players for the selection of J&K Carrom Team to represent J&K at the Veteran National Carrom Championship for Men and Women (above 50 years of age) 2024-25 from May 25 to 26 at Navayabharathi Global School, Nizamabad, Telangana.

This championship is being organized by All India Carrom Federation and hosted by Telangana Carrom Association. "All the desired veteran



players, institutions and clubs of J&K are requested to register their players (above 50 Years) on email jkcarrom@gmail.com for the said trials with the format: Name, Parentage, DOB,

Age, Institution, Contact No. & Email ID on or before May 7, for any information contact Association on 9906767529, 9070000093," the association said in a press release.

Short TAKES

Kolkata Knight Riders Seek Redemption Against Mumbai Indians

Kolkata Knight Riders are gearing up to confront the struggling Mumbai Indians in a high-stakes encounter set for Friday in the Indian Premier League. With six wins out of nine games, KKR currently occupy the second position on the IPL points table, amassing a commendable tally of 12 points. Meanwhile, the Mumbai Indians find themselves in a precarious position, facing an uphill battle to salvage their IPL campaign. Match starts at 7:30 pm IST.

India Knocked Out Of Thomas Cup Finals After Losing To China

Lakshya Sen was the lone bright spot as the Indian Men's team failed to defend its title after going down fighting 1-3 to China in the quarterfinals, while the women's side suffered a 0-3 loss to Japan to also end their campaign in the Thomas and Uber Cup Final here on Thursday.

Two years after India claimed their maiden title at the World Men's Team Championships, the country's shuttlers endured a tough day in office.

T20 WC: Saad Bin Zafar To Lead Canada In Its First Appearance

Canada will make its maiden appearance in the Men's T20 World Cup with all-rounder Saad Bin Zafar, a player of Pakistani origin, set to lead the side in the showpiece event to be held in the Americas.

The side, comprising mostly of Indian and Pakistani origin players, is placed in Group A alongside co-hosts USA, India, Pakistan and Ireland. Canada will play its first match against the US in Dallas on June 1.

West Indies' Thomas Hit With 5-Year Ban After Agreeing To Fix Matches

West Indies batter Devon Thomas has been banned for five years, with 18 months suspended, after admitting to seven charges, including those related to match-fixing, in franchise-based leagues in Sri Lanka, UAE and the West Indies, the ICC said on Thursday.

The sentence will be backdated to May 23 last year, when the West Indies batter was provisionally suspended. The 34-year-old, who last played for West Indies in August 2022, will be eligible to play again in November 2026.

Real Ready To Celebrate As Barca & Girona Tussle For Second Place



Real Madrid's fans are getting ready to celebrate clinching the LaLiga title and the party could start as early as Saturday if the leaders beat lowly Cadiz and Barcelona fail to win at Girona later in the day.

With only five games left, Carlo Ancelotti's side sit top of the standings on 84 points, 11 ahead of Barca in second and 13 clear of third-placed Girona.

YSS Beerwah Organises Badminton Tournament

Younus Paray

Abadminton tournament in Under-14 category was organised by the Department of Youth Services Sports in Beerwah of Budgam district at Boys Higher Secondary School Beerwah. The students of Zone Beerwah participated in the tournament.

At the opening ceremony, Principal Boys Higher Secondary School Beerwah Javed Ahmad Bandy started the badminton competition as the guest of honor, while the zonal staff were also present on the occasion.

Middle School Sonpah, Warihama, Arwah, Narwara, Goripora and Middle School Chewdara are among the schools participating in the tournament.

De Villiers Slams Data-Driven Pundits For Criticising Virat Kohli's IPL Strike Rate

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former South Africa great AB de Villiers has slammed the "data-driven" cricket pundits for criticising Virat Kohli for his strike rate outside powerplay in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Kohli has been in top form this season for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, scoring 500 runs at a strike rate of 147 and an average of 77. He is second in the top-scorers' list.

Despite that, the former India captain has often been criticised for his inability to take charge against the spinners, especially in the middle overs, something which Kohli's former RCB teammate de Villiers disagrees.

De Villiers termed Kohli as one of the best players to have played the game, saying it was not wise for data-driven pundits to comment

on the stalwart.

"Virat Kohli catching criticism about his strike rate it's been going on for too long and I am sort of fed up with that now. I am frustrated to say the least. This guy is one of the best players to have ever played the game of cricket. He is incredible in the IPL, he plays a certain role for RCB," the South African said on his YouTube channel.

"I have pretty much enough of data-driven pundits who keep criticising this man (Kohli) when you don't have the knowledge of the game. How many games you played? How many IPL hundreds you scored?"

"All the people who talk about strike rates and not playing spin well are the ones talking about this stuff. For me, it's about winning the games for the team and there is a reason why you have done it for 15 years, you have done this day



in and day out, you have won games for your teams."

De Villiers feel Kohli has nothing to prove to anyone, and should just concentrate on his game.

"I am quite sure that if you haven't been in that situation yourself, to sit and talk about the game, it's not quite the same thing. For me, people can talk about their assumptions day in and day out but those who have done day in and day out, they know what's happening and it's a kind of muscle memory for me now.

"His strike rate, by the way, this season is even better than the record-breaking season he had not so long ago (2016 season). So, I don't know where the criticism is coming from. He is batting like a dream at the moment," he said.

De Villiers' support came after Kohli had lashed out at his critics following his 44-ball un-

beaten 70 in RCB's nine-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad in their previous game.

The former South African batter, however, feels Kohli is best suited at the No.3 position for RCB.

"Virat has successfully batted with a proven formula that has brought victories for the team. The rest of the squad -- including the coach and captain -- need to strategise around Virat's successful approach. Personally, I still believe Virat is best suited for number three in the batting order.

"Though he loves opening and has an incredible record doing so, batting him at three would optimise this team's lineup with Will Jacks and Faf (du Plessis) opening. Putting Virat at three would give the openers the best opportunity to get off to a fast start," he added.