

Floods & Fortitude: Decade Of Kashmir's Resilience Amid Rising Waters

Asma Majid

Srinagar: In the heart of the city, along the banks of the mighty river Jhelum, stands a modest shack - a silent witness to the ravages of time. Its weathered exterior bears the weight of untold stories, reflecting the enduring spirit that has resisted the devastation of countless years. Beyond its timeworn facade, the humble abode beckons with a quiet allure, an invitation to delve into the tales that lie within its walls.

Fatima meticulously kneads dough in rhythmic movements, her skilled hands shaping the mounds into perfect spheres. The aroma of freshly baked chapattis wafts through the air, enveloping the rustic kitchen with enticing warmth. Rising from her task, she brushes off the remnants of flour dust from her worn clothes and with a sense of trepidation gripping her heart, she steps closer to the window. Looking outside, she notices the otherwise placid Jhelum River gushing with



an awe-inspiring intensity, swells. its waters heaving up in great As her weary eyes gaze

6 AS THE RAINS LASH DOWN AND THE RIVER LEVELS RISE, their collective plea resonates, praying that effective flood control measures and improved disaster management systems are in place to shield people from the harrowing cycle that continues to shadow their lives.

upon the present, a montage of memories floods her mind, vividly replaying the trials her family endured in the

aftermath of the fateful floods of 2014. The images flicker before her, as if etched upon her soul, depicting her beloved home submerged in the implacable onslaught of water. She almost feels the weight of devastation pressing against her chest, the echoes of loss and despair reverberating through her very being. Her heart aches anew as she recalls the eyes of her children emboldened with ineffable fear. The scenes shift, revealing the daunting task that lay ahead—a race against time to salvage

ICMR Calls For Avoiding Protein Supplements

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: The Indian Council of Medical Research has pressed for avoiding protein supplements for building body mass and has recommended restricting salt intake, minimising sugar and ultra-processed foods and reading information on food labels to make informed and healthy food choices.

The Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) under the top health research body on Wednesday released revised 'Dietary Guidelines for Indians (DGIs)' to meet the requirements of essential nutrients and prevent non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The DGIs have been drafted by a multi-disciplinary committee of experts led by Dr Hemalatha R, Director, ICMR-NIN and have undergone several scientific reviews. Seventeen guidelines have been listed in it. In the DGIs, the NIN stated that prolonged intake of large amounts of protein powders or consumption of high protein concentrate has been associated with potential dangers such as bone mineral loss and kidney damage.

It also stated that sugar should be less than 5 percent of total energy intake and a balanced diet should provide not more than 45 percent calories from cereals, and millets and up to 15 percent of calories from pulses, beans and meat.

The rest of the calories should come from nuts, vegetables, fruits and milk. Total fat intake should be less than or equal to 30 percent energy, the guidelines said.

Due to the limited availability and high cost of pulses and meat, a | More on P6

3-day Wet Spell Begins From Today



Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir breathed a sigh of relief on Friday as the light rains lashed the plains and higher reaches of the Union Territory while the weatherman here has predicted a three-day wet spell from tomorrow. The light rainfall has brought an end to the hot and dry weather conditions as the Kashmir parts continued to record the hottest day of the season for the three successive days from Tuesday to Thursday.

However, strong winds have been reported from different areas of Kashmir today.

As per the reports, a Tavera vehicle, bearing registration number JK01A-8919 was damaged after a tree fell on it in the premises of Tattoo Ground.

However, no loss of life or injury was reported during the incident.

A tree also fell near the Old Secretariat here, causing damage to two vehicles as well, reports said.

Meanwhile, the | More on P6

Houses Damaged By Winds In North Kashmir

Strong winds on Friday hit parts of north Kashmir including Baramulla district, causing damage to property, officials said. An official said that gusty winds caused damage to property including the residential houses in several parts of north Kashmir. He said that there was however, no causality or injury reported anywhere, while details are being collected from various places. | More on P6

6 THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF HAILSTORM, gusty winds, lightning at few places particularly on 11th and 12th May."

Kejriwal Gets Interim Bail Till June 1

But He Cannot Attend Office, Sign Files

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Embattled Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal walked out of the Tihar Jail on Friday evening, hours after the Supreme Court granted him interim bail in a money laundering case to enable him to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections, in a huge relief to his party struggling to gain momentum in the absence of its foremost leader.

The court, however, barred him from visiting his office or the Delhi secretariat, and signing official files unless absolutely necessary for obtaining the lieutenant governor's approval.

Setting him free for 21 days to hit the hustings for the remaining phases of the Lok Sabha elections after 50 days of custody in the money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise scam, the court said he shall surrender on June 2, a day after the last phase of the seven-phase | More on P6

'Paid Advertisements, Missing Disclosures' Kashmiri Social Media Influencers 'Flout' Endorsement Guidelines



Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A few months back, a popular Kashmiri vlogger known for his daily life content came under scanner for endorsing Curative Surveys Pvt. Ltd. - a startup promising sky-high returns through its website.

Investors were enticed by the chance to double their money in an incredibly short time-frame. However, the situation took a shocking turn when it

was revealed that the app had allegedly collected a staggering 59 crores from investors before vanishing without a trace.

Netizens were quick to point out that these influencers hadn't disclosed the paid nature of their promotions. Flouting endorsement guidelines, they allegedly left investors in the dark about the commercial interest behind their positive reviews.

Social media | More on P6

Want India To Become Capital Of South East Asia: PM

Agencies

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed that he would want India to be the capital of South East Asia, and emphasised that India's progress poses no threat to anyone and as India progresses, the burden of the world reduces.

In an interview with Republic TV, PM Modi shared his vision for India and asked why can't India be the capital of South East Asia.

"Now I want India to be the



capital of South East Asia and why shouldn't we have that attitude? Why should all the

countries of the world not feel like joining us?", he said. PM Modi said that Kolkata

Every Inch Of PoK Belongs To India: Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday slammed the Congress for "raising question mark" on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and asserted that every inch of it belonged to India and no force can snatch it. "Mani Shankar Aiyar

is telling us to respect Pakistan as it possesses an atomic bomb. Few days ago, INDIA alliance leader Farooq Abdullah said do not talk about PoK as Pakistan has an atomic bomb. I want to tell the Congress and INDIA alliance that | More on P6

Is Kashmir Set To Depart From History Of Election Boycotts?

Peaceful Rallies Spark Hope For Surge In Voter Turnout Among Political Parties

Agencies

Srinagar: As the stage is set for a massive showdown for three crucial Lok Sabha seats of Kashmir commencing from May 13, the parties in fray are expecting record turnout in absence of boycott call and no fear of any sort of violence this time around.

The political parties admit that stone pelting has come to an all time low while street violence has almost vanished stating that this factor should help break the shackles of boycott and lure large numbers of voters to the polling booths.

This will be the first Lok Sabha election post abrogation of Article 370 roll back and there is no intervention from the separatists. The



2019 Lok Sabha elections in Kashmir witnessed notably low participation with Baramulla, Srinagar and Anantnag recording the lowest turnouts in comparison to the preceding three elections. In response, the election office in Kashmir has initiated awareness campaigns to encourage higher voter

participation, leveraging the altered | More on P6

Parra Defends 'Referendum' Remark Says Statement Taken Out Of Context

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The PDP's Srinagar Lok Sabha seat candidate Waheed Parra on Friday wrote to the Jammu and Kashmir election department, defending his remark appealing to Kashmiri youngsters to consider the ongoing general election as a "referendum" to send New Delhi a "message".

Para's response comes after the poll body issued a notice

objecting to the remark and sought an explanation. The election department also asked the PDP leader to refrain from making statements that have the potential to aggravate differences among communities.

In his two-page reply to the nodal officer in-charge of the Model Code of Conduct implementation in Srinagar, Para said his statement was "taken out of context and the inference drawn there from | More on P6

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Lack Of Sleep In Children Linked To Risk Of Psychosis In Adulthood: Study

Press Trust Of India

Children experiencing a chronic lack of sleep since infancy could be at an increased risk of having psychosis in early adulthood, a new study has found. Analysing the sleep durations of nearly 12,400 children from when they were aged 6 months to 7 years, researchers found that those persistently sleeping fewer hours were

more than twice as likely to develop a psychotic disorder in early adulthood.

These children were also found to be nearly four times as likely to have a psychotic episode, in which one loses touch with reality and can experience hallucinations.

While a persistent or chronic lack of sleep as a child may not directly cause psychosis when they become an adult, it could be a contributing factor and parents can help address

it, according to lead author Isabel Morales-Munoz from the University of Birmingham, UK.

The researchers also said that while previous studies have linked sleep problems with psychosis, this is the first study to show that chronic lack of sleep can be a strong predictor for an individual to experience psychosis. The findings are published in The Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) Psychiatry. "It's entirely normal for children to suffer

from sleep problems at different points in their childhood, but it's also important to know when it might be time to seek help. Sometimes sleep can become a persistent and chronic problem, and this is where we see links with psychiatric illness in adulthood," he added.

The researchers also analysed data of about 4,000 adults when they were 24 years old. While the team found a robust link between persistent lack of sleep as a child and experienc-

ing psychosis as an adult, they said they have not proven a causal relationship and that other associated factors need to be examined.

For example, looking at the immune system health of children, the researchers measured the inflammation levels in blood samples of nine-year-olds. Results showed that a weakened immune system could partly explain the link between lack of sleep and psychosis.

Red Tape Is Stifling Innovation At Public Universities

360info.org

Australian public universities tout themselves as bastions of innovation and driving forces behind economic growth, but their cultures are getting in the way.

Imagine being an entrepreneur who had spent more than 12 months scouring the globe for a particular research expertise, only to discover at a random cocktail party that the know-how you're looking for could be found just down the road.

Or being an industry innovation expert trying to connect with a research group you'd invested in without success. There was simply no individual, telephone contact or email address publicly available.

Unfortunately, these are both documented stories highlighting the kind of obstacles faced by the private sector when trying to work with public universities in Australia.

It would therefore come as no surprise to people in the sector that universities seem to have been largely ignored in recent innovation funding announcements. There are several potential reasons why public universities have been marginalised in the innovation landscape.

The compliance culture that has dogged Australian government-innovation initiatives, especially when it comes to quantifying research outcomes, also dogs the increasingly managerialist public universities in Australia.

A glaring example of the way this compliance culture stifles academic researchers engaging in potentially groundbreaking research is the increasingly bureaucratic approaches to ethics approval, even if the proposed research is low risk, and time is of the essence.

Many academics are simply giving up on research based on primary data collection and are focusing on arguably less innovative and entrepreneurial research based on publicly-available data sources.

There have been instances of "ethics-shopping" in research groups comprising academics from multiple institutions, whereby the ethics clearance was submitted to the university with the least onerous process.

There was also an instance where an innovative small enterprise that had secured government funding and connected with a university for research found itself in breach of its reporting requirements simply because the university department could not produce an acquittal in time.

Not only are university bureaucracies risk-averse, they are inefficient when it comes to maintaining industry-level standards of reporting.

Experiences such as this are likely to give the private sector pause when it comes to determining whether they should continue working with public universities.

The innovation environment is, by its very nature, uncertain and risky.

Professor Mariana Mazzucato, one of the world's leading scholars in this area, recently met with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and promoted her 'mission-oriented' approach to innovation in the hope of promoting economic growth.

Professor Mazzucato favours the "fail fast" approach that innovators and entrepreneurs take, which is increasingly at odds with a risk-averse university culture focused on quantitative metrics, box ticking and assured outcomes, and which would see "failure" as a missed opportunity, to the extent that they would not likely invest in the same research team again.

Closely related to the growing compliance culture of the corporatised public university are the restrictions placed around what academic researchers should or shouldn't research.

This usually takes the form of the granting or withholding of research funding by university administrators, including all-important seed funding that is often required to test proof of concept.

Public universities generally align themselves with the stated research priorities of the incumbent government, which are themselves also closely tied with funding.

This approach prevents discoveries emanating from blue-sky research pursued by researchers practising academic freedom and following their instincts.

NOTICE

I REHANA MEHRAJ W/o ISHTIYAQ AHMAD DAR R/o BUCHPORA Srinagar want to correct my name in my daughter's (Emaan Ishtiyah) School Record Studying in IST class section pheasant Roll no 3 in The Ingenious Educational Institute Mallabagh From Fatima to Rehana Mehraj which needs to be corrected. In this regard, If anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal The Ingenious Educational Institute, Mallabagh within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Media Line

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एन.-33004/89

REGD. No. D. L.-33004/89



सं. 1348] गृह विभाग, नया दिल्ली, मार्ग 15, 2024/गजट 25, 1945
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गृह विभाग
अधिसूचना
नई दिल्ली, 15 मार्च, 2024

का.जा. 1414(ए).—अबकि, फारूक रहमानी की अध्यक्षता वाली जम्मू एवं कश्मीर पीपुल्स फ्रीडम लीग (इसके बाद जेकेपीएफएल के रूप में संदर्भित) विधिविच्छेद कियाकारकों में लिख है, जो कि देश की अखंडता, संप्रभुता और सुरक्षा के लिए हानिकारक है;

और, अबकि, जेकेपीएफएल के सदस्य जम्मू एवं कश्मीर में आतंकवादी गतिविधियों का समर्थन करने और प्रोत्साहन का ब्यवहार करने के लिए भारत विरोधी प्रचार में शामिल रहे हैं;

और, अबकि, जेकेपीएफएल के नेता और सदस्य जम्मू-कश्मीर में प्रत्यक्षतावादी, अलगाववादी और आतंकवादी गतिविधियों का समर्थन करने सहित, गैरकानूनी गतिविधियों को अंजान देने के लिए धन जुटाने में शामिल रहे हैं;

और, अबकि, जेकेपीएफएल और इसके सदस्य बयानो गतिविधियों से देश के संवैधानिक सत्ता और संवैधानिक व्यवस्था के प्रति सरासर अज्ञात दिशा में हैं;

और अबकि, जेकेपीएफएल राष्ट्र-विरोधी और विधिविच्छेद गतिविधियों में शामिल होकर जम्मू एवं कश्मीर के भारत से प्रत्यक्षतावादी और अलगाववादी; लोगों में वैमनस्य का बीज बोने; लोगों को जम्मू और कश्मीर को अस्थिर करने के लिए प्रेरित करने; जम्मू एवं कश्मीर को भारत संघ से अलग करने के लिए हथियार उठाने और स्थापित सरकार के खिलाफ नफरत को बढ़ावा देने में शामिल हैं;

2020 GI2024

(1)

2 THE GAZETTE OF INDIA : EXTRAORDINARY [PART II—SEC. 3(ii)]

और, अबकि, केन्द्रीय सरकार की यह राय है कि यदि जम्मू एवं कश्मीर पीपुल्स फ्रीडम लीग (जेकेपीएफएल) की गैर-कानूनी गतिविधियों पर तत्काल अंकुश या नियंत्रण नहीं किया जाता है, तो वह हम अवसर का उपयोग निम्नलिखित के लिए करेगा -

- (i) राष्ट्र विरोधी गतिविधियों को जारी रखने के लिए; जो कि देश की अखंडता, संप्रभुता और संप्रभुता के लिए हानिकारक है;
- (ii) भारत संघ में इसके बिलय पर विचार बहा करके हुए जम्मू एवं कश्मीर को भारत संघ से अलग करने की लगातार बकलात जारी रखने के लिए; और
- (iii) भारत के खिलाफ असंतोष पैदा करने और लोक व्यवस्था को बाधित करने के इरादे से जम्मू एवं कश्मीर के लोगों के बीच झूठी कहानी गढ़ने और राष्ट्र विरोधी भावनाओं का प्रचार जारी रखने के लिए;

और, अबकि, उपरोक्त कारणों से केन्द्रीय सरकार का दृढ़ मत है कि जम्मू एवं कश्मीर पीपुल्स फ्रीडम लीग (जेकेपीएफएल) की गतिविधियों को देखते हुए, जम्मू, कश्मीर नेशनल फ्रंट (जेकेएनएफएल) को तत्काल प्रभाव से एक विधिविच्छेद संगम घोषित करना आवश्यक है;

अतः, इसलिये, विधिविच्छेद कियाकारकों (निवारण) अधिनियम, 1967 (1967 का 37) की धारा 3 की उप-धारा (1) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, केन्द्रीय सरकार एतद्वारा जम्मू और कश्मीर पीपुल्स फ्रीडम लीग (जेकेपीएफएल) को विधिविच्छेद संगम घोषित करती है;

उपरोक्त गतिविधियों को देखते हुए, केन्द्रीय सरकार का दृढ़ मत है कि जम्मू एवं कश्मीर पीपुल्स फ्रीडम लीग (जेकेपीएफएल) को तत्काल प्रभाव से एक 'विधिविच्छेद संगम' घोषित करना आवश्यक है, और तदनुसार, उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 3 की उपधारा (3) के परंतुक द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, केन्द्रीय सरकार एतद्वारा निदेश देती है कि यह अधिसूचना, उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 4 के अन्तर्गत किए जा सकने वाले किसी आदेश के अभाव में, आधिकारिक राजपत्र में इसके प्रकाशन की तारीख से पांच वर्ष की अवधि के लिए प्रभावी रहेगी।

[फ. सं. 14017/16/2024-एनआई-एमएफओ]
प्रवीण वशिष्ठ, अवर सचिव

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 15th March, 2024

S.O. 1414(E).—Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League (hereinafter referred to as the JKPFLL), chaired by Mohammod Farooq Shah @Farooq Rehmani is indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty, and security of the country;

And, whereas, members of the JKPFLL have remained involved in supporting terrorist activities and anti-India propaganda for fuelling secessionism in Jammu and Kashmir;

And, whereas, the leaders and members of JKPFLL have been involved in mobilising fund for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting secessionist, separatist and terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir;

And, whereas, the JKPFLL and its members by their activities show sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority and constitutional set up of the country;

And, whereas, JKPFLL is involved in promoting, aiding and abetting secession of Jammu and Kashmir from India by involving in anti-national and subversive activities, sowing seeds of dis-affection amongst people; exhorting people to destabilise law and order; encouraging the use of arms to separate Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India and promoting hatred against established Government;

And, whereas, the Central Government is of the opinion that if there is no immediate curb or control of unlawful activities of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League (JKPFLL), it will use this opportunity to -

- (i) continue with the anti-national activities which are detrimental to the territorial integrity, security and sovereignty of the country;
- (ii) continue advocating the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India while disputing its accession to the Union of India; and

[भाग II—खण्ड 3(ii)] भारत का राजपत्र : असाधारण 3

(iii) continue propagating false narrative and anti-national sentiments among the people of Jammu and Kashmir with the intention to cause disaffection against India and disrupt public order;

And, whereas, the Central Government for the above-mentioned reasons is firmly of the opinion that having regard to the activities of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League (JKPFLL), it is necessary to declare the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League (JKPFLL) as an 'unlawful association' with immediate effect;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), the Central Government hereby declares the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League (JKPFLL) as an unlawful association;

The Central Government, having regard to the above circumstances, is of firm opinion that it is necessary to declare the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League (JKPFLL) as an 'unlawful association' with immediate effect, and accordingly, in exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 3 of the said Act, the Central Government hereby directs that this notification shall, subject to any order that may be made under section 4 of the said Act, have effect for a period of five years from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[F. No. 14017/16/2024-NI-MFO]
PRAVEEN VASHISTA, Addl. Secy.

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OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR,
THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) TRIBUNAL,
COURT OF R-2, GROUND FLOOR, NEW COURTS BLOCK,
HIGH COURT OF DELHI, SHERSHAH ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110503

Re: Notification bearing No. S.O. 1414 (E) dated 15th March, 2024 issued by the Central Government under Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 declaring the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League (JKPFL) as an 'unlawful association'.

To

The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League (JKPFL) along with its leaders, members, factions, wings and front organization as well as that of its principal Office Bearers.

WHEREAS the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") has declared the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League (JKPFL) as an 'unlawful association' vide Notification bearing No. S.O. 1414 (E) dated 15th March, 2024 which has been published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part - II Section 3, Sub-section (ii).

AND WHEREAS by Gazette Notification bearing No. S.O. 1629 (E) dated 05th April, 2024, which has been published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part - II Section 3, Sub-section (ii), in exercise of powers under Sub-section (1) of Section 5 read with Sub-section 4 of the Act, the Central Government has constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal comprising Hon'ble Ms. Justice Neena Bansal Krishna for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League (JKPFL) as an unlawful association. The Hon'ble Tribunal has considered the preliminary material placed before it in support of the Notification

bearing No. S.O. 1414 (E) dated 15th March, 2024 during the course of proceedings held on 16th April, 2024 and consequent upon such consideration, has directed that a Notice be issued to you under Section 4 (2) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.

NOW THEREFORE, a Notice is hereby given to you under Sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Act and you are hereby called upon to show cause in writing within 30 days from the date of service of this Notice as to why your association should not be declared as unlawful and why an order should not be made confirming the declaration made in the above-mentioned Notification bearing No. S.O. 1414 (E) dated 15th March, 2024.

The Objections/Reply/Written Statement along with documents, if any, may be filed/delivered within the statutory period of 30 days from the date of service to the undersigned at his Office in the Court of Registrar-2, Ground Floor, New Courts Block, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi. In case Objections/Reply/Written Statement and accompanying documents are to be filed in regional language, their true English translations be also attached.

You are required to appear before the Tribunal on 20.05.2024 at 04.30 PM. in Court Room No. 49, First Floor, New Courts Block, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi for further proceedings. Appearance can also be caused through a duly authorised and instructed Counsel/Advocate.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal, High Court of Delhi, Sher Shah Road, New Delhi on this, the 16th day of April, 2024.



REGISTRAR
Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal
Delhi High Court Building
Sher Shah Road, New Delhi

(Dr. Ajay Gulati)
Registrar
Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal

DIPK-456/24
dated:10-05-2024

Action Plan For Dispatching Poll Parties To Polling Stations In Srinagar Finalized

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the Action Plan for smooth Dispatch of Poll parties and Election Materials to the Polling Stations on Poll Day in Srinagar Lok Sabha Seat, the District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Returning Officer 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency Friday chaired a meeting, here.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar, Aashish Mishra was present on the occasion. Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) of all 08 Assembly Segments of Srinagar, Deputy District Election Officer and senior Police Officers associated with the conduct of the Lok Sabha Election-2024 in 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency also attended the meeting.

At the outset, the DEO discussed the action plan related to Dispatch of Poll parties and Election Materials to the Polling Stations on Poll Day (May 13, 2024) from Dispatch/Collection Centre's established in Srinagar.

The DEO thoroughly reviewed the arrangements at the Dispatch cum Receipt Centre's (DCRC) established in National Institute of Technology (NIT) and Burn Hall School for Assembly Segment of 19-Hazratbal and 20-Khanyar respectively, at SP Higher Second-

ary School for 21-Habba Kadal, at Institute of Hotel Management for 22-Lal Chowk AC, in Amar Singh College for 23-Chanapora Assembly segment, at SP College for 24-Zadibal AC and at Degree College Bemina for 25-Eidgah and 26-Central Shalteng Assembly Segments.

On the occasion, the DEO stressed the officers to ensure utmost coordination for efficient and hassle free dispatch of Poll staff and Election material to the designated Polling Stations. He further emphasized on making all required arrangements well in advance to facilitate a smooth and efficient election process.

The DEO asked them to ensure meticulous advance planning for dispatch of polling staff and Election material, adequate parking and separate entry/exit of the vehicles carrying election material from collection/distribution centre's to respective Polling stations.

He also laid emphasis on adequate spaces for placing counters at Collection/Distribution Centre's in order to avoid any cluttering during distribution/collection of election materials.

The DEO also stressed on a proactive approach by the Officers under close supervision of concerned AROs to preserve the sanctity of democratic institutions and ensuring free and fair polling at all polling stations.



A little girl carrying an umbrella while holding a rose in her mouth amid fresh rainfall in Srinagar on Friday. KO Photo by Abid Bhat

Mirwaiz Put Under House Arrest Again Anjuman Auqaf Seeks HC Intervention

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The chief cleric of Kashmir, Mirwaiz Umer Farooq was again placed under house arrest and not allowed to deliver Friday sermon at the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar for second week in a row. Anjuman Auqaf, an organization in-charge of the grand mosque said.

A spokesman of Anjuman Auqaf in a statement alleged that the authorities placed Mirwaiz under house arrest and did not allow him to visit Jamia Masjid.

Mirwaiz's movement, he claimed, has been fully restricted since Friday last, while media representatives have also been barred

from meeting with him.

The Anjuman hoped that the High Court would provide Mirwaiz some respite, as the matter is scheduled for hearing again on the 25th of this month.

"Mirwaiz was again not allowed to offer Friday prayers and deliver the sermon at central Jamia Masjid Srinagar. This is the second consecutive Friday when he has not been allowed to visit Jamia Masjid. In fact Mirwaiz's movement has been completely curbed since last Friday, while media persons have also been prevented from meeting him," the spokesman added.

Although the religious leader's frequent house detention

and barring him from delivering Friday sermons at Jamia Masjid is profoundly upsetting to the people, he said, these things must be tolerated under the present circumstances.

"Since the hearing in Mirwaiz's case is scheduled on May 25, we are hopeful that the honorable High Court will order his release from house detention. We hope the court will grant the much-needed respite that the public is yearning for," the spokesman said.

Pertinent to mention that Mirwaiz was released from house arrest last year, more than four years after he had been detained in the wake of Article 370's abrogation on August 5, 2019.

Largest SVEEP Banner Inaugurated At State Taxes Complex Solina

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a unique initiative, a largest Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) banner was Friday inaugurated at the State Taxes Complex Solina, Srinagar marking a significant stride in fostering awareness and civic engagement among citizens.

The banner was inaugurated by the Additional Commissioner, State Taxes, Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool.

The SVEEP initiative, spearheaded by the State Taxes Department, aims to empower and educate citizens on their electoral rights and responsibilities.

With the inauguration of this monumental banner, adorned prominently at the State Taxes Complex, Solina, Srinagar, the campaign takes on a larger-than-life presence, captivating the attention of passersby and stakeholders alike.

The Additional Commissioner, State Taxes,

Kashmir in his inaugural address, underscored the importance of active participation in the democratic process and emphasized the role of awareness campaigns in strengthening the fabric of democracy.

He expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders involved in making this initiative a reality and reiterated the commitment of the State Taxes Department towards fostering a culture of electoral literacy and participation. The SVEEP banner

serves as a visual testament to the collective efforts aimed at nurturing an informed and engaged electorate. Its strategic placement at the State Taxes Complex ensures maximum visibility, effectively disseminating key messages on voter education and electoral participation.

As the largest SVEEP banner in Srinagar, its unveiling signifies a monumental step towards amplifying awareness and mobilizing citizens to exercise their democratic rights conscientiously.

CBC Hosts Awareness Program On Voting & Democracy At Lal Chowk

Srinagar: The Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Field Office Srinagar Friday organized an awareness program at Ghanta Ghar, Lal Chowk Srinagar to promote voter awareness and highlight the significance of active participation in the electoral process.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Azima Tour and Travels" Situated at Naaz Enclave Panthachowk, Srinagar.

Whereas I, AZIMA RASOOL W/O MR. NADEEM AHMED RATHER R/O NAAZ ENCLAVE, PANTHACHOWK, SRINAGAR intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of "M/S AZIMA TOUR AND TRAVELS," Situated at NAAZ ENCLAVE PANTHACHOWK, SRINAGAR under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card \ Experience Certificate (Minimum 5years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Latter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I want correction in my name in the passport. My name has been entered as Mehnaz Bashir Handoo in my passport instead of Mehnaz Bashir as mentioned in my matriculation certificate. Now I want my name should be entered in the passport as per my matriculation certificate i.e., Mehnaz Bashir. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she should file the same with the Passport Officer Srinagar within seven days. After the expiry of date no claim shall be entertained.

Mehnaz Bashir
Wife of Sajid Qayoom Wani
R/O 79-Baghi Usman Colony,
Zakura, Srinagar

abko

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Ganderbal (J&K)-191201 Website: www.cukashmir.ac.in

EXTENSION NOTICE
(ADMISSION TO POST-GRADUATE (PG) PROGRAMMES)

In Continuation to the earlier Admission Notification No: CUKmr/DoA/Admission.PG-05/2023-24/022 dated: 23-04-2024, candidates having appeared in CUET-PG-2024 and have preferred Central University of Kashmir for admission to any of the Post-Graduate (PG) Programmes (as shown below), are informed that the last date of registration for counselling has been extended till 25th May, 2024 as per the following scheduled:

Activity Schedule for Registration:

Registration Link & Detailed Information shall be available on	http://cukashmircuetsamarth.edu.in/pg
Registration Link shall close on	25 th May, 2024
Registration/processing Fee	General/UR = Rs.200/- SC/ST/OBC/PwD/EWS/Women Candidate = Rs.100/-

LIST OF POST-GRADUATE (PG) PROGRAMMES

S.No	Name of the programme	S.No	Name of the programme
1.	M.A. English	10.	Master of Education (M.Ed.)
2.	Master of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering (M. Tech CS&E)	11.	M.Sc. Physics (Lateral Entry)
3.	M. A. Mass Communication & Journalism	12.	M.A. Islamic Studies
4.	M. A. Economics	13.	Integrated B.Ed.-M.Ed.
5.	Master of Laws (LLM)	14.	Master of Commerce (M.Com)
6.	M.A. Urdu	15.	Master of Physical Education (M.P.Ed.)
7.	M.A. Political Science	16.	M.Sc. Botany
8.	M.Sc. Zoology (Lateral Entry)	17.	M.Sc. Chemistry
9.	M.Sc. Biotechnology (Lateral Entry)		

For queries related to registration process, candidates are requested to contact on:
+917889593153 during office hours (i.e. from 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM)
No:CUKmr/DOA/Admission.PG-05/2023-2024/024
Dated: 09.05.2024

S/d Director I/C
Directorate of Admissions

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
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

☾
HIJRI
CALENDAR
02 Zil-Qadah
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 57
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5: 19
Magrib	7:25
ISHA	8: 58

This Day In History

- 330 - Constantinople (Byzantium) becomes the capital of the Roman Empire
- 868 - The Diamond Sutra, the world's oldest surviving, dated, printed, book printed in Chinese and made into a scroll
- 1189 - Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa and 100,000 crusaders depart Regensburg for the Third Crusade
- 1310 - Fifty-four members of the Knights Templar are burned at the stake in France for being heretics
- 1421 - Jews are expelled from Styria Austria
- 1674 - Netherlands & Cologne sign peace treaty
- 1752 - 1st US fire insurance policy issued in Philadelphia
- 1784 - Britain & Tippu Sahib of Mysore sign peace treaty
- 1792 - Columbia River discovered & named by US Captain Robert Gray
- 1800 - French naturalist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck give a lecture first outlining his theories of evolution at the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle in Paris, France
- 1812 - Waltz introduced into English ballrooms. Some observers consider it disgusting and immoral.
- 1812 - British Prime Minister Spencer Perceval is assassinated by John Bellingham in the lobby of the House of Commons, London. Ironically, descendants of both were later elected to Parliament at the same time.
- 1820 - Launch of HMS Beagle, the ship that would later take a young Charles Darwin on his famous scientific voyage
- 1867 - Treaty of London drawn, concerning Luxembourg
- 1907 - A derailment outside Lompoc, California, kills 32 Shriners when their chartered train jumps off the tracks at a switch near Surf Depot
- 1911 - The United States becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.
- 1921 - The Allied Supreme Council warns Germany to pay reparations or the entire Ruhr Valley will be occupied; Germany agrees
- 1924 - Mercedes-Benz is formed by Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz merging the two companies.
- 1942 - Japanese troops conquer Kalewa
- 1943 - US 7th div lands on Attu, Aleutian, (1st US territory recaptured)
- 1944 - Opposition group surprise attack post office Washer
- 1949 - By a vote of 37-12, Israel becomes 59th member of UN
- 1949 - Siam renames itself Thailand
- 1955 - Israel attacks Gaza
- 1956 - Pinky Lee Show last airs on NBC-TV
- 1960 - The first contraceptive pill is made available on the market.
- 1962 - US sends troops to Thailand
- 1965 - 1st of 2 cyclones in less than a month kills 35,000 (India)
- 1965 - Bangladesh windstorm kills 17,000
- 1967 - Great Britain, Ireland & Denmark apply for EG membership
- 1975 - Israel signs an agreement with European Economic Market
- 1983 - Comet C/1983 HI (IRAS-Araki-Alcock) approaches 0.0312 AU of Earth
- 1984 - Transit of Earth as seen on Mars
- 1985 - Booby trap bomb kills 86 people in India
- 1989 - France performs nuclear test at Mururoa atoll
- 1989 - Kenya announces worldwide ban on ivory to preserve its elephant herds
- 1989 - US President George H. W. Bush orders 1,900 additional troops to Panama
- 1995 - More than 170 countries agree to extend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty indefinitely and without conditions to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons
- 1996 - Valujet DC-9 crashes in Miami, 109 die
- 1998 - India conducts three underground nuclear tests in Pokhran, including a thermonuclear device
- 2000 - India's population officially reaches 1 billion - Astha Arora named India's billionth baby

Unpaid Internships, Unequal Opportunities

An Open Letter to Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud

UMMAR JAMAL

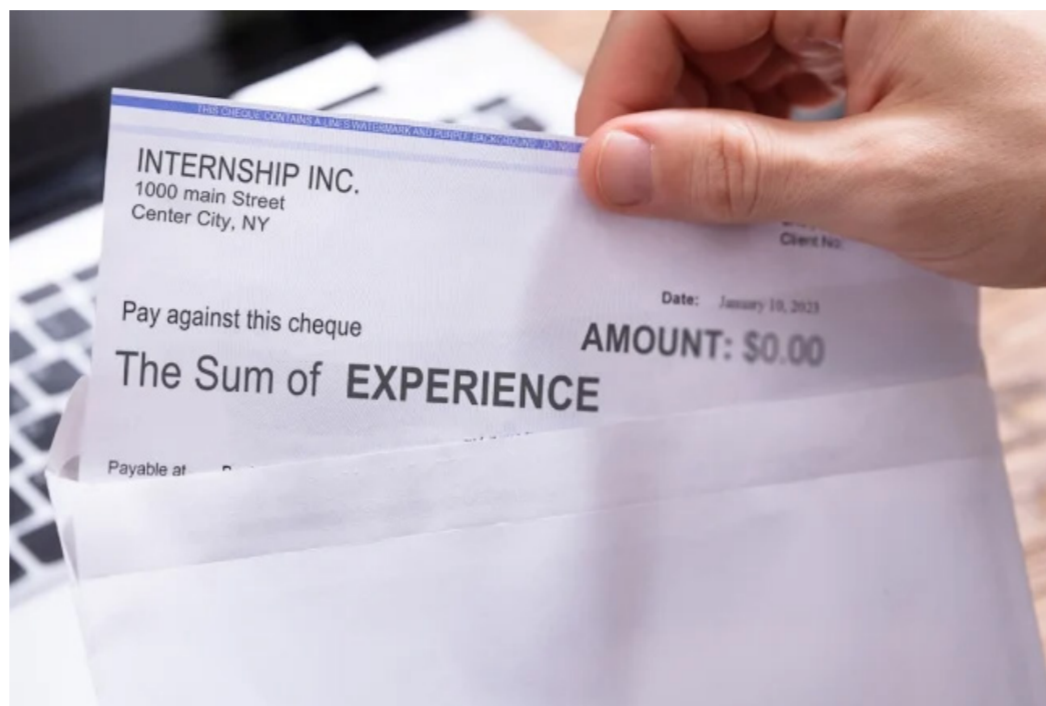
“
The lack of financial compensation places an additional strain on students who may need to support themselves or their families financially. Unlike their more affluent peers, these students cannot afford to dedicate their time and energy to an unpaid internship when they need to work to cover basic expenses

I pen this letter with a sense of urgency and concern regarding the absence of a regulatory framework governing legal internships in India. Some weeks ago, I posted a letter to your good self, seeking to lay down guidelines for regulations of unpaid internships in India. Now at the time when I was expecting a positive outcome of my letter, it was disheartening to learn that your esteemed office itself offers unpaid internships.

Internships serve as invaluable opportunities for students to gain practical experience and insight into their chosen fields. However, when the paragon of justice, the Chief Justice of India's (CJI) office itself offers unpaid internships, it creates a significant barrier for underprivileged students, hindering their ability to participate and benefit from such experiences. It perpetuates a cycle of inequality, as it favors students who can afford to work for free, while excluding those who cannot. In particular, students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds face considerable challenges in accessing these opportunities.

While I had previously written to your good self about the issue of unpaid internships, discovering that your office also follows this practice was profoundly disappointing. It raises questions about the inclusivity of internships offered by the highest judicial authority in the country. Shouldn't internships be accessible to all students based on their capabilities rather than their economic status?

One of the primary obstacles is the financial burden associated with relocating for an internship. Many students may need to move to the city where



the CJI's office is located, which entails expenses such as accommodation, transportation, and daily living costs. For students already struggling to make ends meet, taking on an unpaid internship becomes an unfeasible option.

Furthermore, the lack of financial compensation places an additional strain on students who may need to support themselves or their families financially. Unlike their more affluent peers, these students cannot afford to dedicate their time and energy to an unpaid internship when they need to work to cover basic expenses.

Consider a scenario where a student, equally capable of interning at your office, is prevented from doing so simply because they cannot afford to live in Delhi without stipends. This situation not only perpetuates discrimination based on economic status but also restricts

opportunities for talented individuals who could contribute significantly to the legal profession if given the chance.

Is the legal profession meant for elites only? Firstly, National Law Universities (NLUs), considered to be top-notch legal institutes in the country, are inaccessible to the poor due to their exorbitant fees. Now, will internships at the top offices be offered only to the privileged only? Where will the poor go?

When the office of CJI inadvertently reinforces existing social and economic disparities, the dreams of lakhs of ambitious and zealous students are shattered. It is upfront against the constitution ethos. As the Chief Justice of India's highest temple of justice, I implore not only yourself but also the esteemed institution to start providing stipends to interns and lay down guide-

lines for legal internships. The absence of such guidelines violates fundamental rights and widens the gap between rich and poor students. Moreover, the requirement for unpaid internships disproportionately affects students from marginalized communities who already face systemic barriers in accessing quality education and employment opportunities.

It is essential to recognize that talent and potential are not exclusive to those who can afford unpaid internships. Many underprivileged students possess the skills, dedication, and drive to excel in prestigious positions, given the opportunity. However, by limiting internship opportunities to those who can afford to work for free, the CJI's office overlooks a vast pool of talent and perpetuates elitism within the legal profession.

Offering paid internships

or providing financial assistance to interns from underprivileged backgrounds would be a step towards promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the legal profession. By compensating interns for their work, the CJI's office would ensure that opportunities are accessible to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, rather than just those who can afford to work for free.

It is crucial to address this issue promptly and decisively. By implementing a regulatory framework for legal internships, we can ensure equal access to opportunities for all law students, regardless of their economic background. Furthermore, providing stipends to interns will alleviate financial burdens and allow students to focus on their learning and professional growth without worrying about their financial situation.

I urge you to consider the gravity of this issue and take affirmative action to rectify the current disparity in legal internships. I sincerely hope that you will consider my humble request and take proactive steps towards reforming the internship system within your office and advocating for comprehensive regulatory frameworks nationwide. Your actions have the potential to transform the lives of countless aspiring lawyers and pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable legal profession.

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

The author is a columnist. He tweets at ummar_jamal and can be reached at umajama1968@gmail.com

Rural Demand Woes

The Financial Express

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Depressed incomes are a major factor behind rural consumption growing by only 0.5% year-on-year in the second quarter of FY24. Looking forward, such a trend is clearly bound to cast a dark shadow over optimistic narratives of robust economic expansion in FY25.

The weakness of rural consumption is not good news for India's growth story. Persisting distress conditions in the countryside are reflected in a sustained contraction of rural wages adjusted for inflation. This is not just a blip of higher food inflation in February 2024 that resulted in a 3.3% decline in real wages but has been observed for 25 out of the 27 months to February, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy.

Even over the last nine years ending March 2023, the 4.9% average annual growth in daily wages for rural non-agricultural male labour was completely eroded by inflation, implying zero growth in real terms, according to the Reserve Bank of India's latest Handbook of Statistics on States.

Lower rural incomes, in turn, dampen consumer demand for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), two-wheelers, tractors, etc., which adversely impact industrial and overall economic growth.

Depressed incomes are a major factor behind rural consumption growing by only 0.5% year-on-year in the second quarter of FY24. Looking forward, such a trend is clearly bound to cast a dark shadow over optimistic narratives of robust economic expansion in FY25.

The long period over which rural wages have contracted indicates the need for caution in inferring a pick-up in rural demand based on high-frequency indicators. There are contrary signals from some of these indicators partly due to the fact that while all agriculture is rural, rural is not wholly agricultural. A columnist in this newspaper observed a distinct pattern of a K-shaped rural recovery manifested through big-ticket consumption and premiumisation.

Demand for high-horsepower (HP) tractors grew thrice as much as that of low-HP



tractors over the last three years, while two-wheeler sales — more than half of which are in rural areas — are sluggish. Paradoxically, this indicates that while farm sentiments may be upbeat, demand in the non-farm segment of the rural economy is not so bullish. Over the nine-year period till FY23, while tractor sales registered an average annual growth of 8%, two-wheeler sales grew by 0.6% per annum. At Hero Motocorp, growth in wholesale volumes was negative every month in the one-year period till February 2024.

While rural FMCG consumption outpaced urban in January-March 2024, the growth is in discretionary spending on home and personal care items rather than food. Due to weak rural demand, underlying volumes at Hindustan Unilever grew by 1% in the March quarter.

The outlook on rural demand this fiscal is clouded by the southwest monsoon season from June to September, starting with the risk of impairment due to lingering remnants of El Niño conditions, according to Skymet.

Although the forecast is for overall bountiful rains, the prospect of an initial dry spell should warrant concern as it has a crucial bearing on crop output during the kharif or summer season given that June and July are crucial months for sowing operations.

This factor can lower output and elevate food prices which will further worsen the outlook on rural incomes. As if all of this weren't bad enough, water levels in the major reservoirs of the country are just 28% of their full storage capacity. The situation is much worse in the southern states where the major reservoirs are just 15.7% full. If the monsoon turns out to be wayward, this will only worsen the distress in the countryside especially if rural inflation outpaces that in urban areas, further contracting wages.

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 Financial Express

Perpetual Presence of Masked Demons

A Review of the Movie "The Strangers"

MUGEES UL KAISAR

Bryan Bertino's *The Strangers* is a brilliant and immensely rich piece of cinematic work. However, it isn't fully clear as to whether it is a typical horror film or a psychological horror? I want to read it as the latter. This ambiguity is of course its richness. If taken as a typical "home invasion" horror movie, which is largely its conventional interpretation, it is horrific for its pointlessness as some reviewers have rightly pointed out. A couple spending a night inside of a supposedly safe haven (a home) is attacked by three strangers with masks put on without the script ever revealing to us as to why the whole episode is taking place, to the end of it, except one line which one of the murderers utters i.e. "because you were home" in response to one of the victim's last dreadful question, "why are you doing this?". The pointlessness multiplies the horror of the attack simply because it shows the horrific potentiality of a fatal intrusion by any psychopath who could just kill you simply because you were having a good time minding your own business. The pointlessness of suffering increases its already unsettling dreadfulness. The (ultimate) meaninglessness of evil and suffering is how hell might look like. However, this may not after all be completely pointless. The realities of sociopaths and the presence of a disproportionate & hierarchic world warrant serious consideration and examination in the actual cases of home invasion events.

The movie begins with the introduction of a strained relationship between the couple. This is significant; a point not to be missed. It is the central hermeneutic in our reading of the film as a piece of psychological horror. Putting a perfectly happy couple with no qualms in their relationship could have made the physical "home invasion" interpretation more unsettling. Isn't it precisely at the moment of heavenly perfection that the



snake intrudes into the Garden of Eden? Isn't the intrusion of disruption precisely at the moment of perfection which makes the disruption qualitatively more disrupting? So, why begin with an unnervingly strained relationship between the two loved ones? The reading of the present review is that the whole episode (of the brutal attack and the subsequent terror) is a symbolic representation of that strained relationship itself, between the woman and her lover.

The reason that we have put the woman at the centre of the relationship is because her lover gradually fades out of the show towards the latter part of the movie. At the end, before the killing scene, only the woman



The fantasy of a perfect relationship is always under attack from various misunderstandings, contingencies and misgivings. Home or a safe haven is the imagination of a perfect heavenly relationship which is always vulnerable to threats

speaks whilst her lover passively looks at her, helplessly, looking into her eyes, silently, whilst she, for the very last time, tells him that she loves him. Moreover, in the last scene of the movie where two teenage boys crash into the forsaken crime scene, checking various rooms and details of the house, finally get near to the woman's blood draped body, where she suddenly & aggressively wakes up with remi-

niscent shock and horror, depicting that the only person still alive in the house is the woman. The way she wakes up is quite noteworthy; it is as if she has broken free of a terrible nightmare. The beginning of the movie tells us that the woman has recently declined the marriage proposal of her lover. Is it the case that possibly the potential concerns, doubts, apprehensions & obscurities – that she has regarding

the relationship between herself and her lover – are exactly what the whole episode of the movie is symbolically representing as an attack by intruders?

The present interpretation focuses on the focal point of human relationships. The fantasy of a perfect relationship is always under attack from various misunderstandings, contingencies and misgivings. Home or a safe haven is the imagination of a per-

fect heavenly relationship which is always vulnerable to threats. The point to note, however, is that the three attackers, in the movie, come with their masks on. Who are these masked attackers? A relationship is always under threat but from whom? The threat can be both inner and outer. What is common to these threats is the element of the unsettling surprise – the darkness always lurks in the "unknown". Either it can be our own psychological shortcomings, like misinterpreting each other's personalities, behaviours, words, actions – not to mention the interplay of inherent psychological complexes – and so forth; or it can be a completely random external contingency of the world that simply crashes into the prospect of a relationship. Masked demons, nevertheless, are always nearby, aiming to ambush us. Most of the times, it is our own inner complexities that upset or undo our relationships. The bug of "suspicion" or doubt, for example, is no less than a masked demon lurking deep within us.

The cinematography within the movie seems to support this thesis. We can note this especially through the brilliant employment of the sound; doors banging, metals ringing from distance, rustling sound of leaves, nearby in the woods – as the woman is constantly running around the home and the nearby garage, she hears the sounds which constantly lurk on the outside and yet they do not enter upon her fully, clearly. This explains the apparent vagueness of the attack. The time taking tortuous project of the masked attackers shows how seemingly harmless knock on the door, a slight misunderstanding, a small doubt, an unknown jealous "third", or the unpredictability (contingency) of reality itself can gradually undo a whole house/relationship.

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

Why Is Free Time Still So Elusive?

Gary Cross

There have been massive gains in productivity over the past century.

So why are people still working so hard for so long?

Output per worker increased by almost 300% between 1950 and 2018 in the U.S. The standard American workweek, meanwhile, has remained unchanged, at about 40 hours.

This paradox is especially notable in the U.S., where the average work year is 1,767 hours compared with 1,354 in Germany, a difference largely due to Americans' lack of vacation time.

Some might argue that Americans are just more hardworking. But shouldn't more productive work be rewarded with more time free from work?

This is the central theme of my new book, "Free Time: The History of an Elusive Ideal."

KEYNES MISSES THE MARK

Many economists see the status quo mostly as a choice: People would simply rather have more money. So they prioritize work over free time.

However, in the past, many economists assumed that people's need for more stuff would eventually be met. At that point, they would choose more free time.

In fact, one of the most famous economists of the 20th century, John Maynard Keynes, confidently predicted in 1930 that within a century, the normal workweek would decrease to 15 hours. Yet Americans in their prime working age are still on the job 41.7 hours per week.

WHY WAS KEYNES WRONG?

Obviously, people's needs or wants were not fully met. In the first half of the 20th century, advertising shifted in ways that emphasized emotions over utility, making consumers feel like they needed to buy more

stuff; planned obsolescence shortened how long products remained functional or fashionable, spurring more frequent purchases; and new, exciting – but costly – goods and services kept consumerism churning.

So workers continued to labor for long hours to earn enough money to spend.

Furthermore, as wages rose, the opportunity cost of time spent away from work also grew. This made more free time less economically appealing. In a consumption-saturated society, time spent neither producing nor consuming goods increasingly appeared as wasted time.

Interest in slower, cheaper activities – reading a book, meeting a friend to catch up over coffee – started to seem less important than buying a pickup truck or spending an hour at the casino, pursuits that demand disposable income.

FORCED LABOR

It's still important to consider whether there's even any choice to be made.

Almost everyone who works 40 hours a week or more does so because they have to. There are bills to pay, health insurance coverage to maintain and retirement to squirrel away money for. Some jobs are more precarious than others, and many workers even forego earned vacation time for fear of losing promotions.

This hardly makes for a free choice.

But the 40-hour week isn't the result of a personal calculation of costs and benefits. Rather, it's the result of a hard-fought political battle that culminated in the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which established the standard 40-hour workweek, along with a minimum wage.

Pressed by a labor movement that was far more powerful than

today's, the government implemented a range of progressive economic policies during the 1930s to help the nation emerge from the Great Depression.

measure.

Labor leaders had initially proposed a 30-hour week, which government officials resoundingly rejected. Even New

40-hour week seem reasonable, since the mother had time to care for the family and home.

But this consensus has long since been undermined. Since

der the birth rate has declined.

SEPARATING ECONOMIC GROWTH FROM WELL-BEING

For decades, the amount of



Many government officials viewed setting a standard workweek as a way to curtail exploitation and unfair competition among employers, who would otherwise be motivated to push their employees to work for as long as possible. It was an emergency measure, not a choice of more time over more personal income. Nor was it a step toward the progressive reduction of hours worked, as Keynes had envisioned.

In fact, it was hardly a radical

Deal liberals saw a shortening of working hours as a potential threat to economic growth.

So the 40-hour week ended up as the compromise, and the standard hasn't been updated since.

For most Americans, this was an acceptable trade-off. They might be working long hours, but they could afford television sets, cars and homes in the suburbs. Many families could live on the wages of the full-time work of the father, making the

the 1970s, inflation-adjusted wages haven't risen with economic growth. In many households that include married or partnered couples, a single wage earner has been replaced by two earners, both of whom find themselves working at least 40 hours per week.

It's almost as if the 40-hour week has been replaced by an 80-hour week – at least in terms of hours worked per household. Who has time to raise kids? Who can afford them? It's no won-

work we do has been talked about as "just the way things are" – an inevitability, almost. It doesn't seem possible for society to take a different tack and, like flipping a switch, work less.

To me, this resignation points to a need to reconsider the social contracts of the past. Most Americans will not abandon their work ethic and their insistence that most people work. Fair enough.

Many people prefer working over having vast stores of free

time, and that's OK. And there's still immense value in work that doesn't produce a paycheck – caregiving and volunteering, for example.

But reducing the standard workweek, perhaps by transitioning to a four-day week, could ease stress for overworked families.

These changes require political action, not just individuals making the personal choice to arrive at a better work-life balance. And yet a national reduction in the standard workweek seems almost impossible. Congress can't even pass legislation for paid family leave or guaranteed vacation time.

It doesn't help that elected leaders continue to insist that well-being be measured mostly by economic growth, and when the U.S. media breathlessly reports quarterly economic growth data, with increases deemed "good" and decreases deemed "bad."

Why shouldn't free time and its benefits be included in the equation? Why aren't figures on the social costs of unlimited growth publicized? Does it even matter that the Dow Jones Industrial Average has doubled in less than a decade when economic security is so fragile and so many people are over-stressed?

The idea that stratospheric increases in productivity can allow for more time for life is not simply a romantic or sentimental idea. Keynes viewed it as entirely reasonable.

Opportunities like the one that led to the 40-hour workweek in the 1930s rarely appear. But some sort of paradigm shift is urgently needed.

Something has to give.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Floods & Fortitude

the fragments of their existence. With every swipe of debris, every weary step taken amidst the chaos, she relives the agonizing past. The arduous reconstruction efforts come alive once more, as Fatima recalls her family pouring their sweat and tears into rebuilding their dwelling, piece by piece.

And now that the Jhelum river levels were rising and inundation of precarious areas had already begun owing to a showery weather, flood seemed imminent. The "ghost of threat" had apparently been exercised.

But Fatima and her like are in no way ready to relive the nightmare. Closing her eyes for a moment to block out the tempestuous roar of the Jhelum, Fatima shares, "While people only perish once, we disintegrate every time that it rains."

Wiping her tears with the corner of her veil, Fatima extends her tender hand to her husband, Gulam Rasool, who is seated nearby, supporting him gently as he rises on his crutches. In spite of his disability, Gulam Rasool, the seller of the delectable masala tschot (spicy bread), provides for their family. The unabated barrage of downpours has made venturing outside quite onerous, leaving him soaked and weary, but he perseveres. Also, amidst the family's struggles, Fatima's job as a local sweeper becomes their much-needed safety net.

Unfazed by the daily struggles, the greatest fear of the family lies in the looming specter of recurrent floods that haunts them every year. With every lash of rain and an imminent threat of flood, the family is painfully reminded of the deep wound inflicted in 2014 by the catastrophic floods that partially washed down their sole abode.

Not just Fatima's family, the entire valley of Kashmir continues to bear the scars of the cataclysmic floods that sent shockwaves throughout the region and still reverberate within it. And to make the matters worse, the frequent water logging due to poor drainage system across the city owing to a spell of torrential downpour leaves people in a pool of distress.

Abdul Hamid War of Housing Colony, Bemina is worn to a frazzle after having made several appeals to the people at the helm of affairs, who continue to remain unresponsive towards the plight of the residents.

"For us, inundation and water logging even after a day of rain has become a regular phenomenon. We expected a relief in the event of Srinagar being upgraded to a smart city. But we are a far cry from that", he cries.

An old folk contorting his face in the corner adds, "Yi gaiya smart city, yi gai zahmat city! This doesn't resemble a smart city. It's a nuisance!"

Although flash floods and water logging following protracted periods of intense rainfall are typical occurrences in Kashmir. But the problem was made much worse by the disastrous floods of 2014. The Jhelum River, which meanders through the valley, swelled beyond its danger mark, breaching embankments, engulfing all and sundry falling in its way. This calamitous event in the erstwhile state is considered as one of the worst floods in the past 60 years. According to the data released by NIDM (National Institute of Disaster Management) in their report titled as 'Kashmir Floods 2014—Recovery to Resilience', the flood affected nearly two million people and claimed over 287 human lives and caused huge damage to property, assets, economy, ecology and both social and physical infrastructure. Overall, 5.5 Lakh population were displaced and over 6.51 lakh hectares of cropped areas were affected. Ten districts were severely affected by the floods and other associated disasters - Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Srinagar, Budgam in the Kashmir Division and Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Reasi districts in the Jammu Division. In addition to this, nearly 1.4 million people lost their household assets and livelihood, with over 66,000 partially and 67,000 houses fully damaged.

The report attributed the main causes of flood disasters in the Kashmir valley to increasing global temperature, climate change, population growth, loss of wetlands, deforestation and unrestrained land-use changes. It also recognized the heavy rainfall as the triggering factor of floods but did not undermine the pivotal role played by other factors including the rapid urbanization in the valley, encroachment of water bodies and land adjoining river banks, all of which blocked the natural drainage patterns making the situation worse. This is why the 2014 floods are looked upon as more anthropogenic than natural.

Ironically, the cataclysmic floods of 2014 did not just blot the very year with a terrible tragedy in the face of a horrendous calamity but have also ushered in an era of flood dangers in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Flood threat post-2014 has become a recurring and concerning phenomenon in the region. The data reveals a clear pattern of frequent flood alerts and incidents in the years that followed. There have been multiple big flood alarms and warnings throughout the years, endangering the residents in Kashmir and Jammu that live near the Jhelum and Tawi rivers.

In March 2015, a major flood alert occurred after heavy rainfall persisted for two days. The Jhelum river's water level rose dangerously close, coming within two feet of the danger mark. Another alarming situation arose in June 2015 when the Jhelum river surpassed the danger mark.

The following year, in March 2016, another flood alert was issued as both the Jhelum in Kashmir and the Tawi in Jammu flowed above the danger mark.

This pattern continued in April 2017 when the Jhelum river crossed the alarm level, warranting another flood alert. In June 2018, a flood alert was sounded again as both the Jhelum and Tawi rivers overflowed, posing a serious threat to the surrounding areas.

Subsequently, in June 2019, incessant rains in the Kashmir Valley caused the Jhelum river's water to breach the flood alarm level, leading to yet another flood alert.

In August 2020, the water level in the Sindh river crossed the danger mark, further adding to the flood threat in the region. The situation continued to be concerning in July 2021 when the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a weather advisory accompanied by a flood warning.

The year 2022 witnessed a particularly challenging period as four flood warnings were issued during the months of June, July (causing the suspension of the Amarnath Yatra), August, and even October, which is an unexpected occurrence for this part of India.

Another flood threat surfaced in the valley in the months of June and July of 2023, causing a surge of panic.

And now, the month April of this year witnessed the emergence of a flood-like situation sending concern through the roof.

The literature review highlights significant flooding events in the valley throughout history, including

in 879 AD, 1841, 1893, 1903, 1929, 1948, 1950, 1957, 1959, 1992, 1996, 2002, 2006, 2010, and 2014 (Bhatt et al., 2017). What stands out is the trend since the major flood of 2014, with each subsequent year presenting challenges for flood-prone areas. Ten years down the line, the flood threat looms large. The surge in urbanization and mismanagement of flood plains has exacerbated the vulnerability, leaving the people in constant fear every time rain clouds gather.

Families like that of Fatima's, who endure the perennial flood threat year after year, find themselves asking a poignant question: What measures has the government taken since the 2014 calamity to mitigate the occurrence of such devastating floods? Despite their unwavering resilience, the community seeks reassurance in the form of palpable efforts to safeguard their homes and lives from the recurrent natural disaster. With each passing monsoon season, the weight of this pressing inquiry deepens, as the memories of loss and displacement from 2014 remain fresh in their minds. As the rains lash down and the river levels rise, their collective plea resonates, praying that effective flood control measures and improved disaster management systems are in place to shield them from the harrowing cycle that continues to shadow their lives.

Meanwhile the authorities' assurances of having everything under control echo through the valley. Time and again, in the face of imminent danger, they offer words of solace and promise swift action. Yet, as the rain pours and the waters rise, the reality unfolds in stark contrast to their reassurances.

A recent interaction with the Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department, Kashmir, Naresh Kumar reveals that post 2014 floods, there have been two major initiatives for Flood Management in Kashmir valley. The GOI has approved the Flood Management Project Phase I & II in 2015 and 2022 respectively. FMP-Phase I project of Rs 399.29 Crores was started in the year 2015-16 and completed recently. The carrying capacity was increased from 31000 Cusecs to 40000 Cusecs through selective dredging of River Jhelum in Srinagar & Baramulla reaches. In addition, bottlenecks in Flood Spill Channel were also removed in Shariefabad & Naidkhai areas to revive its capacity.

GOI has also approved FMP-Phase II (Part A) of the project for Flood Management at a cost of Rs 1623.43 Crores. The project aims to enhance the carrying capacity of the river system from 40000 Cusecs to 60000 Cusecs and is under implementation from 2022-23, expected to be completed in the next three years.

Moreover, the I&FC Department also claims to have identified seven flood basins as flood sponges to provide storage for surplus waters during events of flooding. These are: Hokersar, Nowgam Jheel, Hygam Jheel, Narkara, Anchar Lake, Wular Lake and the left side of River Jhelum from Sangam to Padshahi Bagh.

These are to be notified as flood basins under Section 79 of JK Water Resource Regulatory Act, 2010 by the government followed by enactment of law. The matter is, however, still under active consideration of the government.

Once again, as in numerous past occasions, the danger of an impending flood in Srinagar has been averted due to fair weather, arriving just in time to prevent the Jhelum from breaching its banks. However, solely relying on the whims of the weather gods is not a viable strategy. The frequency of flood alerts and warnings over the years underscores the need for increased preparedness, mitigation strategies, and across the board efforts to address the flood risks in the region and protect the lives and property of its residents. It is imperative that strong flood control systems and disaster response strategies be developed in order to reduce the effects of potential future flood catastrophes. Action must transcend mere rhetoric.

As the valley seeks a genuine sense of security, the authorities' words so far ring hollow, leaving people yearning for substantive action. Likewise, Fatima and her family, weary yet resilient, hold on to hope that someday the promises of control will be substantiated by tangible and effective measures to protect them from the unforgiving forces of nature.

ICMR Calls For

significant proportion of the Indian population relies heavily on cereals, resulting in poor intake of essential macronutrients (essential amino acids and essential fatty acids) and micronutrients, it stated.

Low intake of essential nutrients can disrupt metabolism and increase the risk of insulin resistance and associated disorders from a young age. Estimates show that 56.4 percent of the total disease burden in India is due to unhealthy diets, it said. Healthy diets and physical activity can reduce a substantial proportion of coronary heart disease (CHD) and hypertension (HTN) and prevent up to 80 percent of type 2 diabetes.

"A significant proportion of premature deaths can be averted by following a healthy lifestyle," it said, adding that the upsurge in the consumption of highly processed foods laden with sugars and fats, coupled with reduced physical activity and limited access to diverse foods, aggravated micronutrient deficiencies and obesity.

3-day Wet Spell

parts of north Kashmir also were hit by the strong winds today, causing damage to the properties. Some residential houses have suffered damage during the gusty winds today, reports said.

Meanwhile, the authorities also ordered the closure of Srinagar-Baramulla highway for some time near Tappara area of Pattan after a tree fell on the road due to the windstorm.

Moreover, the weatherman here has predicted a three-day wet spell from tomorrow, saying that the light to moderate rains are expected in Jammu & Kashmir from May 11 to May 13.

The Meteorological department has also issued an advisory, asking the farmers to suspend their farm activities on May 11 and 12 and also added that there is a possibility of landslides and shooting stones at few vulnerable places.

"There is a possibility of hailstorm, gusty winds, lightning at few places particularly on 11th and 12th May," the advisory reads.

Want India To

India becomes strong, the world is not worried, the world feels good. As India progresses, the burden of the world is reducing," PM Modi added. He further shared India's achievements including the increased GDP as well as the per capita income.

"Now the change we have brought when we built toilets, people feel that the number of toilets in the world has improved, we are increasing the GDP, we are increasing the per capita income and we are doing solar energy," PM Modi said. Underlining that India is affecting the world rankings positively, PM Modi stressed that India is a "mine of opportunities".

"So we are affecting the world rankings positively. So the world likes India, the world feels that if India performs, we will get a positive vibe globally and these days you must have seen everyone saying don't look here and there. India is a mine of opportunities," he noted. "Everyone in the world tells the youth of their countries and their companies that India is a mine of opportunities," PM Modi added.

Noting that India made Africa a G20 member last year, he said "We have given the initiative, we have focused on the Global South, and we are focusing as a big player." He said that India is not just a spectator of the game.

"We are not becoming spectators of the game on the sidelines and that is us. We are doing this by helping them, being useful to them and connecting with them and we, our people, feel like there is a natural alignment," he said. Responding to a question that in the future, pressure will increase a lot on PM Modi individually, he said that earlier, India's approach was on how much difference we have with other nations, but now, our approach is based on the proximity with these nations.

"We thought we would maintain this much difference from it. But then I said that this would not be our approach. Our approach will be how close we will be to each other. Earlier, the criteria were based on distance, but my criteria were based on closeness...So I brought up the topic of proximity," he said. He further emphasised that today, there is competition within countries globally as to how to get closer to India.

"The nations are thinking, I am with Modi, I am with India and my opponent is there, I should go a little further. So today there is competition in the world as to how to get closer to India," he said. "It might seem like a play on words, but is not; the whole process changes with it," PM Modi added. (ANI)

Every Inch Of PoK Belongs

PoK belongs to India and no force can snatch it," Shah said at an election rally in Jharkhand's Khunti.

Hitting out at the Congress, he said, "I do not know what has happened to the Congress. A resolution was passed unanimously in Parliament that PoK is part of India. You (Congress) are now putting a question mark on PoK by talking about the atom bomb. BJP's stand is clear that every inch of PoK belongs to India and it will remain with India."

Urging people to vote for the BJP, Shah said the JMM-led alliance in Jharkhand was neck-deep in corruption.

"JMM-led alliance indulged in Rs 300-crore land scam, Rs 1,000-crore mining scam, Rs 1,000-crore MNRREGA scam, Rs 40-crore liquor scam. We will not allow the JMM-led alliance to digest poor people's money," he said.

He accused JMM and Congress of doing "vote-bank politics".

"Congress created obstacles in building Ram Mandir in Ayodhya for 70 years whereas PM Modi constructed the temple in 5 years...Rahul Baba did not come to Ram Mandir consecration as he was afraid of his 'vote bank'," he said.

"I want to ask Rahul Gandhi why the Congress failed to make any tribal President during its rule," he said.

Houses Damaged

Traffic movement on Srinagar-Baramulla highway was also halted near Tappara area of Pattan after a tree fell on the road due to a windstorm.

Is Kashmir Set

environment post the abrogation of Article 370.

Figures about the ten districts in Kashmir reveal that consistently low turnout was recorded particularly in South Kashmir. Conversely, districts bordering Pakistan, such as Kupwara, Bandipora, and Baramulla, have shown relatively higher voter engagement.

Since 1990, elections in the region have been overshadowed by terrorist activities, leading to widespread election boycotts. The persistent threat of violence and calls for boycott by separatists and terrorist groups have historically deterred voter turnout.

However, experts now observe a shift in the situation, marked by a cessation of separatist activities and a decline in incidents like stone-pelting. With intensified crackdowns on terrorist organizations and separatist parties, there has been a notable absence of calls for election boycotts. This newfound peace has fostered a conducive atmosphere for increased voter participation. This prompted the administration to undertake comprehensive efforts across all districts. Various initiatives, including awareness drives, sports competitions, and community engagements, are being implemented to mobilize voters and ensure a robust turnout.

Political analysts interpret the upcoming elections as an opportunity for Kashmiris to express dissent against the decisions of the Central Government, particularly the actions taken since 2019. PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti and NC chief Omar Abdullah have been vocal in urging voters to use their ballots to oppose government policies.

Srinagar has consistently recorded low voter turnouts. This emerges as a challenge in mobilizing voters in these regions. However, concerted efforts are underway to raise awareness among the populace, including students and the general public, through various outreach programs and awareness campaigns.

With a peaceful atmosphere prevailing across Kashmir and renewed efforts to engage voters, optimism is high for a significant increase in voter turnout and the possibility of setting new records in the upcoming elections. Parties in fray that include National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party and Apni Party are hopeful of huge turnout in Srinagar constituency on May 13 followed by North Kashmir on May 19 and South Kashmir on May 25.

"Yes, indeed there is a change in air. We expect a large number of voters to come out on May 13 in all three Lok Sabha constituencies of Kashmir. It's the people who have decided the fate of candidates in fray. This time, all eyes are on the voting percentage," said a senior Apni Party leader.

Leaders from National Conference and PDP are also banking on the huge voter percentage this time around. "This time, there is no boycott factor and people should vote for the candidate who can raise their voice in the Parliament. We are glad to see people participating in our rallies in downtown and villages of Pulwama and Baramulla where boycotts always prevailed whenever there were polls," said Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, PDP's candidate for Srinagar parliamentary seat.

A senior NC leader admitted that stone pelting has declined and street protests have vanished but added that 'security challenges' have gone up on other fronts. "Polling dates will decide the real change on ground. Let people reach polling booths on May 13, May 19 and May 25," he said. (KNO)

Parra Defends

is based on conjectures and surmises being thus

utterly unwarranted".

"Though, the statement made does not require any clarification, however, for the sake of greater clarity, it is submitted that the reference to the aspect that the 'ensuing election is no less than a referendum', only points towards the importance of the present election holds and nothing else," Para added.

He also said that any other inference drawn by any person was not his "intendment" and as such, cannot be attributed to him.

Referring to the PDP leader's statement, the notice issued to him said, "...this act of yours has the potential of aggravating the differences among communities and can cause discontentment in the society... you are asked to refrain from issuing such statement forthwith and also to make clear the exact context and message you wanted to convey..."

Giving para-wise reply to the notice, Para said his statement regarding 'people's silence' or the fact that "people of Kashmir are not happy with New Delhi" were purely electoral issues that he as a contesting candidate seeking the mandate of the people was lawfully entitled to agitate on and the same cannot be construed to be a violation of the MCC.

Para said the statement pertaining to the fact that youths are "languishing in jail" and "children are caught in drug addiction" represent "the problems of Kashmir" and the same were also pressing electoral issues.

"... any misgivings with respect to the statements as reproduced in the notice under reply are completely clarified by the fact that the undersigned in the same statement has expressly stated that he wants the issues raised 'to be addressed by the Parliament of India'," he added.

Para also claimed no part of his statement as reproduced in the notice amounted to a violation of the MCC.

Talking to media persons on the sidelines of a party convention in Srinagar on April 20, Para had said there was a need to convey to New Delhi that the "people of Kashmir are not happy" and have apprehensions about the safeguarding of their identity, land and contracts.

"...entire generation is slipping away from us, children caught in drug addiction, educated under depression and future generation is in danger... to save this, we want people to take this election not less than a referendum and send a message to New Delhi that people are not happy..." he had said then.

Kejriwal Gets

poll gets over.

The fourth phase of polling will be held on May 13. Kejriwal, 55, thanked the Supreme Court judges for granting him interim bail and the people for their blessings.

"We have to save the country from dictatorship, I will fight with all my might but need the support of 140 crore people," he told the media after stepping out of Tihar Jail in round neck T-shirt and trousers. The AAP national convenor, who has often flaunted his devotion to Lord Hanuman, which many feel is an attempt to blunt the BJP's Hindutva politics, said it was because of Him that he was out of jail.

Smiling broadly and waving at his supporters through the sky roof of his car, Kejriwal invited them to join him during his visit to the Hanuman temple at Connaught Place at 11 a.m. on Saturday for his "darshan". Scores of yellow AAP flags with its broom election symbol fluttered as his vehicle inched forward on way to the chief minister's official residence.

A wave of jubilation swept across the INDIA bloc parties as the news spread like wildfire, with his AAP terming it a "triumph of truth".

"Truth can be troubled but not defeated. The decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is welcome. The dictatorship will end. Satyamev Jayate," AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, also an accused in the money laundering case, said in a post in Hindi on X.

However, Union Home Minister Amit Shah sought to downplay his release.

"This is not regular bail. It is an interim bail. He can campaign but every time he goes to campaign, people will be reminded of the excise scam," he said in West Bengal's Raniganj.

"Hanuman ji ki jai. This is the victory of democracy. It is the result of the prayers and blessings of millions of people. Many thanks to everyone," Kejriwal's wife Sunita, who was filling in for her husband during his absence from the electoral battleground, said in a post on X in Hindi.

Kejriwal's release from jail, however transient, is expected to give a boost to the AAP's Lok Sabha campaign in Delhi where polling is scheduled for May 25.

While imposing a string of bail conditions on Kejriwal, the apex court directed him to furnish bail bonds of Rs 50,000 with one surety of the like amount to the satisfaction of the jail superintendent.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta rejected the argument of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) counsel that enlarging Kejriwal on interim bail to campaign in the elections will be without a precedent.

The court did not concur with his contention that interim bail to the AAP national convenor for campaigning would be like giving "premium of placing the politicians in a benefic position compared to ordinary citizens of this country".

"While examining the question of grant of interim bail/release, the courts always take into consideration the peculiarities associated with the person in question and the surrounding circumstances. In fact, to ignore the same would be iniquitous and wrong," the bench said, adding that the Lok Sabha elections are the "most significant and an important event this year".

The bench said no doubt, serious accusations have been made, but Kejriwal has not been convicted yet, does not have any criminal antecedents and is "not a threat to the society".

It noted that more importantly, the legality and validity of his arrest itself was under challenge before the top court which is yet to finally pronounce its verdict on the petition.

Ruling that Kejriwal's case is "not an exception", the bench said power to grant interim bail is commonly exercised in a number of cases and interim bail is granted keeping in mind the facts of each case.

"For the aforesaid reasons, we direct that the appellant - Arvind Kejriwal will be released on interim bail in connection with case... till June 1, 2024, that is, he will surrender on June 2, 2024 on the following terms and conditions..." the bench said, adding, "he shall not visit the office of the Chief Minister and the Delhi secretariat".

"He (Kejriwal) shall be bound by the statement made on his behalf that he shall not sign official files unless it is required and necessary for obtaining clearance/approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi," the court said.

Kejriwal will not make any comment with regard to his role in the case and will not interact with any of the witnesses or have access to any official files connected with the case, the bench directed.

"Between 650-700 million voters out of an electorate of about 970 million will cast their votes to elect the government of this country for the next five years. General Elections supply the vis viva (energy) to a democracy," it said, underlining the importance of the Lok Sabha elections.

The bench said the ED has rightly pointed out that Kejriwal had failed to appear in spite of nine notices/summons, first of which was issued in October 2023.

"This is a negative factor, but there are several other facets which we are required to take into consideration," it said, adding that Kejriwal is the chief minister and leader of one of the national parties.

The bench noted the investigation in the case has remained pending since August 2022 and Kejriwal was arrested on March 21 this year.

The apex court said the grant of interim bail will not be treated as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case or the criminal appeal which is pending its consideration.

Kashmiri Social

in Kashmir is booming, and with it comes a growing influencer culture. But this newfound fame is raising concerns about transparency and consumer protection. A thorough exploration of the Kashmiri content feed on the internet reveals that the boundaries between genuine storytelling and commercial promotion have become blurred, leaving one to ponder the authenticity of the content and the influencer's allegiance to transparency.

"A quick browse through Facebook, and you will find sponsored content lacking proper disclosure. Influencers are even seen selling products and even land and property without mentioning it's an advertisement," an IT professional wishing anonymity, said.

"One popular page, Kashmir Youth Power with over 800,000 followers is running ads about auto rickshaws, without a single mention that it is a paid promotion. Another vlogger promoting a product seemed unsure of what it even was. These are clear violations of India's Consumer Protection Act guidelines, which require proper sponsorship disclosure," he added.

Pertinently, the Department of Consumer Affairs in March last year released detailed guidelines for social media and virtual influencers as well as celebrities which are aimed at ensuring that such individuals do not mislead their audience while endorsing products or services.

The guidelines titled "Endorsements Know-hows" have also been prepared to ensure that endorsements undertaken by such individuals are in compliance with the Consumer Protection Act.

The guidelines state that endorsements must be made in simple, clear language, and terms such as "advertisement", "sponsored", "collaboration" or "paid promotion" are used clearly.

"For endorsements in a picture, disclosures should be superimposed over the image enough for viewers to notice. The guidelines also suggest that individuals must not endorse any product or service that they have not personally used or experienced or in which due diligence has not been done by them," the guidelines noted.

The department has noted that there is confusion regarding which disclosure word should be used for what kind of partnership. Therefore, for paid or barter brand endorsement, disclosure words like "advertisement" "ad" "sponsored" "collaboration" or "partnership" should be used.

It has been specified that individuals or groups who have access to an audience and the power to affect their audiences' purchasing decisions or opinions about a product, service, brand, or experience, because of the influencer's or celebrity's authority, knowledge, position, or relationship with their audience, must be disclosed.

They further stated that the disclosure must be placed in the endorsement message in a manner that is clear, prominent and extremely hard to miss. Disclosures should not be mixed with a group of hashtags or links

"In video endorsements or live streams, disclosures must be presented audibly and visibly, maintained prominently throughout the entirety of the stream," the guidelines state.

However, social media in Kashmir reveals a stark contrast. Some blame a lack of awareness among influencers, particularly those with large followings but potentially little understanding of the rules.

"There seems to be a misconception in Kashmir that anyone with a social media presence is an influencer," said Imad-Ur-Rehman, a prominent content creator. He suggests reputable brands tend to be more mindful of regulations.

Imad said that mostly reputable brands prioritize adherence to governmental regulations regarding endorsements, ensuring proper oversight. "The internet offers freedom for expression and content creation, but endorsing products necessitates adherence to norms and guidelines which cannot be expected from people who create cringe content," he said.

"Monetization is definitely a part of the equation," Imad explained. "Influencers can earn through ads displayed on their content, but sponsorships and endorsements are also important revenue streams."

"We have to ask ourselves, why would someone dedicate their entire day to creating videos if they weren't getting paid for it? Traditionally, earning money involved hard work or education. Social media offers a new path, a chance to build a decent living doing something you're passionate about. It's a new era for content creation."

Shajina Shafi, advocate at J&K High Court said that any influencer endorsing a product is supposed to write the text in bold letters stating that the advertisement is sponsored or it is a paid promotion.

"If there is a contravention in the Consumer Protection Act, a central authority has been created to see these kinds of violations. If a complaint is lodged, they have the power to investigate, with a police team or a district collector. If they find the complaint genuine, they can initiate action according to different clauses, depending on the kind of impact the advertisement can have on the public. This can include requiring the advertiser to modify or remove it depending on the violations," she told Kashmir Observer.

"If there is a contravention of the Consumer Protection Act, it can invite a penalty of ten lakh rupees. If there is a subsequent contravention, a penalty of up to Rs 50 lakh can be imposed," she added.

Muslims Donate

even run a hate campaign intending to create a rift," he said. To protect communal harmony, a meeting of the panchayat members and revenue officials was held recently. During the meeting, the landowners, Gulam Rasool and Gulam Mohammad, agreed to hand over some portions of their land for the road. Meanwhile, the temple is also getting ready for renovation. The temple owns some more land in the area. The matter related to the land has been brought to the attention of District Development Commissioner Reasi. (ANI)

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

NC Responsible For Gun Culture In Kashmir: Lone

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Peoples Conference President Sajad Gani Lone delivered a stirring address to a massive gathering in Pattan, marking the largest public convention in Kashmir during the current Parliamentary election campaign.

PC Senior General Secretary Imran Reza Ansari, senior leader Abid Ansari, State Secretary Mohammad Abbas Wani also addressed the crowds. PC senior leader Yasir Reshi, Irfan Ansari, Spokesperson Adnan Ashraf Mir, Tasaduq Yaseen, Youth President Mudasar Karim, Youth VP Rydham Singh, Youth GS Azad Parvaz among others were present on the occasion.

Expressing the importance of the ongoing election, Lone as per a statement issued to the news agency, emphasized its significance as the most crucial since 1947, especially given the absence of Assembly elections.

"I urge the NC leadership simply to provide a transparent account of their parliamentary achievements for the public good. For the duration of their tenure in Parliament, particularly post-August 5th, they remained silent spectators, neglecting to advocate for our people's rights and aspirations. Their inaction disqualifies them from seeking re-election to Parliament."

Referring to the rigging of 1987, Lone asserted that the NC bears responsibility for the emergence of the gun culture and subsequent bloodshed in Kashmir.

"The social divide in Kashmir was starkly evident," he explained. "One segment of the population endured relentless persecution: killings, torture, hangings, and constant trauma during checkings, verifications, and crackdowns. This represented the



vast majority, of which I am a part. In contrast, the NC represents the 1% who have been victors and exploited the rest."

He continued, emphasizing the repercussions of choosing such oppressors as representatives: "We cannot afford to continue selecting NC to lead us. Doing so would mean perpetuating the shackles of slavery on our society."

He added that Farooq Abdullah, during his tenure as CM from 1996 to 2002, was implicated in the deaths of 7,000 civilians, while his son, from 2008 to 2014, is also accountable for hundreds of civilian deaths.

"I pledge that once I enter Parliament, every oppressive law instituted by the National Conference will be eradicated. We refuse to compromise on our dignity," he vowed.

In a swipe at Omar Abdullah, Lone highlighted the stark contrast between his roots and those of Omar, whom he described as a tourist. He noted that Omar's oppressive regime has earned him notoriety and disqualifies him from claiming to be a savior of the people.

"Omar's attempts to undermine me, from labeling me as Al Barak in one rally to associating me with BJP in another, reveals his desperation. However, the people's mandate on May 20th will put an end to his frustration," he asserted—(KNO)

JK Polls Will Convey People's Expression To Rest Of India: Ruhullah

Agencies

GANDERBAL: The National Conference candidate from the Srinagar parliamentary constituency, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, has said he will not participate in the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir as the institution of the state assembly has been "undemocratically degraded" after the abrogation of Article 370.

Mehdi, an influential Shia leader, said the parliamentary elections are important means to convey the expression of the J-K people about Article 370 to the rest of the country.

"I do not accept the status of the state assembly which it has been degraded to. I consider it an undemocratically degraded institution which we can at the best call a glorified municipality," Mehdi told PTI in a freewheeling interview on his campaign trail in this central Kashmir district, which is a part of the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency.

The Srinagar constituency has been represented by three generations of the Abdullahs.

Mehdi said by participating in the assembly elections and being part of "that degraded assembly", he would be "legitimising" that status.

"That is something I do not want to do. As an individual, I do not want to give that legitimacy to the assem-



bly and the status quo. Therefore, I am clear I am not participating in any assembly elections," he added.

Mehdi, a former three-time MLA of central Kashmir's Budgam assembly segment, said he was not fighting elections for power or opportunities.

"Assembly elections for me are an easier and comfortable option and that gives more opportunities to me to be in the power corridors. But accepting that assembly and being part of it would amount to legitimising that degraded assembly. I do not want to be a part of that," he said.

Referring to the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, Mehdi said the parliamentary polls give him an opportunity to create a political space, to resonate "this sentiment" and take this expression to the institution (Parliament) where these decisions were taken.

"Parliament should know that the decisions that it took were complete-

ly undemocratic and the people of J-K had no participation and no role to play in that decision-making. This is the institution where we need to take that sentiment, expression and opinion. Through that, I intend to take this expression to the rest of India.

"So, this is completely a different thing from the assembly and I am sure that I am not going to participate in the assembly elections for these reasons," he added. The former minister said the Lok Sabha elections are important because they are happening for the first time after the decisions that were taken on in 2019.

"The constitutional status that J-K enjoyed was taken unconstitutionally and undemocratically. The status of J-K was degraded and the rights and guarantees that were assured to us when we had acceded to the Union of India were snatched from us unilaterally and without the wish and will of the people.

"This abrogation happened while the entire population was put into an open-air prison," he said.

The government had imposed a strict lockdown on August 5, 2019, restricting the movement of the people and snapping telephone service, including landline and internet services across J-K. Several mainstream leaders had been detained or were put under house arrest.

Parra Destined For Parliament: Mehbooba



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti, on Friday, emphasized that the ongoing elections in Jammu and Kashmir are not merely about civic amenities but represent a crucial battle for the region's dignity, honor, and the freeing of its innocent youth who are currently languishing in jails without trials.

Addressing the people in Ganderbal, Mehbooba condemned the raids conducted by agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), terming them as assaults on the innocent people of Jammu and Kashmir.

She highlighted the plight of the youth languishing in jails without trials, urging voters to cast their mandate in favor of candidates who empathize with the common Kashmiri. Mehbooba said that the main reason for fielding Waheed ur Rahman Parra from the Srinagar constituency is that there is no person other than him who can relate to the pain of a common Kashmiri and represent them in the parliament.

"Waheed was accused of freeing jailed youth, rehabilitating downtrodden families. He himself has come from a humble background, and there is no other person more able than him to represent the people, their real aspirations, and needs in the parliament. He represents those youth who are being inflicted torture, who are being jailed, hounded and ridiculed. Waheed is amongst those youths. Therefore, he will go to parliament and represent those bruised voices there," Mehbooba said.

Reacting to the Election Commission of India (ECI) notice served to Parra for telling people that vote should be your referendum, the PDP President said that it is an irony that BJP leaders are spewing venom in poll rallies, instigating riots, pitting Hindus against Muslims and the ECI is silent. "But when a candidate speaks of the agonies of people of Jammu and Kashmir, he is served with notice. This can give you an idea about what is going wrong in this country and where," Mehbooba said.

BJP Exploiting Religion For Political Gain: Farooq Abdullah

Agencies

BUDGAM: Former chief minister and National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Friday lashed out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing them of exploiting religion for political gain.

Addressing a public rally at Kaniara Chadoora in Budgam district, Abdullah, as per the news agency, said India belongs to Mahatma Gandhi's vision of inclusivity where every religion enjoys equal rights. He said the present government at the Centre was playing divisive politics.



Dr Farooq said there is an alarming surge in inflation and criticised the Central government for its "failure" to address the issue effectively. He lamented the BJP's promises

of bridging the gap between Kashmir and Delhi, saying that instead, the gap has been widening.

The NC chief also hit out at the People's Democratic Party (PDP), blaming it for facilitating the BJP's entry into Jammu and Kashmir. He accused the Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari of initially supporting the BJP and then attempting to portray himself as an upright figure.

The public rally was organised by the National Conference as part of the party's election campaign in favour of Agha Ruhullah Mehdi, the NC's candidate for the Srinagar parliamentary constituency—(KNO)

IUST Hosts Orientation Program With Focus On Skilling

Ko news Service

AWANTIPORA: The Department of Management Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology, organized one-day orientation program titled Developing Industry- Academic Bridge: Strengthening Skilled Manpower in J&K. Experts from the Industry attended the program, and during the deliberation Mr. Malik Waseem, (Deputy Director of Recreation, Department of Tourism), Mr. Rouf Tramboos (President, Adventure Tour Operators of Kashmir (ATOK) and Travel Agents Association of Kashmir

(TAAK), Mr. Farooq Ahmad Kuthoo (Chairman, Travel and Trade Division, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry), and Ms. Sehar Nazir (Assistant Director, Stay Pattern Hospitality Services) interacted with the participants. The speakers highlighted the necessity of greater collaboration among different stakeholders.

Speaking about the importance of industry-academia connect, Dr. Parvez Ahmad Mir, Dean Management Studies, emphasized on the importance of continued learning and collaboration in shaping the future of entrepreneurship in the region.

CUKashmir's WEC Organises Workshop On "Ikigai"

KONews service

GANDERBAL: The Women's Empowerment Committee, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) organised a workshop on "Ikigai", a Japanese term that blends two words: "iki" meaning "to live," and "gai" meaning "reason," which translates to "a reason to live," at varsity's Green campus here on Thursday.

IKIGAI is a concept that encourages people to discover what truly matters to them and to live a life filled with purpose and joy.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, congratulated the WEC for organising the event

and asked the student participants to interact thoroughly with the experts and seek answers to their queries.

Prof. Sandhya Tiwari, Director of International and Corporate Affairs and Dean School of Languages, chaired the inaugural session, and emphasised the importance of such workshops in shaping students' future. At the heart of the workshop lies the Japanese concept of 'Ikigai' – the pursuit of one's reason for being, explained Prof. Tiwari. "The aim is to help participants align their passions, values, and professional aspirations, thus paving the way for a fulfilling life and career."

Udhampur-Baramulla Rail Project On Schedule: GM



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager, Northern Railway conducted a detailed inspection of the prestigious National Project of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new BG Rail Link Project on Friday. The inspection was accompanied by Chief Administrative Officer/USBR and other senior officers of Northern Railways and KRCL.

Shri Shobhan Chaudhuri started his inspection from Sri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station yard by motor trolley up to Chenab Bridge. He inspected Tunnel no 33, Tunnel no 34, Anji Bridge, tunnel no 35, Reasi Yard, Tunnel no 36 and Chenab Bridge. Balance activities for completing work of Tunnel T-33 was thoroughly discussed with engineers of Northern Railway and KRCL.

The General Manager expressed satisfaction at the pace of progress but impressed upon the project authorities to closely monitor all the activities and augment resources to expedite the work, at the same time observing all the safety precautions while proceeding the tunnel mining work passing through geologically weak strata.

It is pertinent to mention that this 3.2 Km long tunnel is passing through main boundary thrust and a lot of challenges have been encountered in its construction, however now it is nearing completion.

This tunnel near Katra is critical for commissioning of the entire project. He also inspected the bridge instrumentation provided at Bridge no 220 in Reasi Yard and Bridge no 224 in Bakkal Yard.

At Chenab Bridge the sites of

proposed museum construction at Kauri were inspected. He advised the agencies to maintain the steady pace of work and strictly adhere to the targets.

Followed by site inspection a review meeting was held to discuss block section wise detailed status of works with KRCL. During the review meeting it was emphasized by the General Manager that targets must not slip any further and any shortfall occurring should be made up by diligent planning.

This project is widely acknowledged as one of the most challenging railway line endeavors in the Indian subcontinent, traversing through the young Himalayas fraught with geological complexities. Every day, Indian Railway is edging closer to connecting Kashmir Valley to the rest of the Railway network.

Secy RDD Reviews MGNREGS-IWMP Convergence Plan

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, reviewed the status of implementation of convergence plan between the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (WDC-PMKSY 2.0) here today.

Dr. Shahid emphasized that the convergence between MGNREGS and IWMP stands as the flagship project of the department. He asked all the Assistant Commissioners Development (ACD's) to focus on supplementing IWMP's supplementary Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) with comprehensive convergence plans, ensuring optimal utilization of resources. He stressed on the need for improvisation at various levels to ensure that additional projects align with the objectives of comprehensive watershed management.

He emphasized that NRLM activities should be undertaken through convergence with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in all future IWMP projects where Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of IWMP will have to be prepared.

The Secretary said it is essential to include and clearly indicate these activities in the DPR after consultation with relevant officials from the Mahat-

ma Gandhi NREGS, watershed committees, and Gram Sabha. He mentioned that for long term benefits from a watershed development program, appropriate post-project management must be in place. He said that post-project management can proceed smoothly if there is convergence with a program like MGNREGS. He said that through strategic planning and interdepartmental collaboration, significant progress has been achieved, with three tiers of discussions conducted with Block Development Officers (BDOs), department heads and secretaries.

Dr. Shahid underscored the need to ensure convergence plans align seamlessly with district priorities, including food security, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Horticulture and Agriculture Development Plan (HADP). He said that in many districts of Jammu and Kashmir, a concerning trend has emerged where development initiatives have overlooked the critical concept of catchment areas, particularly in valley regions. He reiterated the importance of adhering to watershed management principles and ensuring judicious allocation of resources.

The Secretary said that through collaborative efforts and strategic planning, the path towards sustainable development and inclusive growth is steadily being paved.

JKP Launches Mission 'Clean Up' To Fight Drug Menace

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: In an attempt to combat growing drug abuse and its adverse impact on the young generation, the Jammu and Kashmir police have initiated Mission clean-up using 'human intelligence' to target drug traffickers and other anti-social elements in Kashmir.

The drive, according to the sources, has been launched throughout the valley utilizing human intelligence, including youth—both male and female—having previously

struggled with drug addiction.

The youngsters, who have voluntarily offered their services to the campaign, will serve as 'stool pigeons' at schools, colleges, private institutions, gardens, abandoned places and the areas surrounding drug-hotspots.

"The youngsters having volunteered to serve as informants have gone through a difficult stage of drug addiction and are fully aware of the detrimental effects it has had on their lives. They do not want others to become victims

of this poison," a senior police official told Kashmir Observer.

The official said that following proper treatment and counseling at drug rehab facilities, these youth are now living drug-free lives, and are ready to help police target drug peddlers and their proxies in the region.

"After quitting drugs, we encourage youngsters who were into drug addiction to continue their studies or those who have dropped out to focus on their career. Though they are neither compensated nor coerced

into being informants, they voluntarily contribute to the effort to prevent drug abuse among others," he added.

He said since the informants are tasked with identifying both drug consumers as well as traffickers, the entire drug supply chain is decimated so that no one musters the courage to even consider buying or selling narcotics.

"They are doing a social service by assisting law enforcement in disrupting drug supply networks. These informants are required to monitor

closely what other students are doing at schools, colleges and private tuitions, including how they manage bringing drugs and whether anybody is assisting them in doing so."

"In addition to studies or jobs, they may provide us with information on any such activity; their voluntary work takes up relatively little of their time. However, studies will be prioritized over social work."

Sources within the police department said that the volunteers have to identify those selling drugs in marketplaces

and local communities. They monitor vendors closely, especially those operating tea stalls, as they are suspected of dealing in narcotics.

"This initiative will send a strong message to those who construct mansions at the cost of young people who are severely addicted to drugs," they said.

Drug dealers, they said, will be readily targeted since they are unsure of who their real client is and who may be the informant.

In response to a query on the

number of youngsters tasked for the job and the duration of the drive, a police official said, "Considering the volunteers' safety, the information is extremely sensitive, which cannot be shared in the public domain."

"From north to south and central Kashmir, our informers keep a close eye on you. They might be neighbors, family members, or pals. They are everywhere, so stop poisoning kids or you will get into trouble," police warned the drug dealers.

Now De Villiers Questions Hardik Pandya's Leadership Approach

Press Trust of India

JOHANNESBURG: Hardik Pandya's "ego-driven, chest out" style of captaincy doesn't seem to look genuine and experienced teammates aren't exactly buying his false bravado, feels former South Africa skipper AB de Villiers. Pandya's first stint as Mumbai Indians skipper replacing the highly successful Rohit Sharma turned into a nightmare as the five-time champion franchise failed to reach the playoffs. Worse, the MI fans didn't like team's decision with Pandya being greeted with boos in every single game.

"The captaincy style of Hardik Pandya is quite bravado. It's ego-driven in a way, chest out," De Villiers said on his YouTube channel.

An IPL legend himself, De Villiers observed that Pandya's trying to unsuccessfully fake it.



"I don't think how he walks on the field is always genuine, but he has decided that is his way of captaincy. Almost like MS (Dhoni). Cool, calm, collective, always got your chest out."

Pandya had led a young Gujarat Titans team to back-to-back IPL finals winning the inaugural edition. De Villiers opined that the style which flopped in Mumbai Indians worked in an earlier franchise because the core group was much younger.

"When you play with a lot of experienced players, guys who have been around for ages, they don't buy into that. It worked at GT, where it was a younger team. Sometimes, inexperienced players love to follow that kind of leadership."

'WE DON'T NEED THE BRAVADO'

Giving some captaincy advice to Pandya by remembering his playing days under Graeme Smith, de Villiers stated that the all-rounder needed to get out of his "bravado" or put on confidence mentality.

"I remember Graeme Smith. He was out there for the team. All I needed to do as a youngster was to follow. Now, there's a Rohit (Sharma), there's a (Jasprit) Bumrah," he continued.

"They go like, 'All we need you to be is calm. Give us a bit of input on how to win matches. We don't need the bravado.'" However, the South African also clarified that he was not targeting Pandya and that he loved to watch him play.

"I'm not having a go at Hardik. I love watching him play. I love him putting out his chest because I was like that. I believed that as a batter sometimes, you've got to fake it to make it," he concluded.

Delhi Court Orders Framing Of Charge In Wrestlers' Harassment Case



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Friday ordered framing of sexual harassment and other charges against BJP MP and former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in a case lodged by six women wrestlers, observing there was "sufficient evidence" against him.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Priyanka Rajpoot directed framing of charges against Singh, a six-time Lok Sabha MP, under IPC sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354A (sexual harassment) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

"There is sufficient evidence to frame charges against the accused," the judge said. The court, however, discharged Singh in a complaint filed by one of the six women wrestlers, citing lack of sufficient evidence in the complaint.

The court will formally frame the charges on May 21. It also ordered framing of charges in the case against co-accused and former WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar.

Reacting to the court decision, Singh said he will consult his lawyers and take a decision on whether to appeal against the order before a higher court or challenge it before the ACMM.

"I welcome this decision of the

judiciary. I had protested against the framing of charges but I did that within certain limits but now I have various options open to me. Either I appeal against the order or contest it. I will consult my lawyer and take a decision. I am not hurt, I was prepared for it. If the case continues, I will get an opportunity to present my side," Singh told PTL.

Singh, an influential Rajput leader from Uttar Pradesh, has been denied BJP ticket from Kaiserganj Lok Sabha seat in the wake of the sexual harassment allegations levelled against him. The BJP has fielded his son Karan Bhushan Singh in Kaiserganj, his stronghold.

The Delhi Police had filed a charge sheet in the case against Singh on June 15 under sections 354, 354A, 354D (stalking) and 506 of the Indian Penal Code.

IT'S A BIG VICTORY FOR WOMEN WRESTLERS: BAJRANG, SAKSHI

Star grapplers Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia on Friday welcomed the Delhi court's decision to frame sexual harassment charges against former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, calling it a big victory for country's women wrestlers.

"This is a big victory for the struggle of women wrestlers," Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist Bajrang, one of the leading faces in the protest against Singh, wrote on X.

'It's Shameful': Shami Slams Goenka's Outburst On KL Rahul



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Star pacer Mohammed Shami has termed Sanjiv Goenka's "public reprimand" of his India teammate KL Rahul as "shameful" and said the Lucknow Super Giants team owner's reaction to a loss in front of TV cameras "does not have any place in sports".

Goenka's animated chat reportedly reprimanding Rahul after Lucknow Super Giants' record demolition at the hands of Sunrisers Hyderabad in Hyderabad has gone viral on social media and Shami was the first Indian cricketer to criticise the act.

"Crores of people are watching you and learning from you. If these things happen in front of cameras, and you see such reactions on screen, it's shameful," a blunt Shami said on 'Cricbuzz Live'.

"Aapka ek dayra hona chahiye baat karne ka, yeh message bahut galat jaata hai. (You should have boundaries, there's a way to talk. This sends a very wrong message)." SRH opens Travis Head

and Abhishek Sharma smashed fiery fifties as the home side chased down the target of 166 in just 9.4 overs, which also became the record 10-over score in any T20 match.

But what followed after the result has become a big talking point.

The video of a furious RPSG Group chairman and Kolkata-based billionaire, Goenka apparently losing his cool on Rahul, has gone viral on social media.

TV commentators Graeme Smith and Scott Styris remarked that such discussions should occur privately, not in front of cameras.

"It's very important to note that players have respect, and you are a respectful person too, as an owner. It's not that you're talking suddenly," Shami said.

"If you have to do that, there are many different ways. You could've done the same thing in the dressing room or the hotel. It wasn't necessary to do it on the field. Aise reaction de ke koi lal quile pe jhanda toh gaad nahi

diya aapne (you didn't hoist a flag on Red Fort by doing what you did)," Shami said.

Shami, who is currently recovering from an injury and is not taking part in the IPL, said such actions send a wrong message to the public.

"He's the captain, not a normal player. It's a team game; it isn't a big thing if the plan isn't successful. Anything is possible in the game. I understand there can be good or bad days, but every player has respect, and there's a way to talk," he said.

"There are a lot of moments in the game when tempers flare up, and players quarrel with each other. It should not happen in cricket or any sport, but it does happen. A player talking to another player is different, but someone from the outside discussing something with the player is different."

"We are only speculating from what we are seeing, and only KL Rahul can tell what the conversation was about, but these kinds of reactions do not have any place in sports."

Short TAKES

KKR Target Playoff Berth At Home; MI Seek To Salvage Pride

In red-hot form, two-time former champions Kolkata Knight Riders will look to seal an IPL playoff berth for the first time in three years when they take on the struggling Mumbai Indians in their final home match of the season, here on Saturday.

Sitting at the top of the 10-team standings with eight wins from 11 matches, another win will guarantee them the playoff berth as the Shah Rukh Khan-owned franchise will look to end on a high.

Kishan, Iyer's Exclusion Chief Selector Agarkar's Call: Jay Shah

The exclusion of Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer from the list of centrally-contracted players was a decision that was solely taken by chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, BCCI secretary Jay Shah has revealed, asserting that "nobody is indispensable".

Kishan and Iyer were left out after failing to show up for domestic engagements despite a directive from the BCCI. Shah reiterated the Board's position that Indian players will have to prioritise domestic cricket.

BCCI To Re-Evaluate Impact Player Rule After First Season

BCCI Secretary Jay Shah says the 'Impact Player' rule, which has divided opinions in the ongoing IPL, can be revisited if that's what the stakeholders want given that it was introduced as a "test case".

The impact player rule has had a heavy bearing on the ongoing edition with teams crossing 250-run mark as many as eight times so far. Players, coaches as well as experts have pointed out the challenges which the impact player rule poses to the bowlers, saying that it allows teams to have extended batting line-ups.

FIFA Not Rescheduling Club World Cup After Players Complaint

FIFA will not consider rescheduling their new 32-team Club World Cup, world soccer's governing body said on Friday after global players' union FIFPRO and the World Leagues Association (WLA) threatened legal action if they did not review their plans.

FIFPRO and WLA expressed their concern over the expanded competition last week.

In response, FIFA rejected their claims that the soccer body made unilateral decisions to benefit its competitions in the international calendar.

Neymar Not In Brazil's Copa America Squad, Endrick Included



Neymar was left off Brazil's squad for the Copa America on Friday and teenage striker Endrick was included.

Neymar, who plays for Saudi club Al-Hilal and is recovering from a torn ACL, was expected to be omitted from the tournament in the United States in June and July.

The 17-year-old Endrick, who will soon join Real Madrid, scored for Brazil in a 1-0 win over England at Wembley Stadium and in a 2-2 draw against Spain at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in March.

Beckham Hopes Man United Documentary Can Inspire Current Squad

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Former Manchester United midfielder David Beckham hopes a documentary about their 1998-99 treble-winning season can offer inspiration to the current side. Beckham won the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup with United 25 years ago, becoming the first English side to do so. However, United are now facing the prospect of having no European football next season.

The three times European champions are eighth in the Premier League standings, having won one of their last seven games. They have conceded 81 goals in all competitions, their worst showing since the 1976-77 season. They play league leaders Arsenal on Sunday and have reached the FA



Cup final, where they face rivals Manchester City on May 25.

"It's been a difficult time for the team over the last few years now but it was always going to be," Beckham told BBC Radio 5 at the premiere of Amazon Prime Documentary '99'

without a doubt because the lads actually talk about that moment in time so we hope it inspires them."

Many former United players criticised manager Erik ten Hag after Monday's 4-0 Premier League loss at Crystal Palace, saying he is unlikely to be given another year at the helm.

Asked about Ten Hag having to motivate his players, Beckham told TalkSport the Dutch coach did not have to do much. "I think that's the whole point of being a United player and playing in these big games - you should be motivated," he said. "You're doing the job you love and you're at the club you love, when you're playing in any game, whether it's a regular season game or whether it's an FA Cup final against your rivals, that should be enough motivation."

Italy, Germany To Have Five Clubs In 2024-25 Champions League

Agencies

ROME: Italy and Germany have earned an extra spot in the Champions League next season after their clubs performed well in European competitions this season, Europe's soccer governing body UEFA said on Friday. With the Champions League expanding to 36 teams next season, UEFA said two of the four additional places would be filled by European Performance Spots which go to associations "with the best collective performance by their clubs" in UEFA competitions.

After the semi-final legs of the Champions League, Europa League and Europa Conference League concluded this week, UEFA said Italy and Germany are guaranteed to finish in the top two of the 2023-24 association club coefficients. As things stand, Borussia Dortmund are outside the



top four in the Bundesliga but will qualify in fifth place.

Dortmund are also in the Champions League final where they will play Real

Madrid and should they beat the Spanish giants, they would qualify as winners anyway. Their German rivals and Bundesliga champions Bayer Leverkusen are in the Europa League final where they will face Italian side Atalanta, who currently hold on to fifth place in Serie A with a game in hand.

But AS Roma are also in contention, with both teams on 60 points while Lazio are four points behind. Premier League clubs Manchester City and Arsenal exited the Champions League in the quarter-finals which hurt England's chances of improving its club coefficient.

Aston Villa -- who were knocked out of the Europa Conference League semi-finals on Thursday -- can seal the fourth and final spot if they win their next game to deny fifth-placed Tottenham Hotspur a place in the Champions League.